



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

No.381/2014

Date: 21st July 2014

New VTS operators recruited for the Gibraltar Port Authority

As part of the Government's continued commitment to improve and develop the Port and its infrastructure, the Gibraltar Port Authority has recently recruited and trained an additional five Vessel Traffic System (VTS) operators to complement its existing team of specialists.

The VTS operators, working in the port's nerve centre, provide a constant watch over all vessel movements both within and outside BGTW, using an integrated suite of sensors, including radar, VHF radio, CCTV cameras and an automatic identification system.

With the primary focus on navigational safety, the operators coordinate and de-conflict all major movements in the busy waters, and maximise opportunities for the commercial use of the harbour, whilst also providing safe water for recreational use. The operators prioritise ship arrivals in advance, liaising with local companies thereby ensuring maximum efficiency and minimum waiting times. Real-time ship movement information is updated by the operators through the recently installed electronic Vessel Management System (VMS) which is readily available to shipping agents, pilots and other service providers.

The VTSOs also support Gibraltar law-enforcement agencies in maintaining the integrity of BGTW as well as providing an essential Search and Rescue (SAR) capability. Commodore Bob Sanguinetti, the new CEO and Captain of the Port is delighted with the addition of the new specialists to the GPA, underpinning the Government's desire to provide a safe and efficient environment for all users of the port and adjacent waters.

Minister for Tourism, Commercial Affairs and the Port, Neil Costa MP welcomed the recruitment of new technical personnel at the Gibraltar Port Authority.

Mr Costa said: "The modernisation and investment of resources to provide the Port of Gibraltar with the necessary technical capability to enhance security and provide a

better service to customers and port operators is vitally important. The port is a key component of our economy and the Government is sensitive to its infrastructural requirements. The maritime industry is a tough sector and the Gibraltar Government is unreservedly committed to ensure that the port remains competitive and consolidates its position as the leading regional shipping hub in the Mediterranean.”