
Two Damen Azimuth Tractor Drive (ATD) Tugs 2412 delivered to Western Australia

Mackenzie Marine & Towage of Esperance, Western Australia, has purchased two, twin-fin Azimuth Tractor Drive (ATD) Tugs 2412 for operations in Bunbury Port, on the south-west coast of Western Australia. The two vessels, named *Cape Naturaliste* and *Cape Leeuwin* after local landmarks, have arrived and were officially inaugurated on the 5th of April. These compact, heavy duty tugs have a bollard pull of over 70 tonnes. That, combined with a top speed of over 12 knots both ahead and astern and a powerful aft winch, makes them ideal for continuous and effective harbour towage activities.

Mackenzie Marine & Towage (MMT) is a fourth-generation, family-owned company and has been the harbour towage operator in the nearby port of Esperance since the 1970s. The company bought its first Damen tug, the ASD 2411 *Shoal Cape*, in 2006 and a second of the same class in 2013, named the *Hellfire Bay*.

In 2014 the merger of the Esperance Port Authority, the Albany Port Authority, and the Bunbury Port Authority led to the establishment of the Southern Ports Authority. In 2016 it put out a tender for towage operations in the ports of Esperance and Bunbury. With MMT already well established in Esperance with the two ASD Tugs 2411 it consulted with users of Bunbury Port regarding their needs. The feedback was that tractor tugs would be preferred and so, by offering two, state-of-the-art ATD 2412 Twin Fin tugs, MMT was able to secure the combined licence for Esperance and Bunbury.

The ability to meet the short delivery time for this latest order was a key part of the contract. The towage license was announced in September 2016 and operations were required to start just two months later. The very tight time frame meant that MMT was not able to inspect the yard or the vessels that Damen had ready in stock before placing the orders. However, managing director Sean Mackenzie trusted Damen to deliver to their required standards and went ahead and placed the order. Damen also arranged the required financing for the vessels in time for delivery.

Forty guests attended the naming ceremony, at which champagne was carefully poured over the bows of each vessel and Southern Ports Authority CEO Nicholas Fertin was among the attendees who made a short speech. At the event, Southern Ports harbour master Captain Gary Wilson added that the tugs will be kept busy with more than 450 big boats requiring docking assistance every year. "These tugboats are new and modern – the design is unparalleled," he was quoted as saying.

Sean Mackenzie commented, "Mackenzie Marine and towage is extremely happy with the delivery and performance of the new 2412 tractor tugs that we have received from Damen. MMT has built a wonderful relationship with Damen over the last ten years so we know we can trust them to have the very best tugs and back up support in Australia. We are looking forward to being able to build this relationship further into the future."

Damen Shipyards Group

Damen Shipyards Group operates 33 shipbuilding and repair yards, employing 9,000 people worldwide. Damen has delivered more than 6,000 vessels in more than 100 countries and delivers some 180 vessels annually to customers worldwide. Based on its unique, standardised ship-design concept Damen is able to guarantee consistent quality.

Damen's focus on standardisation, modular construction and keeping vessels in stock leads to short delivery times, low 'total cost of ownership', high resale values and reliable performance. Furthermore, Damen vessels are based on thorough R&D and proven technology.

Damen offers a wide range of products, including tugs, workboats, naval and patrol vessels, high speed craft, cargo vessels, dredgers, vessels for the offshore industry, ferries, pontoons and superyachts.

For nearly all vessel types Damen offers a broad range of services, including maintenance, spare parts delivery, training and the transfer of (shipbuilding) know-how. Damen also offers a variety of marine components, such as nozzles, rudders, anchors, anchor chains and steel works.

In addition to ship design and shipbuilding, Damen Shiprepair & Conversion has a worldwide network of 16 repair and conversion yards with dry docks ranging up to 420 x 80 metres. Conversion projects range from adapting vessels to today's requirements and regulations to the complete conversion of large offshore structures. DSC completes around 1,500 repair and maintenance jobs annually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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