

De Hoop builds six Blue Water Caspian tugs

Blue Water Shipping ordered six tugs from Shipyard De Hoop for transporting modules across the Caspian to the Tengiz oilfield in Kazakhstan

Blue Water Shipping has taken delivery of the first of six tugs that Shipyard De Hoop is building in the Netherlands for the owner's operations in the northern Caspian region. These tugs will be used for manoeuvring barges that are transporting modules to the Tengiz oilfield in Kazakhstan along inland waterways and across the Caspian Sea.

Handover of this series of tugs started at the end of March and is expected to continue to the end of June. This whole series includes four azimuthing stern drive (ASD), 29.15 m tugs and two 24.8 m harbour tugs, all built with ice class to De Hoop's own designs.

Kabanbay Batyr was the first of these to be delivered to Blue Water Shipping after completing sea and river trials in March. It is one of the ASD tugs, with a bollard pull of 42 tonnes and maximum speed of 12.8 knots. A second of these tugs, *Karasay Batyr*, was on sea trials on 9 April and was delivered to the owner at the end of April.

Two more of these larger ASD tugs, *Bogenbay Batyr* and *Raiymbek Batyr*, are scheduled to be completed by the end of June. All four of these 10.73 m breadth tugs are built at De Hoop's Lobith shipyard.

They have 80 m² of deck space, accommodation for nine people and two Mitsubishi S16R-MPTAW-2 main engines that generate 1,380 kW of power at 1,650 rpm. These drive two Schottel SRp 360 fixed pitch nozzleled rudderpropellers. De Hoop said the main thrusters are recessed, which reduces the minimum operational draught to only 2.80 m.

Auxiliary equipment on these tugs consists of two Veth 116 kW generator sets.

The deck equipment includes a Sormec FB hydraulic foldable knuckle boom marine crane and a Kraaijeveld towing winch with a Mampeay quick-release towing hook. Kraaijeveld also supplied two barge coupling winches and an anchor winch.

De Hoop's Foxhol shipyard was building the two harbour tugs, to be named *Naurysbay Batyr* and *Otgen Batyr*, for completion in May and June. These have revolving propellers on their stern and a bow thruster for additional manoeuvrability. Combined, these generate bollard pull of 30 tonnes for each tug.

Naurysbay Batyr and *Otgen Batyr* were designed to assist the larger tugs in handling cargo barges when precise manoeuvring is required, such as in harbours and terminals. They have 70 m² of deck space, accommodation for 10 people and two Mitsubishi S12R-MPTAW-2 main engines, each producing 1,040 kW of power at 1,650 rpm. These drive two Schottel SRP 340 FP rudder and nozzleled propellers. They are also recessed for an operational draught of 2.8 m. They also have two Veth 116 kW generator sets.

All of these six tugs will be tasked with assisting with the transportation of offshore platform components, barges and vessels, along a 75 km-long channel and across the shallow waters of the Caspian Sea to offloading facilities at Prova, Kazakhstan. They will provide further support inside the offloading facility and other port-related work. Around 250 modules, with average footprint of 30 m x 30 m need to be transported for the Tengiz project.

Blue Water Shipping is leading a consortium of companies in supporting Tengizchevroil in the future growth project



De Hoop delivered *Kabanbay Batyr* tug after river and sea trials in March

on the Tengiz oilfield. This includes 20 module transportation vessels, 11 barges and 29 tugs for transporting modules from the Black Sea to Prova, through the Russian inland waterway system. Some of these tugs have been sourced locally and upgraded while others, such as the six ordered from De Hoop, are newbuildings. 179

ASD TUG PARTICULARS

Kabanbay Batyr, Karasay Batyr

Bogenbay Batyr, Raiymbek Batyr

Length, oa: 29.15 m

Beam, oa: 10.73 m

Depth: 4.60 m

Draught: 2.80 m

Engines: Mitsubishi S16R-MPTAW-2

Power rating: 2x 1,380 kW at 1,650 rpm

Bollard pull: 42 tonnes

Maximum speed: 12.8 knots

Tonnage: 336 gt

Deck space: 80 m²

Accommodation: 9 crew