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## News

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2003-03-10 -- Tugs for A/S Em. Z. Svitzer

At the end of 2002 the administration carried on active negotiations for construction of harbour tugs such as ASD (azimuth stern drive tugs) for Danish company A/S Em. Z. Svitzer. "Baltija" already has Tuas for A/S Em. Z. Svitzer experience in cooperation with this customer - in 1998-1999 our yard together with Odense Steel Shipvard Ltd. built three sea tugs for them.



On February 26, 2003 the contract for construction of a series of tugs was signed.

A planned series of fire-fighting tugs consists of 6 vessels. Besides, the opportunity of the optional order of 8 similar tugs is stipulated in the contract. The beginning of construction works on the first tug in a series is planned for June 2003. In May 2004 the tug should be handed over to the customer. Each subsequent vessel will be delivered with a 2 months interval. Tugs will be handed to the customer in Klaipeda. Only bollard pull test will not be carried out in Klaipeda as no necessary equipment, depth and pier is present here.

Designing of tugs has already begun. "Baltic Engineering Center" (BEC) is preparing the basic design together with Odense Steel Shipyard. Working documentation is being prepared by BEC independently. Characteristics of tugs: the length of a vessel will be 30m, width - 11.5 m; speed 13.2 knots; two engines, capacity 1800 kW; system of external firefighting with two trunks of remote control and pumps with a drive from the main engine.

At present the shipbuilding market experiences difficulties. Nevertheless, as the fleet grows old and requirements to ships of the given type grow, low but stable demand is expected in the future. Therefore "Baltija" hopes to occupy the certain niche in the European shipbuilding market in this area.

Returning of "Baltija" to complete shipbuilding after a three-years break supports the image of Lithuania as a shipbuilding state.

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