SLEEP WELL

PART 2





MV Debussy next to offshore island in Caspian Sea

Last year, we reported about MV Debussy and MV Ravel, which were transformed from luxury river cruise ships into fully utilized Living Quarter Barges (LQBs) destined for the Caspian Sea. Since then, a lot happened. Johan Adriaanse, Director Operations at Wagenborg Offshore, gives us an update.

"Wagenborg Kazakhstan – subsidiary of Wagenborg Offshore – has been active in the Kazakhstan sector of the Caspian Sea since 1998, as contractor to AgipKCO. Initially the activities consisted of the provision of Ice Breaking Supply Vessels and Shallow Draft Tugs utilized in support of the consortium's exploration drilling operations. These vessels were built dedicated for the harsh conditions in the North Caspian", Johan explains.

"In 2003, Wagenborg Kazakhstan was awarded the contract for the operational management of two Living Quarters Barges. We performed the operational management (including catering services) of these barges until March 2010 and gained experience in this specific activity. In the mean

time the requirement for accommodation capacity increased considerably. Since Wagenborg Kazakhstan was able to provide a quick solution for the immediate need of high standard accommodation capacity, we were awarded contracts for the provision of 6 living quarters barges in total."

Five LQB's arrived at their destination in 2009 and commenced operations in July, September and November respectively. The last one, Bellini, is expected to be delivered in Bautino – Kazakhstan on or before contract deadline of June 12th 2010. At Holland Shipyards in Hardinxveld, the crew is working hard to get LQB Bellini ready for departure by April 27th 2010. The schedule is tight, however Johan is fully confident that it will be met. "Clearly the refurbishment of three existing LQB's and building two new-built LQB's in one season has been a very demanding exercise. We were able to achieve this thanks to the dedication, flexibility and positive attitude of all employees of Wagenborg Offshore/ Wagenborg Kazakhstan and yards and subcontractors involved", he concludes.

