



# Lamnalco installs Compact Manoeuvring Simulator as vital training aid

**After two years of successfully using the full mission simulators at MSCN for training its Tugmasters, in May, 2006, Lamnalco decided to place an order for a Compact Manoeuvring Simulator. Given the amount of training required for the impressive Lamnalco fleet, the purchase of its own Tug Simulator was a logical next step in setting up a top-class training regime.**

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**J**anuary this year, the Compact Manoeuvring Simulator was installed near Lamnalco's head office in the United Arab Emirates in Sharjah. Report interviews Captain Toby Freeman, Lamnalco's Group Training Superintendent, about the simulator and the project.

Enthusiastic Captain Toby Freeman comments: "To date, we have trained 26 Tugmasters from our Aqaba Port operation. These are Tugmasters from twin-screw tugs on to ASDs. Lamnalco has placed two ATS 65 tugs within the port, while another four tugs are being built. The two ATS 65's are 5,365 HP, with a bollard pull of 66 tonnes. These

are much larger than the older tugs we had, thus the need for extensive training and assessments."

## **How does the simulator fit into your Aqaba operation?**

Toby explains: "Having our own simulator has speeded up the process of training these Tugmasters. They all receive the five-day basic course on the simulator here in Sharjah, before returning to Aqaba for extensive onboard training for up to eight weeks before having their final assessment. We have found by having the simulator the basic handling problems can be quickly identified before actually taking the controls of the tug on site. Here at Lamnalco we are very pleased with the simulator and the service we have received from the MARIN staff."

## **How do you view the next couple of years?**

"At present we are expanding our fleet with 99% of newbuilds being ASD vessels, ranging from smaller 25 tonne, to 100 tonne bollard pull vessels. The simulator will be a very important part of our training programme for the coming years. We have also received much interest from other companies within the Gulf to train and assess their Tugmasters. This will be arranged around our own training dates."

As well as the ties with the MARIN nautical research and simulation departments, Lamnalco is also participating in the Joint Industry Project SAFETUG, concerning the safe operation of tugs in heavy and exposed sea conditions (see page I3).

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Captain Toby Freeman, Lamnalco's Group Training Superintendent, at the controls of the simulator shortly after it's commissioning in Sharjah in January this year.