

Grindrod acquires European bunker business

Laurence Stuart-Hill, executive director of Grindrod Limited



The Grindrod Group has announced the acquisition of the Associated Bunker Oil Contractors (ABC) group based in Rotterdam, Netherlands for an undisclosed amount.

The ABC group, a well-established physical supplier of marine bunker fuels in the Rotterdam and surrounding port areas, operates four bunker tankers delivering marine fuels to ships in the ports of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp (ARA). The company also supplies marine bunker fuels for its own account. The ABC group is linked to the Vinotra Pool, a scheduler of bunker tanker delivery services in the ARA ports.

In a media statement Laurence Stuart-Hill, executive director of Grindrod Limited said "The acquisition of ABC in Europe expands the recently established bunker barge business in South Africa. The expansion of our bunker barge business into Europe supports our strategy of expansion into international and niche market sectors."

Grindrod operates three bunker barges under long-term contracts to the oil industry in South Africa.

The two components of ABC, namely barge operations and physical supply will be separately managed by the Shipping (in respect of barge operations) and Trading (in respect of physical supply) divisions of the Grindrod Group.

Laurence Stuart-Hill added, "The acquisition of ABC provides a base from which Cockett Marine can further enhance its position in the Rotterdam market."

Cockett Marine is Grindrod's Trading arm, trading and supplying marine bunker fuel from their base in London and from other offices in major international bunkering centres.

ABC's existing senior management will continue in their management roles. ♦