News from TRANSAS
VTS in Gibraltar, China and Morocco

Gibraltar
In February the Gibraltar Port Authority (GPA) commenced a renewal of its VTS system and developed an agreement with Transas to facilitate the supply, development and commissioning of a VTS including all necessary hardware, software, sensors, communication systems, training and support. The GPA VTS allows operators to visualise and interact with all marine traffic within the Area of Responsibility by bringing together subsystems including radar, automatic identification system (AIS), electro optical (or CCTV), VHF communications (including radio direction finding and digital selective calling), hydro-meteorological data, a port information system (a database including vessels, visits, operations, weather log and electronic logbook) and track/audio recording and playback. All these services are fully integrated through a set of VTS system servers and presented to the operators in a new state-of-the-art dual workplace control room located within the GPA office situated on the North Mole in the port of Gibraltar. The VTS system selected by the GPA is based upon Transas Navi-Harbour VTMIS equipment. Similar units are also in use by the Cyprus Ministry of Merchant Marine, the Armed Forces of Malta as well as Kenya Ports Authority. More than 150 other successful shore-based installations have been completed by Transas over the last 15 years. The port of Gibraltar occupies a uniquely important strategic location at the intersection of Atlantic and Mediterranean shipping lanes – one of the world’s busiest routes (some 110,000 ships transit the Gibraltar Strait each year). The port handles 10% of these vessels, providing bunkering, crew changes, provisions and ships’ spares. It also has repair and dry dock facilities and hull cleaning afloat capability. The Gibraltar Port Authority (GPA) oversees all operations at the port including responsibility for Search and Rescue and coastguard operations within British Gibraltar Territorial limits. Its most important functions are safety of navigation, counter pollution, security and monitoring of all marine activities. The port has a thriving leisure market being a leading passenger destination as well as a centre for yachts touring the Mediterranean.

People’s Republic of China
Also in February it was announced that Transas China and the Ministry of Transport of the People’s Republic of China had signed a contract for the supply, installation and commissioning of a Navi-Monitor system.
This is understood to be the first VTS Transas has sold in mainland China and also means a significant step to further progress in the China shore-based system market. China VTS is a comprehensive system including one radar, three VHF base stations, one automatic identification system (AIS) and two sets of ECDIS. The operator centre is run by the Design Institute from the Ministry of Transport and is located in Daxing County, near Beijing. The contract represents significant progress Transas has made in the China VTS market and the system includes Navi-Monitor software, and a powerful radar processor system. Transas Navi-Monitor is currently being used by more than 100 authorities, ports and harbours around the world and the company has reported recent VTS installations in Lithuania, Indonesia, East Malaysia and India.

**Morocco**

Transas is currently working on two VTS projects in Morocco, in the ports of Agadir and Nador with Agence National des Ports (ANP), in partnership with SOREMAR Group, to initiate these projects. It is understood the scope of supply at each port includes a high performance radar, two CCTV systems, a communications system with three VHF and one HF stations, AIS base station, direction finder and weather station. The port of Agadir lies on the shores of the Atlantic and is the main gateway and point of export for goods from South Morocco. As Morocco’s fourth busiest commercial port, it is a bustling affair and thrives from the rich fisheries off the Moroccan Atlantic coast. The port of Nador lies on the northeastern shores of Morocco facing the Mediterranean and is a ferry gateway to Europe. Together with Soremar Group, Transas has already supplied and commissioned three VTS installations in Morocco in the ports of Mohammedia, Tanger and Jorf Lasfar. Several months ago Transas completed an installation of VTS in Khalifa Bin Salman Port, Bahrein. The project was initiated by Aeradio Technical Services W.L.L. for APM Terminals, provider of port and terminal management and operational expertise, which serves over 60 container lines. Technically this Gulf installation is based on two radars, an AIS base station, weather station, three VHF stations and DSC messages server. All equipment is integrated into one multifunctional project, which fulfils the tasks of providing navigation in a port’s responsibility zone. In addition it enables the gathering of statistical data about vessels which can be used, for example, in preparing reports for a port’s financial services as a base for charging for port operations such as mooring, towing and so forth. Furthermore, there is provision for plans regarding vessels entering and situation monitoring in the port taking account of the number of vessels in the port, their status and location.