

'RT DISCOVERY'

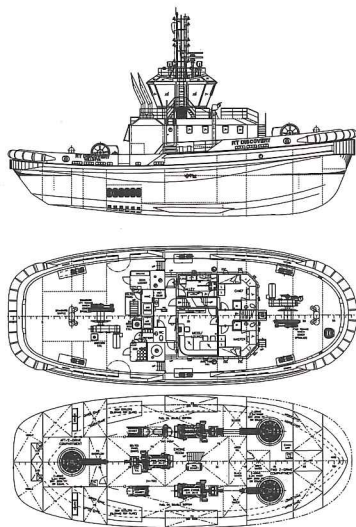


THE FIRST OF FOUR ROTORTUGS FROM CHEOY LEE

Cheoy Lee has recently delivered the 'RT Discovery', the first of a batch of four ART 80-32-series Rotortugs for Dutch marine services provider Kotug International.

All four vessels are destined for service in Australia, where they will operate on charters for mining company BHP Billiton at terminals located in Port Hedland, Western Australia.

The Rotortug tug vessel concept is distinguished from a more-conventional ASD tractor by its utilisation of three main engines powering three ASD propulsion units oriented in a triangular configuration. Caterpillar supplied the main engines for the propulsion package, with each 3512C-series unit rated for 1,763kW and coupled to a Twin Disc gearbox. For the thrusters, three fixed-pitch azimuthing units were supplied from Schottel.



With significant separation between the two forward thrusters and single aft drive unit, the thruster setup greatly enhances vessel manoeuvrability, allowing the vessel to operate effectively in confined spaces at all speeds, said Cheoy Lee. Other benefits of the Rotortug arrangement includes enhanced safety during towing and escort operations, added levels of redundancy, and a higher bollard pull in all directions.

Designed by Robert Allan Ltd in conjunction with Rotortug, the company which owns the patent, the 'RT Discovery' measures 31.95 metres in length overall, with a beam of 12.6 metres and an extreme draught of 6.3 metres. Constructed under survey to Lloyd's Register, she delivers a bollard pull of over 80 tonnes, both ahead and astern, and has a free running speed of 12.5 knots.

Six crewmembers can be accommodated on the vessel, with single-berth cabins provided on the main deck for the master and engineer, and the remaining accommodation arranged in two twin-berth cabins on the lower deck. The galley store and laundry are forward of the lower deck crew cabins, whilst aft of the crew cabins is a soundproofed switchboard room overlooking the engine room.

Back on the main deck, the vessel's galley is located opposite the crew mess and lounge. Up on the bridge deck, a single helm seat slides on rails between Alphantron bridge consoles. The vessel's deck equipment package consists of Kraaijeveld-supplied electric winches, as well as both forward and aft staples.

With the 'RT Discovery' and her future sister vessels a successful proof-of-concept, Cheoy Lee will be integrating the ART 80-32 tug series into its range of harbour/terminal

tugs for consideration on international tenders. Following successful sea trials of the 'RT Discovery' prior to delivery, Cheoy Lee is also embarking on a built-to-stock program for the vessel design.

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'RT Discovery'

SPECIFICATIONS

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| Type of vessel: | ASD tug |
| In survey to: | Lloyd's Register |
| Home port: | Port Hedland, Australia |
| Owner: | Kotug International, the Netherlands |
| Operator: | BHP Billiton, Australia |
| Designer: | Robert Allan Ltd, Canada |
| Builder: | Cheoy Lee, Hong Kong |
| Gross tonnage: | 491GT |
| Length overall: | 31.95 metres |
| Beam: | 12.6 metres |
| Draught: | 6.3 metres (extreme) |
| Main engines: | 3 x Caterpillar 3512C; each 1,763kW |
| Gearboxes: | 3 x Twin Disc MCD3000-3LD |
| Generators: | 2 x Caterpillar C6.6; Caterpillar C4.4 (harbour generator) |
| Propulsion: | 3 x Schottel SRP3000FP fixed-pitch azimuthing thrusters |
| Free running speed: | 12.5 knots |
| Bollard pull: | 80+ tonnes |
| Deck equipment: | Kraaijeveld electric winches; staples |
| Fuel capacity: | 200m ³ |
| Freshwater capacity: | 32.8m ³ |
| Accommodation: | 6 |
| Crew: | 6 |