



We have a strong cash flow. In the past year or so we've put new policies in place and these have paid off.

New-look Asry riding

The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (Asry) is going from strength to strength, with an expansion costing nearly \$200 million (BD75.6m) well under way.

Asry was first conceived in 1968 and is owned by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq and Libya.

It was created with the aim of building and operating a well-equipped and efficient repair yard, with sufficient capacity to accommodate the very large crude carriers (VLCC) and ultra large crude carriers (ULCC) serving the Arabian Gulf oil terminals.

Bahrain was chosen as the location for the first major repair facility in the Gulf due to the availability of suitable human resources, developed industrial infrastructure and a favourable site that gave shelter against rough seas and strong winds, together with satisfactory water depth and a large manoeuvring basin.

The company has gone through a series of expansions since the launch of operations in September 1977, with a 500,000 tonne dwt (dead-weight) dry-dock and two jetties, the company has gone through various expansions.

In 1992, two floating docks were added, the first with lifting capacity of 33,000 tons, length of 235 metres and clear width of 44 metres and the other with a lifting capacity of 30,000 tonnes, length of 227m and clear width of 40m.



● Asry dock-yard...

Asry opened two new slipways in October last year and an additional berth at its yard in Hidd earlier in the year, which were set up at a

cost of \$20m (BD7.56m) and completed in 10 months.

The two new slipways, each with a total length of 510 metres and a dry berth length of 255 metres are the largest in the Middle East and among the largest ship recovery slipways in the world.

They are ideal for accommodating offshore service boats, large tugs and supply vessels. Their vertical curve design also facilitates new building activities at its upper end.

Vessels with drafts up to 4.5m can be easily slipped up under normal daily tidal conditions.

The slipways are equipped with all required shore facilities and are serviced by two 15 tonnes and 80 tonnes crawler cranes with ample reach.

Adjacent to the slipways is a 100m pier for alongside repairs, which can accommodate two double banking vessels.

Targeting vessels of the 30m to 80m length, the slipways have enabled Asry to free about 20pc of the capacity of its existing larger docks for receiving larger vessels, thus providing a significant boost to the yard's sales.

Since the beginning, various types of marine and offshore vessels have undergone various repairs at Asry.

It was among the first shipyards in the world to receive ISO certification for Quality, Management, Environment and Health and Safety Systems, in addition to the ISPS code for Port Security.

Asry's multi-national workforce, in addition to its in-house sub-contractors, is committed to

providing quality services to the customers to their entire satisfaction.

It achieved a net operating income of \$110m during the first nine months of this year, with 115 vessels repaired, chairman Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij revealed at the 117th board meeting in October.

This followed on from the success of the net operating income of \$66.118m, for the first half of the year, with the number of vessels repaired totalling 69.

Last year, the company posted record-breaking figures, with sales breaking the \$200m mark.

The Bahrain shipyard achieved sales of \$207.5m, making it the best year in its history. It performed repairs on a total of 133 vessels and offshore craft; 119 in dry dock and 14 alongside.

"Asry is debt free for the first time in its history," said Shaikh Daij.

"We have a strong cash flow. In the past year or so we've put new policies in place and these have paid off."

Asry's customer base is traditionally split between vessels owned by Arab operators and the international shipping market.

The yard has further strengthened its specialist machinery repair and service operations by entering into a technical service agreement with propulsion specialist Wärtsilä.

In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Asry and Wärtsilä, the Finnish marine propulsion specialist states that it will offer engine, automation and propulsion service work within the shipyard from its own dedicated workshop facility, using its own highly-trained engineers.

The new specialist services being provided by Wärtsilä complements those already being provided by the established propulsion and machinery service partner Goltens.

Goltens has been responsible for a large proportion of all diesel repairs at the yard, as well as being solely responsible for all engine governor and fuel system repair work.

Goltens has a fully equipped workshop within the yard for the overhaul, repair and testing of most types of governors and actuators.

Two new Wärtsilä shafts and CP propellers arrived at Asry recently, ready for installation aboard the anchor-handling tug/offshore supply vessel 'Zamil 5'.

Asry and Wärtsilä have since completed work on the 60.5m Saudi-owned vessel.

The work, undertaken on Asry's new slipways, involved the renewal of the Wärtsilä shafts and CP propellers onboard the 1,173dwt vessel.

Over the years Asry has seen a rapid growth in the offshore market in the Gulf region and, based on its own track record and expertise in the repair and conversion work on specialised

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S



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extends warmest congratulations and best wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Deputy Supreme Commander

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain

on the occasion of the

National Day

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Perfect attendance record

Asry takes pride in its staff and honoured 27 for perfect attendance records in a ceremony held at its VIP restaurant last month.

Among them was 54-year-old Indian radio operator Wilson Pereira, who had not had a day off sick for nine years.

Asry chief executive Chris Potter thanked the workers for their dedication and outstanding performance.

"Lateness and absenteeism is a huge problem for many companies, not just in Bahrain but in

many countries," he told the gathering.

"It is not only costly, but it disrupts production and adds to the administrative burden of the organisation.

"Your commitment to your job and to Asry is what we as management need from everyone.

"Our employees are the foundation for the future, your dedication and skills will enable us to meet the challenges ahead and I am proud to have such dependable and committed people."

Other employees honoured at the event included floating crane operator Arnel Calpo, who has not had a day off sick for six years, dock operators Jamal Nasser and Mario Acosta (both five years) and radio operator Malayil Sajeevan (four years).

Eight other employees were rewarded after each accruing three consecutive years and 14 employees for two years of uninterrupted service.

They all received certificates and other gifts.