

Press Release

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Four new Voith Water Tractors for Alexandria Port Authority

The Egyptian port of Alexandria, one of the world's most important trade ports, has placed orders for a total of four new additional port tugs, equipped with Voith Schneider Propellers (VSPs), with two Egyptian shipyards. These will complement the Port Authority's existing fleet of nine Voith Water Tractors (VWTs).

"The specification of the new vessels was based on a study conducted by Voith," Derain Pillay, Vice-President: Power, Oil & Gas, confirms. This study ultimately resulted in the Port Authority requiring conventional port tugs in two sizes.

Two VWTs with a bollard pull of 40 t are equipped with two VSP 26R5/195-2 each. The vessels, with a length of 29 m and a beam of 9.5 m, reach speeds of 13 knots. The remaining two VWTs have a bollard pull of 50 t. These are propelled by two VSP 28R5/210-2, ensuring safe and reliable manoeuvring in port. With a length of 35 m and a beam of 11.5 m, they are also designed for a speed of 13 knots.

"Manoeuvrability, robustness and reliability have been, and continue to be, the key reasons for us to decide in favour of the proven Voith VSP propulsion concept," Admiral Abdelkader Darwish, head of the Alexandria Port Authority, confirms. VWTs have been deployed in the port since 1989. The first of the new VSPs were shipped to Egypt at the end of 2015, well in time for the new port tugs to be launched by the end of 2016.

Alexandria itself is a metropolis of about four million inhabitants. Located right on the western end of the Nile Delta, the port handles container and cruise vessels bound for the Suez Canal. Following the opening of the Suez Canal expansion in August 2015, Egypt is anticipating a significant increase in transiting vessels.

And it is not only the number of ships using the Suez Canal every day that the Port Authority expects a dramatic rise in: the register tonnage of the vessels is also forecast to increase significantly. This was the result of the initial study conducted by Voith on behalf of the Alexandria Port Authority.

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About the company

Voith sets standards in the markets for energy, oil & gas, paper, raw materials, transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, Voith employs more than 20,000 people, generates €4.3 billion in sales, operates in over 60 countries around the world and is one of the biggest family owned companies in Europe.*

* Excluding the discontinued Group Division Voith Industrial Services.

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