



Zeebrugge, 17 September 2020

MBZ and Boluda Towage Europe sign the 5-year concession agreement for providing sustainable towage services in the port of Zeebrugge

On Thursday, 17th September 2020, the signing ceremony was held at the headquarters of the port authorities in Zeebrugge. The concession is the renewal of an existing partnership for the duration of five years and extendable for a single period of three years.



The focus of this partnership between Port of Zeebrugge and Boluda Towage Europe lays in efficient, smooth, and safe handling of shipping, and puts forward initiatives regarding sustainability. The agreement includes eight powerful and modern tugboats in this port region, which are all certified with the highest firefighting standards and will be manned with local crew.

As part of this fleet, Boluda Towage Europe will bring in two Damen-newbuild 85-tonnes bollard pull ASD Tugs 2813, both complying with the most recent IMO Tier III emission standards, to the Port of Zeebrugge in December 2020. These tugs, named *VB Bolero* and *VB Rumba*, are highly maneuverable and environmentally friendly vessels of modern design.

Aside from the *Union Koala*, that was already retrofitted to the IMO Tier III standards in 2019, Boluda Towage Europe will also retrofit the *Union Panda* this year. Other tugs in the fleet, in this port region will also be retrofitted in the first two years of the contract.

In order to highlight the long-standing cooperation between both parties, Boluda Towage Europe provided the ship's bell of the tugboat 'Brugge' on permanent loan to MBZ. The ship's bell was unveiled at the end of the ceremonial signing. The tugboat Brugge was the most powerful fire-fighting vessel when it was built in 1988, and was active in the port of Zeebrugge as a fire-guard boat for LNG tankers until 2009.

About the Port of Zeebrugge

Zeebrugge, the seaport of Bruges, is a maritime crossroads shipping nearly 46 million tons of goods annually. The coastal port is one of the world's foremost roll-on/roll-off ports and a fully equipped container port due to its infrastructure and water depth. The offering of both intra-European and intercontinental services makes Zeebrugge an important access port to the European markets. Zeebrugge also focuses on the transhipment of conventional cargo, liquefied natural gas, cruises and – not in the least – the handling of new cars and “high and heavy” loads. Handling over 2.9 million units on an annual basis, the coastal port is the leading car-handling port in the world. For further information, please visit <https://portofzeebrugge.be/>

About Boluda Towage Europe

Boluda Towage Europe provides tailored towage services to customers in major ports in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The company is part of Boluda Towage Group, a family business that has established itself as one of the leading providers of maritime services worldwide. The group can be found in 75 ports across the globe, operating a fleet of over 300 tugboats in 19 countries in Europe, the west coast of Africa, America and the Indian Ocean. For further information, please visit www.boluda.eu or www.boluda.com.es

Press information

Boluda Towage Europe
Annet van Brussel, Communications & PR
E-mail: communications@boluda.eu | www.boluda.eu

Port of Zeebrugge
Audrey Magniette, Communication Officer
E-mail: am@mbz.be | <https://portofzeebrugge.be/>