



## **MALTA MARITIME PILOTS**

21, Pinto Wharf, Floriana FRN 1910

**Tel:** 2122 7028 **Fax:** 2122 7029 **E-mail:** mmp@camline.net.mt

### **Malta Maritime Pilots – Profile**

Established in March 2003, the Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative Ltd. provides efficient marine vessel pilot services to the two main ports of Malta - the Grand Harbour and the Port of Marsaxlokk, as well as two smaller ports - that of Marsamxett and the Port of Mgarr, Gozo. It also provides consultancies relevant to pilotage, navigation and sea-faring. The cooperative has 15 members and in 2009 provided in more than 10,000 pilot services.

The success of Maltese ports is dependent on the efficiency of services offered at the same ports. We recognise that the service offered by the cooperative is one of the most important among the chain of services offered by our ports.

One should mention that the cooperative holds the largest amount of Marine Masters under its umbrella in Malta. This puts it at the same level of the best harbours in the world.

In January 2009 the Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative launched one of the most modern pilot boats on the market. This pilot boat, built in Ireland, was added to the fleet of four other boats that were being used to provide the Maltese pilotage service. In May 2010 the cooperative finalised a contract for the building of another pilot to improve the services offered in both Maltese ports which are welcoming the largest sailing ships in the world.

To keep abreast with the technological advancement in the sector, the cooperative invests heavily in training. This led to the cooperative opening a maritime training centre that includes one of the most advanced full mission simulator in Europe. This simulator can be used for training, as well as to make a risk assessment when large vessels are making use of Maltese ports.

Last year, the cooperative's pilots attended the internationally renowned training centre of *Port Revels* in France for training in dealing with emergency situations on large vessels.

In trying to maintain continuous contact with its clients, a group of pilots visited the CMA CGM training centre. This company has built a generation of new vessels, which are among the largest in the world, and which make use of the services provided by the Malta Freeport. All pilots attended a similar training centre operated by the cruise liner company MSC, whose vessels are among the largest cruise liners making use of the Grand Harbour.

The Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative is also active in the European Maritime Pilots Association and is a member of the International Maritime Pilots Association.



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### **Speech by the President of the Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative, Captain Jesmond Mifsud, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Specialised Research Simulator.**

**Friday 16th July 2010**

Honorable Prime Minister, Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and distinguished guests, my colleagues and I would like to thank you for accepting our invitation to join us for the inauguration of this specialised simulator in the field of marine research.

Nowadays the simulator is one of the most used tools in research, not only in aviation but also in the maritime industry. This simulator - one of the most technologically advanced in the world - was developed by the Maritime Research Institute Netherlands (*MARIN*).

Established in 1929, this institute conducts key research on the effects of the sea and the waves on all forms of marine vessels and structures well before their construction is initiated. This has put the *MARIN* in the forefront in this sector. In 1970 the institute began to involve itself in the training of Maritime pilots, aided by the best *software* and technology that can be found on the market.

In the past, studies conducted the Maltese Port industry regarding the safety of local ports, had to be carried out abroad, at considerable cost. With this simulator not only can we conduct the same research locally, but we can do it as frequently as needed.

The Grand Harbour and the Marsaxlokk Port are now hosting the largest vessels sailing the oceans. At the same time, the size of our ports is what it is and cannot grow. These vessels offer a strong challenge not only economically but also with regards to their safety and the safety of the ports. The mother companies of these ships have asked us on more than one occasion for some kind of study on the safety of our ports, especially with regards to maneuvering under different weather conditions. Today we are in a position to invite masters and managers of these vessels to conduct training sessions and perform risk assessments jointly.

This simulator has the capability to be used in projects relating to our port infrastructure, such as a study for the safety of building new piers in Marsamxett, the Fish Market, as well as Fuel Wharf.

After undergoing training at *MARIN* in the Netherlands, as well as training with *CMA CGM* in France, and *MSC* in Italy - major clients of Maltese ports - we started working on this project because we believe that this will not only help us to reinforce our pilots' skills, but also



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improve the various port services offered by the Maltese ports, making them more attractive to large companies.

For this project to become reality, we had the constant support and encouragement of Malta Transport Chairman Mr Mark Portelli as well as Transport Malta CEO Dr. Stanley Portelli.

With such an investment totalling more than €600,000, the Maltese Maritime Pilots are the second group of pilots after those in Antwerp, who invested in this type of technology and software. The project brought with it a great financial challenge with the cooperative obtaining a bank loan of €450,000. We thank the Bank of Valletta who always showed confidence in our projects, including the construction of new pilot boats.

€108,000 of this project was financed by the European Union, whilst the rest are being financed by pilotage charges which will not see any increase.

We believe that that this project will make our ports more competitive and safe thus contributing to better economic development.

I would like to note the Malta Maritime Pilots' Cooperatives' appreciation for the enduring and continuous support offered by the Union Haddiema Maqghudin, especially secretary General Mr. Gejtu Vella Secretary, who contributed towards the success of such project.

I also thank my colleagues, especially the Malta Maritime Pilots Cooperative committee, who were involved in the establishment of this simulator, as well as the Pilot Boat team that contributed to the setting up of this project.

Thank you.