



The Far Sound UT712L built in 2007. This is a medium sized anchor-handler with all possible accessories, and its 16,000 bhp shows that the way forward may not always be to build bigger. Picture: Victor Gibson

Newbuildings

By the end of 2006 there were over 500 supply vessels of one sort or another being built all over the world. Previously unheard-of companies were paying large sums of money for nothing more than an interest in a newbuilding. Siem Offshore, which had been formed out of the small diving ship company DSND, ordered six enormous anchor-handlers from Kleven Verft in Norway with options for a further 6. These vessels were in addition to orders for eight platform ships, a combination of Marin Teknikk and Vik Sandvik designs.

The increased activity around the shores of India stimulated an increased interest by Indian ship-owners in the offshore sector. Great Eastern had seven offshore support vessels of various sorts on order in the autumn of 2006, and like other companies was looking round for strategic purchases. In October of 2006 they purchased the venerable UT712 Skandi Bergen off District Offshore, renaming it the Malaviya 36.

In the midst of all this activity Groupe Bourbon announced such a large building programme for vessels all over the world that there must be some doubt as to whether it can ever be completed