

Coastal protection

Abeille Bourbon, the first of two identical coast protection vessels designed and equipped by Rolls-Royce, was delivered to Groupe Bourbon earlier this year, and is intended to prevent disasters such as the *Erika* and *Prestige* happening in the future.

The design, designated UT515, is derived from the well known family of Rolls-Royce UT-Design anchor handlers, and is now on long-term charter to the French Navy.

Abeille Bourbon was built by Myklebust Verft in Norway, and meets a very tough set of requirements set by the owner, being a multipurpose salvage tug, coastguard and standby vessel.

Among their principal roles will be assistance to vessels at sea, deepsea towing, salvage of vessels in distress, fire and flooding control and anti-pollution activity. On trials, a bollard pull of just over 201

ABEILLE BOURBON	
Owner	Groupe Bourbon
Designer	Rolls-Royce
Builder	Myklebust Verft
Length, oa	80m
Breadth	16.5m
Draft	6m
Accommodation	25
Main engines	4 x MaK 8M32C
Output	4 x 4,000kW

tonnes was achieved, together with a speed of 19.8 knots at maximum continuous engine rating.

On deck, *Abeille Bourbon* is essentially laid out as a deepsea towing and salvage tug. The main towing winch is a Rauma Brattvaag two-drum hydraulic unit. It has a 250-tonne pull on the first layer and can hold 500 tonnes on the brake. Each winch drum can hold 1,600m of 80mm wire rope. Two low-pressure hydraulic motors power the winch and each of these



has three chambers.

The high speed will enable *Abeille Bourbon* to move quickly to an incident and its powerful pull should enable the tug to prevent a stricken vessel grounding and tow it to safety.

Abeille Bourbon carries a selection of rescue craft. There are two MOB boats of the Springer 741 design under single point Hydramarine davits, plus an inflatable with an outboard motor. **OSJ**