

GPA's platform support vessel fleet expanded again

Seattle-based naval architects **Guido Perla and Associates, Inc. (GPA)**, announced that the French marine services provider **Bourbon Offshore** has placed a second order for 14 GPA 654 platform support vessels (PSV).

The design of the additional vessels is identical to a previous order Bourbon placed in 2006 for 10 GPA 654s, which are currently under construction at Dayang Shipyard in China. Although all 24 PSVs are destined to serve the replacement market operating in the continental offshore segment, the characteristics of the vessels make them excellent support vessels for deepwater offshore operations. The GPA 654 is currently the smallest of the GPA series, which range



Artist impression of the GPA 654 platform support vessels ordered by Bourbon

in size from 54 metres to 90 metres in length.

The DP2- and FFV1-certified GPA 654 PSVs, measuring 54 meters in length, are capable of carrying 144 m³ of bulk material and 652 m³ of liquid mud in self-cleaning oval tanks. By virtue of

the diesel-electric propulsion configuration, increased fuel efficiency results in cost savings, lower emissions and higher reliability.

The configuration of the diesel-electric propulsion system with three Z-Drives and three

main propulsion generators creates full redundancy of major components and allows for operation on two engines and two Z-Drives, resulting in an ease of maintenance on major propulsion components, thus increasing reliability. Bourbon also places emphasis on the increase of cargo capacities resulting from locating propulsion generators the above main deck, as well as the elimination of propulsion shafting.

Dynamic Positioning Class 2 not only improves station-keeping at offshore installations, but also improves safety for crewmembers. With this new contract, the number of GPA 654 PSVs on order has increased to 42 vessels worldwide.

Aker to build PSVs for Gulf Offshore

Aker Yards in Norway has entered into a contract with Gulf Offshore North Sea Ltd in Aberdeen, Scotland, to build two platform supply vessels (PSV) based on the Aker design PSV 09 CD. The total value of the

contract is approximately NOK 530 million (\$86.8 million). Delivery is scheduled in 4Q 2009 and 2Q 2010.

The 86.6 metre vessels will have a cargo capacity of 4,850 tonnes, be equipped with dynamic



Artist impression showing a bow view of the Aker design PSV 09 CD



Stern view of the PSV 09 CD showing the twin azimuthing thrusters

positioning and have diesel electric power plant driving two azimuthing thrusters. The vessels will have the class notation Clean Design and are designed for good sea keeping performance, low fuel consumption and environmental friendly operations.

In the past, Gulf Offshore has

been involved in more than 30 contracts with Aker Yards. With this contract, four of the vessels on order by Gulf Offshore are of Aker Yards design.

The hulls for the newbuildings will be built at Aker Yards in Romania and outfitted at Aker Yards in Norway.