

MARS:News

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability

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TIDESPRING



Progress on TIDESPRING, the First of Class, progresses at pace. She was floated out of DSME's No 2 dock for the last time on 25th April 15.

Capt Jim Collins RFA, DE&S MARS Project Manager, based in Okpo South Korea said: "The pace of build continues to be phenomenal, from cutting steel of TIDESPRING in June last year, to seeing her afloat in April this year and now undergoing outfitting. We have approximately 1000 people working on board each day, with over 60% of the cables pulled and recently both diesel generators successfully completing their first runs. The pace of commissioning will now accelerate as we approach contractor sea trials and acceptance off contract".

She will be officially named in October prior to travelling to the UK to commence Customisation and Capability Assessment Trials and Support (UKCCATS) next Winter. The Chancellor George Osborne announced in January the award of this contract to A&P Group Limited. The contract will fit military systems such as communications equipment and weapons, and support the trials programme including First of Class Flying trials, Replenishment At Sea (RAS) trials and signature ranging.



View of the stern as she is towed into the Outfitting Quay



TIDESPRING following Float Out April 15

DSME are currently installing 620,000m of electrical cabling into the ship which, if laid out in a line, would go from Portsmouth to Edinburgh.

TIDERACE, TIDESURGE AND TIDEFORCE



In the meantime on 8th June the first steel was cut for TIDESURGE, the third ship, by Charles Hay - UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, along with the ceremonial Keel Lay of TIDERACE, the second in Class.

Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) Hd of Commercially Supported Shipping, David Farmer said;

“These events are significant achievements for the project and future Maritime capability in the round. Three of the four MARS Tankers are now in build, with the fourth getting underway later this year. Achieving this barely three years after contract award is a real testament to the efforts of all involved.”

Keel Lay of TIDERACE in June, the second ship. UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Charles Hay and United Kingdom Defence Attaché to Korea, Brigadier Andrew Cliffe, with representatives of DSME and the UK and Okpo based project team. The hull structure is now nearing completion and she will be floated out for the first time at the beginning of August.



UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Charles Hay, presses the button to commence steel cut on TIDESURGE, the third ship. By the time the fourth ship, TIDEFORCE, is completed over 11,000 tonnes of steel will have been used in the construction of the ships.

