

## Ben Vree 'Port Man of 2008'

On Monday January 13th, Ben Vree was honoured as 'Port Man of the Year 2008'. The Rotterdam Port Press Club "Kyoto" established this award for outstanding contributions towards the development of the port of Rotterdam. Each year the "Kyoto" members – all of them journalists with the Rotterdam port as a main point of interest - review the past year and single out their 'Man (or Woman) of the Year'. Ben Vree received this year's award for his achievement in turning SMIT into a healthy organisation and a global player of importance.



Ben Vree was presented the award by "Kyoto"-chairman Theo Jongedijk in the presence of the new Rotterdam mayor Aboutaleb (left).

## 2008: SMIT is still going strong!

Monday afternoon, the 5th of January, the New Year was marked with the traditional New Year's reception at SMIT head office.

All of the colleagues present looked back on the past year with Ben Vree as he gave his speech. 2008 shaped up to be an eventful year with a number of major challenges, of which the attempt at a hostile takeover by Boskalis was, of course, the biggest. Despite these difficulties, SMIT succeeded in matching the record profit of 2007, as well as expanding the organisation to include new operations in the Baltic States and the Far East and completing a record number of new vessels (46).

During Ben Vree's speech, three colleagues who had passed away, Henk Groenink, Stan Nickerson and Niklaas Cloete, were also remembered.

Looking ahead, Safety (SHE-Q) and the Environment are to remain high priorities this year. For instance, investments will be made to reduce the harmful emissions produced by the SMIT fleet. Using bio-fuel or dual fuel (a blend of diesel and LPG) for instance, could be a method deployed in order to cut emissions.

Starting the year with a well filled order book, SMIT is in an excellent position to sustain the blows dealt by the coming recession. If everything proceeds as expected, the strategy and associated synergy will continue to prove their effectiveness in 2009.

Ben Vree concluded his speech with the presentation of the Corporate Survey Award for 2008. Winner is the harbour tug 'Thamesbank' (SMIT Harbour Towing in Rotterdam).

Captain Peter Holgrem was present to accept the award on behalf of all his colleagues.



Captain Holgrem (mid) of the 'Thamesbank' was presented the Corporate Survey Award by Vessel Surveyor Cor Fontaine (l.) and Ben Vree (r.).

## SMIT Subsea presents STOPAQ

All over the world, the same problem arises with quays, quay walls and platforms, as well as all other steel structures: corrosion, otherwise known as rust. To remedy this problem, the STOPAQ corrosion prevention system was developed. Guaranteed to prevent corrosion for as many as 30 years, this patented product is one-of-a-kind! SMIT Subsea has obtained an exclusive partnership with the supplier.

Last Friday, at SMIT Logistics in the Waalhaven, SMIT Subsea staff demonstrated the STOPAQ corrosion prevention system to various potential buyers, including the Port of Rotterdam Authority, Shell, EPC from India, Allseas and Ballast Nedam.

During this demonstration, divers applied the product to a tubular pole dummy in a diving tank. The operation was captured on camera, enabling onlookers to watch via a monitor.





*Two divers applied the STOPAQ system per sheet to the pole dummy in the diving tank during the demonstration.*

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## **'Lisa-A' successfully completes Burbobank project**

Marine Projects' jack-up barge 'Lisa-A' was successfully deployed at the end of December to assist in repairing a wind turbine in the Burbobank windfarm off the coast near Liverpool (UK).

The operation took ten days to complete. The defective wind turbine was fitted with a new gearbox (the device that converts the sail's rotation into a form that is more suitable for driving a generator). The new part was loaded onto the 'Lisa-A' in the port of the nearby village of Mostyn, after which the barge proceeded to the wind turbine's location, where the Lisa-A's (extended) crane was used to replace the gearbox.

The job was successfully completed on 26 December when the old gearbox was unloaded in Mostyn.



## **SMIT Salvage rescues bulk carrier near Gabon**

The bulk carrier 'Vinalines Saigon' laden with 21,000 tonnes of wood logs grounded off Owendo (Gabon) mid-November 2008. The casualty hit lava rock over the first 50 meters of her fore part which left the fore peak breached and open to the sea.

SMIT Salvage was contracted to assist the vessel on basis LOF 2000. Immediately salvage teams from Netherlands and South Africa were dispatched. Our SMIT Terminals office in Gabon liaised with the local Authorities and arranged all the local logistics. After partly discharging some of her cargo on the team was able to refloat the casualty with the aid of a 110 tbp tug. Subsequently she was redelivered on the 17th November 2008.



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**You can submit your copy for the next issue before 20 January 2009**

**On January 1, 2009 SMIT Public Relations changed to SMIT Corporate Communications.**