

Prestigious award for executive chairman

Robert Allan, executive chairman of naval architects Robert Allan Ltd, was presented with the prestigious Council of Marine Carriers (CMC) legacy award at the 23rd British Columbia Tugboat Conference in May. The award is presented every two years to a recipient who has made a significant, positive and lasting contribution to the BC marine towing industry.

CMC was formed in 1975 when the British Columbia Towboat Owners' Association and the Towboat Industrial Relations Association joined together as a non-profit organisation to ensure that the industry's technical and labour interests were protected and advanced.

Allan joined Robert Allan Ltd in 1973, following a family tradition. The company was started by his grandfather, also named Robert Allan, in 1929 and strengthened by his father, the late Robert F (Bob) Allan

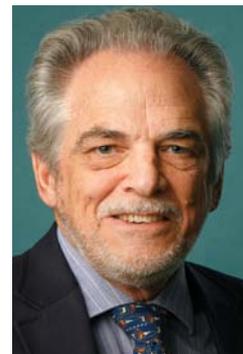
throughout the 1950s and '60s.

In 1981, Allan succeeded his father as president, leading the company into a new generation of computer-based design technology. The expanding firm created a wide range of distinctive designs including ship-assist and escort tugs, icebreakers, government service vessels and high-speed craft.

With significant growth since the mid-1990s, the firm has established itself as an international force in commercial workboat design and the recognised world leader in high-performance tugboat designs. Currently a vessel is built to a Robert Allan Ltd design somewhere in the world almost every week.

In 2008, Allan transferred ownership of the firm to a team of the senior employees, and since then the ownership has expanded to include 25 employee shareholders.

Although Allan formally announced his



▶ *Robert Allan, executive chairman of naval architects Robert Allan Ltd*

retirement from full-time duty with the company in the summer of 2017, he continues to serve on the board of directors and as part of the SAGE mentoring team at Robert Allan Ltd in Vancouver. One may also find him at the occasional technical conference as an 'ambassador at large'.

Ice-going coating deal for new tugs



Subsea Industries has received an order for its specialist hull and rudder coatings for application on two Robert Allan Ltd-designed ice-breaking tugs under construction at Turkey's Sanmar Shipyards.

The pair of 67-tonne bollard pull Ice Class ASD tugs include a number of special features to cater for Arctic conditions. They are specifically designed for the year-round service in the Baltic Sea and particularly in the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia, which is covered with heavy ice in winter.

They will be capable of performing multiple tasks including escort, ship assist, ice-breaking and ice management and open sea towing.

The Subsea Industries hard-type coatings were selected amidst strong competition because of their proven performance in polar waters. The company says that experience has shown that Ecospeed stays on the hull longer and resists the ice far better than the

▲ *An artist's view of one of the 67-tonne bollard pull ice-breaking tugs being built by Sanmar, for operations in the Baltic*

most generally used specialised ice coatings. Ecospeed remains bonded to the ship's plates even as they flex and bend under ice pressure and impact.

Ecospeed is one of only a few such products to have a certified abrasion resistant ice coating. Owners are allowed to reduce the thickness of the steel of the ice belt if this area is coated with the product which gives them a significant financial benefit during newbuild projects.

An ice-going hull coating must have low friction characteristics in order to be fuel efficient. But it is not enough for the hull to be smooth and have low friction at launch. It must stay that way for the life of the vessel. Ecospeed will hold up and will not be damaged in the ice and so will remain smooth for the life of the vessel, thus saving fuel.

In brief

Voith has introduced a global platform that brings together the company's digital services and business-related information in one location. MyVoith offers users personalised access to their applications, services and data from the Voith world. These include industry-specific webshops, asset management solutions and further self-service applications, as well as industrial Internet of Things applications and services.

Italy has joined calls for the creation of an emissions control area (ECA) in the Mediterranean Sea that would introduce a 0.1 per cent sulphur emissions limit. France and Spain have previously voiced support for an ECA zone in the Mediterranean that would also include tighter rules on NO_x emissions.

AUS Coast Guard team suspended their search after failing to find a missing crew member from the tugboat *St Genevieve*, who is believed to have fallen overboard on the Mississippi River. An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter and response boat from New Orleans were involved in the search.

The multi-purpose support vessel *Havila Harmony*, operated by Reach SubSea, has been contracted to provide topside support throughout the 2019 *Titanic* survey expedition.