



The Port of Saldanha Bay, which is being developed to serve the offshore oil and gas industry, forms part of the Transnet Expressions of Interest issued during June to create a ship and rig repair centre on the West Coast of South Africa. The closing date for submissions was the beginning of August.

An international maritime journalist recently referred to a comment that the vice president of Hyundai Heavy Industries made 12 years ago when he is said to have noted that he looked forward to the day that they (South Korea) were not the world's top shipbuilding nation.

The comment speaks to shipbuilding as an economic indicator; highlighting that a nation that takes up the rank as the biggest shipbuilding nation, is necessarily one where labour is cheaper.

The vice president was clearly hoping to see South Korea evolve as an economy beyond the point of cheap labour being their unique selling point. It's an interesting discussion to start in the context of African shipbuilding – where a drive towards beneficiation of resources; industrialisation and employment growth are seen as keys to unlocking the potential of the continent.

It's also interesting in light of trends towards more sophisticated, automated and efficient shipbuilding technologies that will produce customised vessels, in less time and with less labour. Read about some of these technologies on page 40 where we highlight key points emphasised in a publication released by Lloyds Register, QinetiQ and the University of Southampton.

In South Africa, the big shipbuilding news has yet to be announced. The sector is poised to discover who will benefit from the South African Navy's *Project Hotel* and *Project Biro* newbuild contracts. Despite having anticipated an announcement earlier this year, some believe that this is likely to coincide with the annual Africa Aerospace and Defence Show in September.

In the meantime Angola has announced the order of a new fisheries research vessel from Damen and the Royal Moroccan Navy will take delivery

of a Hydro-Oceanographic Multi-Mission vessel from Piriou in 2018. Bids also closed to supply the Tanzanian Port Authority with a tug and a floating crane in May this year while the Kenyan Port Authority's tender for the supply and commissioning of a security patrol boat closed in April.

Appropriate infrastructure is a prerequisite for the shipbuilding and ship repair sector. The South African sector in terms of drydocking, quay space and draft alongside has traditionally relied on Transnet infrastructure, but the arrival of a private floating dock in Durban during July for Dormac (featured as our cover story in the May/June issue) as well as the calls for private sector involvement in infrastructure in the Port of Saldanha Bay, Richards Bay and Port Elizabeth heralds a shift that Malcolm Hartwell believes will spur the desired development envisioned under Operation Phakisa.

As the new head of Transport for Norton Rose Fulbright, Hartwell has been keen to champion the objectives of Operation Phakisa despite some resistance from industry. I spoke to him at length about a myriad of topics in the maritime transport sector, but the focus of our On the Quayside article with him revolves around his involvement with Operation Phakisa.

We have been collecting responses to our survey on Operation Phakisa since its inception in 2014 and include an overview of this on page 56. Although we plan to keep the survey active, it is interesting to note that the majority of

the respondents believe that the goal of creating one million jobs and reaching a contribution of R1.7 billion to GDP for the maritime sector by 2033 is realistic. You can still participate in this and other surveys by clicking on links from our home page ([www.maritimesa.co.za](http://www.maritimesa.co.za)).

With only two more issues to publish before the end of the year, we have much more information and topics to debate. But you don't need to wait for the print magazine, which only comes out once every two months – you can sign up for our weekly newsletter or like our Facebook page to keep abreast of with news in the maritime sector on a more immediate bases.

As always, we welcome your input and contributions to topics that you feel need to be addressed.

Colleen Jacka, editor

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