

Green start at Belgian marinas with cutter suction dredger 'Blanew'



07/11/2019 - Earlier this year we have been awarded the renewal of the maintenance dredging contract of several marinas along the Belgian coast. The contract scope includes the dredging, transporting and dumping of silt and sand from the marinas in Blankenberge, Ostend and Zeebrugge.

Works started with our electrically driven cutter suction dredger (CSD) 'Blanew'. Compact, clean and powerful!

In the marina of Blankenberge 'Blanew' is connected to the electricity network with a 11 kV electric cable running along the floating line, which allows the CSD to operate fully electrically. When running on green electric power, 'Blanew' is extremely silent and does not produce any CO², NO_x or SO_x emissions. In the ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge, 'Blanew' currently operates in diesel-electric mode. The dredged sludge is transported to various disposal areas along the coastline using the split hoppers 'Vlaanderen 7' and 'Vlaanderen 8'.

At the request of our client, the entrance to the port of Blankenberge will be dredged with a small trailing suction hopper dredger (TSHD). In the past these works were executed by our dual fuel TSHD 'Minerva'. The access channel of the marina in Blankenberge consists of sand and is currently dredged with 'Vlaanderen 16'. The sand is used to reinforce the beach or the foreshore, depending on the client's preferences. In the other marinas, only silty material is dredged and transported to dumping areas at sea.

Due to the touristic nature of the marinas no dredging works may be carried out during the summer months, often resulting in challenging weather conditions for our cutter suction dredgers.

The current contract runs until July 2022.

Story submitted by Bram De Paepe.

