

SRN

Ship Repair Newsletter

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Also publishers of:

SRJ (Ship Repair Journal)

PEM (Port Engineering Management)

IMB (International Marine Brief)

REPAIRS, CONVERSIONS, YARD PROFILES, FEATURE and
ON WATCH

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Ship Repair Event details:

<http://www.rivieramm.com/events/Ship-Repair-25/Event-Home-293>



The famous
US Naval
vessel
Missouri,
which is now
a museum
ship, with
hull
protection
work carried
out by
Cathelco (see
Hull
Protection)

GIBDOCK: Gibraltar's Gibdock has appointed John Taylor as their new Production Director, confirming the Gibraltar-based repair and conversion yard's strategy of using skills developed in-house to pursue new markets. Following his promotion from Production Manager, Mr Taylor will take responsibility for developing Gibdock's production policy, as the yard focuses on extending its portfolio of complex vessel work to include a broader scope of conversion projects in the offshore sector, including rig work.

Gibdock's identity symbolises the enduring commitment of the yard's owners to Gibraltar as a centre for shiprepair and conversion. This is no better demonstrated than by the recognition of Mr Taylor's 34 year career with the yard. Gibdock Chief Executive, Joe Corvelli, said: "John is being given full responsibility to develop Gibdock's production capabilities to match our growth and prepare for larger conversion jobs, and for more specialised work in the offshore and oilrig repair markets. He will rely on his strong repair and conversion experience to expand production in such a way that our reputation for customer service and quality is not compromised."

Joining what was then H.M. Naval Dockyard – Gibraltar in 1976 as a special grade shipwright apprentice, Mr Taylor completed a three year apprenticeship before starting as a tradesman and then transferring to the Ship liner/Surveyor Department. His career path reflects the transformation of the yard into the commercial shiprepair and conversion facility in operation today. As early as 1984, when the transition was first raised, Mr Taylor was recruited in workshop steel preparation for commercial vessels. From 1988 to 1991, he took a managerial role at the commercial yard.

As has been well documented, the Gibraltar yard closed briefly in 1991 but, on reopening in 1992, the then owners (Kvaerner) re-engaged Mr Taylor as a steel foreman. He was soon promoted to a management role once more, going on to deepen his experience through postings in Norway and the United Kingdom.

With commercial activities once more a focus for Gibraltar, and the yard revitalised by the ownership in place today, Mr Taylor returned home to a role as Ship Repair Manager to 2008, before being promoted to Production Manager, and now Gibdock Production Director. Mr Taylor holds City and Guilds certificates covering Shipbuilding Technicians (Parts One and Two), Advanced Shipbuilding Craft Studies and General Engineering. He is an Associate Member of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. However, when asked for his career milestones, he cited the projects he has worked on. "If I think back to the naval days, the highlight would be the conversion of the cruise liner SS Uganda into a Hospital ship during the Falklands conflict," he said. "We had to work non-stop for three days, with myself involved in fabrication/fitting of the heli-deck and testing new Replenishment at sea equipment.

"But shipyard work has never been short of challenges. Some have been structural. The work I took part in Norway, where hulls were built in Russia and transferred for outfitting, was part of a profound change in European shipbuilding. Other projects have been less significant, but still challenging in their own way. Here, I am thinking of the effort and expertise that went into a newbuilding like Baldor Viking, at Govan.

"That's why, if I look to the challenges ahead, I see it them terms the project work we do here, and the work we could do. We are well known for the variety of work we do, whether it be containerships, cruise ships, ferries, gas carriers, bulk carriers or more specialised tonnage. But we are also well placed to deliver on more complex offshore-related conversion work on rigs and OSVs. After all, we have the experience." Mr Taylor will be succeeded as Production Manager by Willie Langtry.