

*TRANSPORT OF SHOALBUSTER BALOE.*

After 8 years of service on the North Sea. Our Shoalbuster **Baloe** is going to explore the Middle East region this season. Together with many other vessels, **Baloe** is going to assist on the New Suez Canal project in Egypt. This prestigious project is one of the, if not the largest dredging project, from the last decade. Before the departure towards the Bitterlakes in Egypt, **Baloe** is first undergoing an extensive maintenance on the shipyard in Hardinxveld-Giessendam. On the shipyard she is



dry-docked and provided with a new layer of antifouling. Both main engines and generators got serviced by a Caterpillar engineer properly to avoid any problems during the project. Due to the high temperatures in Egypt and our experience in the Middle East with our **DMS Albatross** & **DMS Siskin**, we know that the temperatures in the engine room can get very high. Therefore an additional circulation fan is being installed in the engine room as well to avoid overheating of electrical equipment. Since the crew is sleeping on board of the **Baloe** during the project, the air conditioning system is getting serviced as well. After the maintenance, the **Baloe** is ready just in time to start her first assignment for the project, which is towing Van Oord's **CSD Zeeland II** from Moerdijk towards the Waalhaven in Rotterdam. For the trip towards Egypt, **Baloe** will not sail on her own strength. Instead she will be lifted upon a heavy lift vessel together with the **Zeeland II** and a whole lot of materials such as floating pipelines and containers. Monday 9th of February, the day of arrival of the heavy lift vessel in the port of Rotterdam. Therefore **Baloe** is departing with the **CSD Zeeland II** on tow and **Gepke III** assisting towards Rotterdam. The heavy lift vessel which will transport **Baloe** and **Zeeland II** towards Egypt is the **Rolldock Sea**. An impressive 142 meter long vessel, and is a combination between a semi-submersible and heavy lift vessel. Because **Baloe** will be standing on top of the hatches, she is the last "cargo" to be loaded. After a short week of loading materials and the **Zeeland II** in the Waalhaven in Rotterdam. It is time for the last "cargo" to be loaded on board of the **Rolldock Sea**, which is the **Baloe**. On Saturday morning 14th of February, the last safety meeting is being held on the bridge. Since this is not the first vessel of Herman Senior b.v. that is being transported by a heavy lift vessel, the crew knows the "drill". **Baloe** is sailing in position alongside the **Rolldock Sea** and the main engines are being shut off, everything is being sea fastened



and "dead" ship is made quickly. All the lifting equipment is already hanging in the heavy lift crane of the **Rolldock Sea**, which can lift up to 350 MT with a single crane only! This is why they will only need to use 1 crane to lift **Baloe** on deck. The lifting slings are brought into position together with a diver. This to ensure that the lifting gear is on the right position to avoid any damage to the vessel. On the end of the day **Baloe** is standing safely on deck of the **Rolldock Sea**. Where you have a beautiful view overseeing a part of Rotterdam. Now the crew of **Rolldock Sea** can start with the sea fastening of the vessel, which will take a full day. Monday 16th of February everything is sea fastened on board of the **Rolldock Sea** and will start on her 12 day voyage towards the Bitterlakes in Egypt. The crew of **Baloe** will meet her once again in Egypt. On arrival in Egypt the **Baloe** is the first vessel to be off loaded again. Because **Baloe** has an air-cooled generator we can already start up the vessel when she is still on

top of the **Rolldock Sea**. This makes the circumstances on board of **Baloe** a lot more pleasant. After a quick toolbox and safety meeting, the lifting commences and **Baloe** is quickly in the water. Straight away the crew started up the main engines and after removing the lifting gear **Baloe** sails towards the project. Once arrived on location survey equipment is installed straight away and **Baloe** is ready to work on one of the largest dredging projects from the last decade. Herman Senior is proud to be part of this major project and wishes the vessel and crew a good and safe time in Egypt. (*Press Release*)