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## ECONOMICS

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### «SFINKSA» is the third and the best.

**The traditional bottle of champagne was broken on board of the vessel in the presence of Minister for transport of Latvia Aivis Ronis and Board Chairman of Freeport of Riga Andris Ameriks, who wished the team seven feet under the keel.**

**The new Tugboat, replenished the port Fleet, will increase the navigation safety as well as the competitiveness of the Freeport of Riga and its cargo turnover.**

“SFINKSA” and its elder sisters “Stella” and “Santa” showed an audience their talents. Quick vessels did a twirl on the waves around their axis as whales, gushing into the sky powerful water fountains. Tugboats are multifunction now: they can not only escort vessel to the port and moor them but to extinguish the fire – on the water as well as on the shore, collect the spilled oil and install the buoys.

Arrived from Saint Petersburg the tugboat “SFINKSA” has become the third tug of the Port of Riga. That’s why there were a lot of jocks at the presentation on this occasion. They said that the third son from fairy tales is always the luckiest. And hard-working.

And indeed there are a lot of works for “SFINKSA”.

- This tug was needed to the port, - Andris Ameriks said. – Port’s cargo turnover is increasing constantly. Last year Riga came to a record 30 million of handled cargo. This year is going to be more harvest: we are expecting 33,5 million tons as a result. Such a significant increase in such a difficult time conveys a great deal.

The world tendency is that the vessels are becoming larger. In order to admit any size vessels to Riga, those range the Baltic sea, the Port Authority does extensive work for cutting down fairways. The works have finished for passenger vessels and lots of work done for the cargo vessels. Giants are of course less maneuverable and need help of tugboats. Own port fleet availability is the most important factor of competition now.

The past unusual severe winter forced to think what should we do to guarantee the normal work of the port in spite of snow and bad weather. Thanks to “SFINKSA” the safety of shipping in Port of Riga will increase, because if one of the tugs suddenly fails, two another tugs will come to rescue immediately and work will not hurt.

Andris Ameriks noted another positive moment: “SFINKSA” was bought cheaper than its sisters, - and so, it is a good buying. The tug is modern; it meets all international standards in safety and pollution preventing. Installed on the tug connection and navigation equipment is the latest technology. A powerful fire fighting unit as well as propeller is made by world known company Rolls Royce.

Like the other two tugs “SFINKSA” is the Ice Class Tug. By the port’s order Russian shipbuilders equipped the vessel with additional equipment and technologies, so the youngest brother has serious advantages over “Santa” and “Stella”. Thanks to improved design features it can mash 15 cm thicker ice at the same speed - from 2 till 5 knots. The draught of the vessel is not big; it means that “SFINKSA” can work at lower deeps than the two other tugs. It also very important. The engine power is 4000 h.p.

The minister for transport Aivis Ronis congratulated the port with valuable purchase and estimated its contribution to navigation safety and therefore it’s a bargaining chip in competition with other ports.

As befits, the new vessel has got a mother. The chief of accountant of the port Livia Andersone became the God’s mother. On the first try she has broken the bottle of champagne to pieces on the bow of the vessel and everybody has found it by a good omen. The God’s mother gave a silver coin to a captain. Placed under the mast by Marine Belief it shall protect the vessel from any troubles.

For Gints Rijkuris captain position is new and he was getting ready to it seriously, being the duplicate captain of another tug “Stella”. He told, that on its way from Saint Petersburg Yard “Pella” to the home port, that lasted 2.5 days, the small vessel run into a gale and showed its best side.

- Many thanks to Manager of the Port Leonids Loginovs, though which we have got such a necessary tug, - the Captain of the port Eduard Delveris said. - now more vessels will put into our port. But I think we should not stop on this. We need one more tug... And then it will be enough for us.