

Pilots' association chairman to address *Tugnology* '15



We are delighted to announce that Capt Don Cockrill, chairman of the UK Maritime Pilots' Association (UKMPA), will deliver the opening address at *Tugnology* '15 in London. UKMPA is the representative professional body for authorised pilots in the UK.

Managing director of *IT&O* magazine, Garth Manson, said: "We are thrilled to have someone of Capt Cockrill's calibre to open the conference. Any tugboat captain will tell you that a good working relationship and clear communication with the pilot is vital. We are very much looking forward to hearing Capt Cockrill's address."

Cockrill said his opening address would look at the need for pilots and tug captains to work together to maximise both safety and efficiency.

He said: "You need experts at both ends of the rope. A good working relationship between the pilot and master is essential. It is a team thing and requires mutual skills."

"Tugs cannot operate in isolation. Tug captains need to be confident of the expertise of the people telling them what to do."

Cockrill said an example of teamwork at its best was the intentional grounding of *Höegh Osaka* off the UK port of Southampton (see page 7). Speaking as the salvage operation continued, he said: "It will also be interesting to read and learn about the salvage operation. I understand that there has been a pilot on board one of the tugs involved virtually all the time. The eventual towage of the vessel back into port will require significant teamwork between the pilots and the salvage tugs, both in the planning and execution of the tow".

Delegates from all over the world have already signed up for *Tugnology* '15, with numbers registered to date suggesting that this will be another record year for our popular two-day conference focusing exclusively on tugs. This year's event will be held on 19 and 20 May. The papers chosen for *Tugnology* '15 maintain the tradition of reflecting the

▲ Delegates listen intently to a presentation at *Tugnology* '13 in London and, right, Capt Don Cockrill, chairman of UKMPA, who will be giving the opening address at *Tugnology* '15



latest developments within the industry, and their practical applications.

This year's list of topics ranges from innovations in tug bridge technology and ergonomics, radar and enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, through to updates on the continuing push towards leaner, cleaner engines and the use of alternative fuels. The papers to be presented draw on the expertise, research and knowledge of some of the best-known figures in tug design, building and operation. The conference will be chaired by Mike Allen, also the regular and longstanding chairman of our *ITS* conventions.

During the conference sessions, the emphasis is very much on discussion. To enable delegates to prepare questions in advance, pre-prints of most of the papers will be available on our website two weeks before the start of the conference. Folders containing complete print-outs of all the papers will be supplied at the event.

Tugnology '15 will take place at the Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London W2 2TY. Lancaster Gate Underground station (Central Line) is adjacent to the hotel, and Paddington mainline station – with its Express link to Heathrow – only a five-minute walk away, so the venue is exceptionally well-placed for all those attending.

• Read more about the conference on pages 43 to 46. All booking information and full accommodation details are available on our website – www.tugandosv.com

Industry giants tipped for sector co-operation

Crowley Maritime Corporation subsidiary Titan Salvage and Denmark's Svitzer, part of the Maersk Group, are reported to be in early discussions about possible co-operation in the face of a challenging global ocean salvage market.

Dow Jones News has quoted an industry insider as saying: "It will be a good marriage, with Svitzer's tugs responding to distress calls for towing, collisions and crew evacuations, and Titan's extensive infrastructure and expertise in wreck removals." The report went on to say that the source was "unclear whether the talks will conclude in a merger or a looser alliance."

In response, a Titan company spokesman said: "Titan is pursuing a new strategy to broaden and strengthen its business relative to salvage/emergency response, wreck removal and offshore decommissioning across a greater geographic footprint. The company will be focused in the coming months on building additional capabilities in these areas to position the company for growth and future success. We are exploring greater co-operation with another service provider, looking for synergies and growth."

"Titan will remain an active player in this market segment going forward, continuing to represent Crowley Maritime Corporation, and as a global market leader in this space."

Svitzer did not comment on the report.

Award for excellence

Svitzer has been given an IHS SPECTRUM Excellence award for achieving compliance with Offshore Vessel Management and Self Assessment (OVMSA) marine safety standard to reduce incidents and grow business.

The awards recognise the outstanding accomplishments of strategic planners, engineers and operational leaders from a host of industries worldwide who make critical decisions based on best-in-class information and insights.

As the first tugboat company in the world to be fully compliant with OVMSA, Svitzer has gone well beyond the safety requirements of the industry. From 2012-2013 it decreased lost-time incidents by 66 per cent, reduced monthly average of total incidents by 80 per cent, and trained 1,700 employees on a new safety management system.

Head of Marine Standards at Svitzer, Bent Nielsen, said: "Working with LNG and oil tankers demands very high safety standards. Receiving the IHS Spectrum Excellence award for our safety efforts is a recognition of Svitzer's massive focus on operating a safe towage business."