

Aker Arctic to design icebreakers for the Caspian Sea



Aker Arctic Technology Inc, Helsinki, Finland, has been awarded a contract by STX RO Offshore Braila SA shipyard in Romania for the technical project and class approvals on three plus two shallow draught icebreaker tugs to be built for the Kazakhstan-based Caspian Offshore Construction group and to be operated in the North Caspian Kashagan oil field developments.

The vessels with an overall length of 66 metres, breadth of 16.4 metres and an exceptionally shallow design draught of 2.5 metres will feature 50 ton minimum bollard pull, an independent icebreaking performance in up to one meter level ice, rubble ice clearing capability, as well as capabilities for ice management, firefighting, rescue and evacuation in an H₂S cloud. Main purpose of the Vessel is pushing and towing cargo barges to the Kashagan field. The diesel-electric propulsion is arranged by Caterpillar high-speed diesel engines driving three Schottel azimuthing propulsors and two Schottel pump jets to provide also redundant DP capability.

The vessels will be built in Bureau Veritas class Tug/Fire Fighting Ship 1 and have ice class 1A Super Special Service – North Caspian Sea Icebreaker with ice breaking capability up to 0.6 m level ice thickness. The vessels will carry Kazakhstan flag.

The concept introduced to the North Caspian ice operations was developed by Aker Arctic already in 2006 and together with the high local content offered by COC provided the oil consortium the most attractive solution. The winning concept reflects the Aker Arctic DASTM features which are successfully used in the Caspian operations already and are today applied in most of the new icebreakers.

"The award is also an important milestone for the Finnish icebreaker design and construction expertise which is currently being offered to several other oil and transport developments in the world", says Mikko Niini, President of Aker Arctic.

The value of the contract is close to 2,5 M EUR providing good base workload for Aker Arctic's staff of 35 towards the end of 2009.

For further information please contact:

Mikko Niini
Aker Arctic Technology Inc
President
Phone +358 400 322747
E-mail: mikko.niini@akerarctic.fi