

Bay Ship receives contract to build two tugs, barges

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Bay Shipbuilding Co. (BSC) announced Friday that it has been awarded a contract to build two 155,000-barrel capacity barges and two 6,000-horsepower tugs at its Sturgeon Bay shipyard for Kirby Corp.

Bay Ship, a subsidiary of Fincantieri Marine Group (FMG), built several ATB units for Kirby in the mid-2000s. The new articulated barge (ATB) units will haul petroleum and chemical products domestically. The first ATB unit is scheduled for delivery in the fall of 2016 and the second unit will be delivered in summer of 2017.

"This repeat business from Kirby Corp. is validation of Bay's quality products and positive history in this product range," Todd Thayse, BSC vice president and general manager, said in the news release announcing the contract. "Bay Shipbuilding has built 22 ATB-units over the past 15 years, and is now under contract for several more. The new business from Kirby, combined with our current ATB orders, will further allow BSC to invest in our infrastructure, and it strengthens our backlog position."

Kirby Corp., based in Houston, is the nation's largest tank barge operator, transporting bulk liquid products throughout the Mississippi River System, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, along all three United States coasts, and in Alaska and Hawaii.

FMG President and CEO Francesco Valente discussed the long-term future of the Fincantieri Marine Group commitment to the U.S. market.

"The recent capital investment by our parent company, Fincantieri, has transformed our United States yards into modern, efficient shipbuilding powerhouses," Valente said. "The result is competitive pricing and a level of quality that is second to none. We intend to aggressively seek new business opportunities that will showcase America's finest master craftsmen."

Fincantieri Marine Group is the U.S. division of Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri, which employs nearly 21,000 skilled shipbuilding personnel in 21 yards on four continents. Fincantieri has a 200-year history and has built more than 7,000 ships