

Press release

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Svitzer Constance sails into Port of Sunderland

THE ARRIVAL of a 285 tonne tug on the banks of the Wear– the first to take up permanent residence for more than 25 years – is yet another vote of confidence for Port of Sunderland.

The burgeoning North East port has welcomed Svitzer Constance, a 30 metre long, 32-tonne bollard pull Voith Schneider tractor tug, to service the increased volume of the traffic arriving into its docks.

Middlesbrough based Svitzer Marine Ltd has invested substantially during the vessel's recent special survey dry-docking to make her suitable to operate in the Port of Sunderland, demonstrating confidence in the work being generated at the port, which has seen an 84 per cent increase in traffic since 2010.

David Williams, Svitzer Marine's port manager for the North East, says that the company recognises Port of Sunderland's growth potential. He said: "Over the past year we've seen Port of Sunderland really come to life and we now recognise the location as a viable base from which to operate our towing services on a permanent basis.

"We have invested significantly to get Svitzer Constance up to scratch and have every confidence that the business being generated by the port will produce a significant return on investment. We see this as the start of a mutually beneficial relationship between Svitzer Marine and Port of Sunderland – and one which sees our investment being ploughed back into the regional economy."

Svitzer Constance is ideally suited to Port of Sunderland due to its precise handling features which enable it to manoeuvre into more confined spaces.

Mr Williams added: "Svitzer Constance is the perfect fit for Port of Sunderland as the Voith Schneider propulsion system is generally considered to provide enhanced stability and mobility in smaller, more confined areas like those on the banks of the Wear."

Matthew Hunt, director of Port of Sunderland, said: “We are delighted that Svitzer Marine has placed its confidence in Port of Sunderland’s development plans by basing Svitzer Constance here, becoming the first tug to take up permanent residence at the port for more than a quarter of a century.

“We have previously had to utilise tug boats based at other regional ports which can take up to two hours to travel here, however this move will enable us to manage our current traffic more efficiently, ensuring we’re well-equipped for future growth.”

Councillor Paul Watson, leader of Sunderland City Council and chair of the Port of Sunderland board, said that the arrival of Svitzer Constance reflects the port’s ongoing growth strategy.

He said: “The arrival of Svitzer Constance at Port of Sunderland is another sign of progress and yet another reason for maritime businesses to utilise the fantastic facilities that we boast here.”

For more information about Sunderland and the Port of Sunderland visit, email info@makeitsunderland.com or call +44 (0)191 305 1194.

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