

# New Tug Vessel for the Galway Marine Company Rossaveal Port Services (R.P.S. Marine) Ltd.

Anne Murray reports: The Galway Company R.P.S Marine Ltd. have recently purchased the 18.46 metres x 6 metres steel tug MV Abbe. Built at the Norwegian shipyard in Haugesund, she was purchased by Rory Beatty MD of R.P.S Marine Ltd at the vessels home port in Stockholm, Sweden through the Swedish broker's firm shipsforsale.se. The vessel is twin engined with variable pitch propellers, set in kort nozzles which gives the vessel 12 ton bollard pull. The MV Abbe is also fitted with a powerful bow thruster which makes the vessel highly manoeuvrable. It has a 15 ton towing winch and will carry 250 meters of towing wire. Its powerful Hydraulic crane will allow the vessel to be used for equipment transfer, and other marine works.

R.P.S Marine Ltd. purchased the MV Abbe just before Christmas. On purchase the vessel was put in dry dock at the local shipyard in Stockholm for inspection. "As the sea was frozen in Stockholm harbour, our biggest concern was to get the vessel out of the Baltic as there was the possibility of the sea freezing up which could have lead to a possible delay of the vessel's delivery to Ireland by a couple of months," says Rory Beatty Managing Director at R.P.S Marine Ltd.

The MV Abbe left Sweden early in the New Year. The delivery voyage was undertaken by Padraig Dirrane and his son Michael with two other crew. Padraig Dirrane who hails from the Galway Aran island of Inis Mor and is an experienced fishing skipper was at the helm for the homeward journey. The voyage to Ireland took six days and included stops in Germany, the South coast of England and Baltimore before reaching the MV Abbe's new home port in Galway.

On arrival in Ireland the vessel underwent various works at Galway docks to bring her up to the required Irish standard. A new generator and towing winch was installed, the vessel was put under survey by the (MSO) Marine Survey Office for Irish load line and P5 passenger license which it completed successfully. The MV Abbe is now available for hire.

"R.P.S Marine Ltd would like to thank Padraig Dirrane and his son Michael and the crew for the safe delivery of MV Abbe, the MSO for all their assistance during the survey process and Pat Maguire, Gordan Ryan and

Rynn Engineering for all the works carried out on the vessel," says Rory Beatty M.D., R.P.S Marine Ltd.

The Galway company R.P.S Marine Ltd. was established in 2005 by Rory and his wife Valerie Beatty. It was primarily set up to provide integrated marine services in Ireland. Since establishing the Company, it has also carried out work in the United Kingdom. The

company's vessels include the Grab Hopper Dredger the MV 'Jenny T' built in the UK at Cook J.W. - Wivenhoe, U.; the vessel's former name was the 'Bar Maid' which was changed to MV 'Jenny T' in December 2000. The MV 'Jenny T' has to date carried out various maintenance works and capital dredging works in Ireland and the U.K.

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RPS Marine's new tug, MV ABBE pictured coming through Keil canal on its delivery voyage to Galway from Stockholm, Sweden.

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## New Tug Vessel for Rossaveal Port Services (R.P.S. Marine) Ltd.



(Above): MV "ABBE" at Galway Docks.

(Below): RPS Marine's MV "Madelen" a 26m landing craft / work vessel.



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The company's other main vessels are two landing craft, the 26 meters MV Madelen landing craft / work vessel twin screw shallow draft and the 41 meter MV 'Chateau Thierry' landing vessel craft twin screw, bow thruster shallow draft is an ex US army landing craft. R.P.S Marine Ltd are the owners of landing craft, tugs, dredgers, work vessels and Ribs. R.P.S marine vessels have full M.S.O. Irish loadlines and passenger licences. They also carry out mooring installations and hire mooring systems

Past Projects: The Galway company R.P.S Marine Ltd has worked on many varied marine projects which include transfer of heavy plant and machinery to offshore islands for construction projects. They have worked on two major harbour projects on the Galway Aran Islands of Kiltonan and Inishmean. RPS Marine Ltd provided Dive support vessel hire for fibre optic cables off the south east coast of Ireland. They have provided tug boat and

service vessel hire to service offshore jackup platform from Dublin port and have carried out fish farm work including harvesting, feed transfer, and towage.

RPS Marine Ltd has carried out various dredging projects around the Irish coast. It has been involved in major salvage operations. A major salvage operation for the company was the heavy lift ship MV Pantanal which went aground in Casla Bay off Galway when on route to transport two ferries to the Indian ocean. RPS Marine Ltd used three of its vessels on this project that took three weeks.

RPS Marine Ltd is always ready to meet with clients to discuss various marine related projects and find the best solution to meet the client's needs. Company headquarters are in Rossaveal harbour where their office and warehousing facility is located. Rory says they are available 24/7 to discuss and carry out any works required by clients.

*The Marine Times wish Rory and his wife Valerie continued success with their expanding business.*

## Tidal, Wave and Offshore Wind Energy Focus of Conference

A major €3 million EU research project investigating various aspects of tidal, wave and offshore wind energy was presented at a conference in NUI Galway recently. Running since 2009, the MAREN project focussed on the energy extraction potential of the Atlantic Area coastal waters.

Scientists and engineers from Ireland, Wales, Spain, Portugal and France have collaborated on the MAREN project and presented their project findings at the event.

Conference speakers presented how detailed quantification of tidal, wind and wave energy has been carried out. Research into optimising layouts of marine renewable energy farms were presented, along with environmental impacts such as likelihood of increased flooding.

Professor Michael Hartnett of NUI Galway chaired the conference: "Here in Ireland, we are poised on potentially one of the most significant long-term energy resources on the planet. A fully-developed marine renewable energy industry in Ireland could lead to up 70,000 jobs. The Atlantic Ocean has huge potential in terms of energy and pan-European projects like this are vital to assess and predict how we can best harness this natural resource. In NUI Galway we have some of the most advanced modelling software tools which are allowing us to quantify marine energy resources from the installations of large scale tide and wave farms."

"This project has also allowed us to predict the impact of marine renewable energy devices on the environment. We have investigated the environmental impact of new energy devices developed over recent years. For example, what is the optimum configuration of tidal or wave devices to minimise environ-

mental impacts on pollutant dispersion and aquatic species."

The MAREN project also investigated the impact of climate change on the CO2 reduction figures, including CO2 release resulting from increased storminess and flooding. A series of climate change scenarios have been simulated and design requirements for marine renewable energy devices developed for predicted altered hydrodynamic conditions present in coastal waters as a result of the impacts of climate change have been considered.

The event was of particular interest to academics and industry personnel engaged in marine renewable energy activities. It is also highly relevant to individuals involved in regulatory and planning aspects of marine renewable energy. The main emphasis was on technical and environmental issues.

The conference also hosted workshops to stimulate stakeholder debate in key areas.

The research undertaken within the MAREN project was part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Atlantic Area Transnational Programme (INTERREG IV).

The research partners were Cardiff University; National University of Ireland Galway; University of Cantabria, Spain; Centec, Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal; and Iferner, France.

## New Waterford Search and Rescue Figures Validate Need for 24/7 Helicopter Service

Deputy John Deasy says Waterford Airport's importance as a Search and Rescue (SAR) base has been underlined by call-out figures over the past three years — particularly night-time helicopter missions. The Fine Gael TD cited the number of emergencies the crew has been tasked to over the 2010–2012 period as clear evidence of the facility's critical presence on the Southeast and South coast.

It's three years since a cabinet proposal to limit and reduce the Irish Coast Guard 24-hour SAR operation at Waterford to daylight hours only, resulted in a public outcry — forcing a row-back by the then Minister. The case for maintaining round-the-clock cover at Waterford has been cemented since the aborted move to cut back the helicopter service to a 12-hour one was aired in March 2010. The value of the Killowen facility was confirmed in figures gleaned from the Department of Transport in reply to a recent Dáil question by Mr Deasy.

"The recommendation made three years ago was based on a very low 2008 call-out rate for the Waterford helicopter. It's clear now that that figure was an aberration. The call-out statistics since have shown that had cover been curtailed it would have been a mis-

take — and it would have probably cost lives," Mr Deasy says.

He noted that call-outs have been fairly evenly spread between the four SAR bases around the coastline, "indicating that Waterford as a location, like the others, has been pretty much spot on", covering an area stretching from south Wicklow through to Glandore and 50 miles southwards. The service has been run on a 24/7 basis since 2002, responding to well over 1,000 taskings and saving many lives. Indeed, while filming for the RTÉ series 'Rescue 117' in 2010, the Waterford crew conducted 18 separate rescue missions on camera.

Mr Deasy concluded: "The numbers prove a 24/7 emergency response from Waterford is essential and that the SAR helicopter must remain at the regional airport."

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