

TUGTECHNOLOGY '25

CONFERENCE | EXHIBITION | AWARDS



Platinum sponsor



Post event report

 19-21 May 2025

 Antwerp, Belgium

 www.tugtechnology.com

Executive summary

Debate, Data and Demonstrations Characterise TUGTECHNOLOGY '25

Over two intensive days, more than 450 professionals from the global tug and towage sector gathered in Antwerp, Belgium, for the 10th edition of **TUGTECHNOLOGY**. They came seeking solutions to the industry's most pressing challenges—and feedback from delegates, exhibitors, and sponsors shows the event more than delivered.

Technology on Display: Innovation You Could Step Aboard

The Tug Presentation that preceded the conference was oversubscribed and with good reason. Attendees didn't just hear about Methatug, the world's first methanol-powered tugboat, they stepped aboard, felt the deck beneath their feet, and could quiz the crew about the fuel handling systems, engine layouts and day-to-day protocols. Hydrotug 1, the hydrogen-powered demonstration vessel which most would only have read about in Riviera's ITS Magazine, was alongside ready for close inspection. Zero-emission electric tug, Volta 1, also formed part of the parade affording delegates a deep dive into the battery management and power distribution systems that make sustainable towage a reality. And completing the set was a new RSD Tug showcasing its advanced aftertreatment systems and offering insights for forward-thinking operators keen to tick the IMO Tier 3 compliance box as well as a regulatory edge. Even the format for the Tug Presentation was smart — a walking lunch, so delegates could network, grab a bite to eat, and get their questions answered so that by the end they had an enhanced working knowledge of the technology that's going to dominate the next decade.

Conference Insights: Where Market Intelligence Meets Engineering – Realities and Roadmaps for a Changing Sector

Conference sessions addressed the economic realities reshaping investment strategies across the sector. Critical market intelligence revealed that methanol-powered tugs are unlikely to exceed 25% of new builds for more than a decade. Hydrogen-fuelled tug cost points and refuelling cycles were thoroughly scrutinised — with the findings helping guide owners and operators on capital allocation. Three hundred days' worth of electric tugboat data showed that three-quarters of harbour operations could already run on battery alone. Methanol dual-fuel engines posted substitution rates of 50–70% — a first for the industry. Gearboxes, now engineered to 98-degree precision, delivered up to 20% more thrust reduction and bollard pull gains nudging 6.8%. In the ports roundtable, AI-driven port planning systems mapped out a future where 40% of working hours lost to transit could be clawed back by autonomy. At the same time there was honest discussion on obstacles: electric adoption risks being stymied by 1.5MW charging demands and regulatory complexity is hampering progress and planning. The port authorities also revealed how they're rethinking tugboat service procurement, what performance metrics really matter for contract renewals, and the new sustainability demands that will soon be baked into every tender.

Executive summary

Beyond the Sessions: Networking, Strategy and Collaboration – The Event's Beating Heart

If the conference sessions were the events head, then the networking, exhibition and social programme was its beating heart. Shipyards, naval architects, operators, technology providers, ports, classification societies, consultants, academics, brokers, financiers, lawyers and regulators mingled at breakfasts, lunches and assorted drinks receptions in a way that simply doesn't happen anywhere else. Strategic partnerships were struck, supplier relationships deepened, and project collaborations sparked — all generating tangible business value.

A Night to Celebrate: The International Tug & Salvage Awards – Honouring Innovation, Excellence and Legacy



The International Tug & Salvage Awards was a particular highlight. Here industry gathers not just to celebrate, but to connect. The awards themselves highlighted the best in technological innovation and operational excellence and were crowned by the presentation of a lifetime achievement award to Chairman of Damen Shipyards Group, Kommer Damen.



What's Next: Gothenburg in 2026 – The Journey Continues

The next critical waypoint for the industry will be the 28th International Tug & Salvage Convention, taking place 19 to 21 May at the Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre, Gothia Towers, Gothenburg, Sweden. In the interim Riviera will continue to serve the needs of the international tug and salvage community through its online and print coverage of the sector and rolling programme of webinars, podcasts and other events.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

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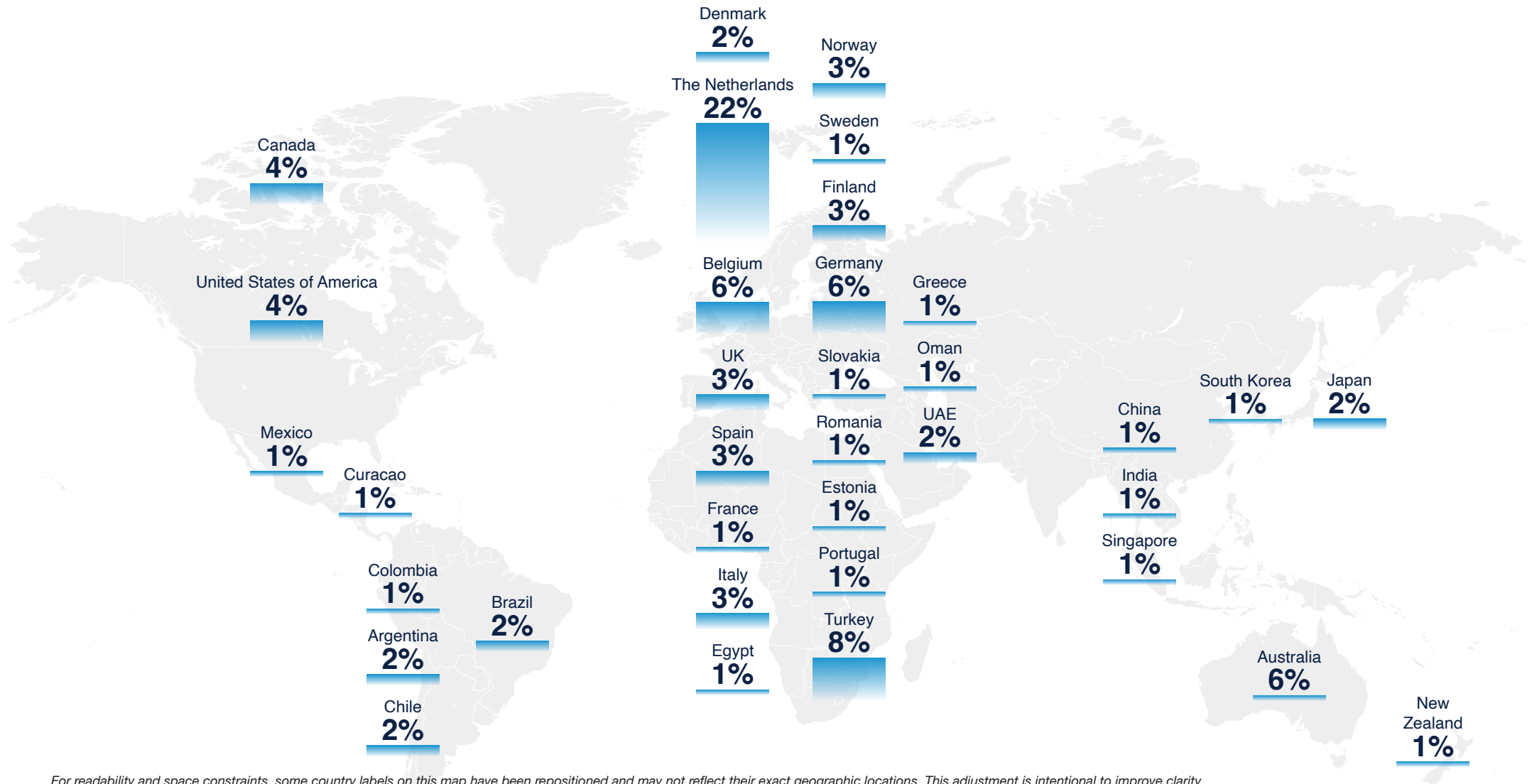
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Event summary

TUGTECHNOLOGY '25, the industry's premier technical gathering, celebrated its landmark 10th edition

Over 450 attendees from 35 countries attended TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 in Antwerp – representing over 200 companies worldwide.



For readability and space constraints, some country labels on this map have been repositioned and may not reflect their exact geographic locations. This adjustment is intentional to improve clarity.

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Company types represented

34%

Ports/Terminals/
Ship owners/Operators

15%

Shipyards

8%

Architects/Consultants/
Brokerage/Legal/Class society

35%

Manufacturers/Suppliers

8%

Governmental bodies/
Educational & Training/Logistics



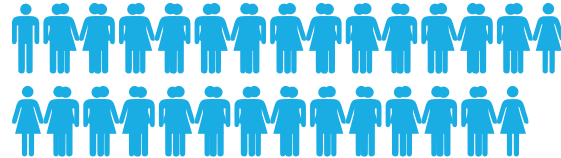
TUGTECHNOLOGY 2025, where I had the opportunity to hear leading speakers, clearly showcased the tug sector's transition toward cleaner technologies, with a strong focus on alternative fuels and maritime electromobility. In this context, SAAM Towage is moving in sync with the industry's cutting-edge technological trends."

Joaquín Gutiérrez Alzamora
Head of R&D
SAAM Towage

Attendee breakdown by job function

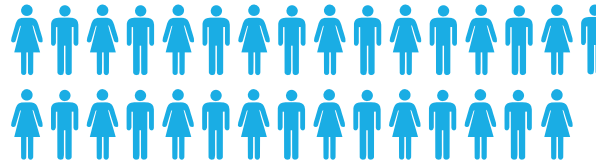
27%

Senior Management



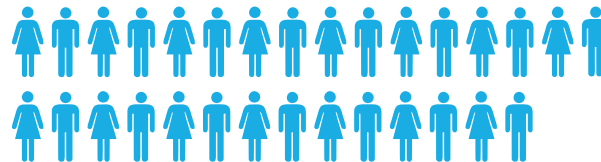
31%

Technical/Operational/Engineering



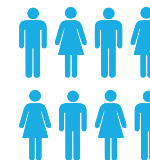
31%

Sales/Business Development



8%

Architects/Consultant/Broker/Legal & Insurance



3%

Other



I had the opportunity to attend the TUGTECHNOLOGY event for the first time, and it was an excellent experience. The event provided a unique platform to explore new technologies and innovative solutions within the industry. It was especially valuable to meet with suppliers and shipyards in person, allowing for direct and insightful conversations that are often difficult to have remotely. Overall, the TUGTECHNOLOGY event proved to be both informative and inspiring, and I look forward to attending future editions.”

Alessandro Cappone,
Technical Manager,
Scafi Group

Event partner & speaker testimonials



It's the opportunity to catch up with other colleagues, and people from other companies as well as our suppliers, all in one place.. everyone comes together and we can all share our ideas, make new connections, and work out what's going to happen in the future."

Alasdair Smith, Commercial Director, Targe Towing



The subjects that have been treated during the convention are very interesting and shows how operators, how suppliers are taking seriously the word sustainability."

Pablo Cáceres, Sustainability and Development Director, SAAM Towage



The event featured a strong lineup of keynote speakers and seminars focused on innovative developments in the field. There were plenty of opportunities to network and explore the latest installation technologies first-hand... Yanmar had its own booth at the exhibition, which proved to be a great setup for engaging with visitors. The quality of attendees was high, and we had several productive one-on-one meetings that led to some promising leads. All-in all, a very useful and valuable experience."

Yanmar



It was a great opportunity to attend TUGTECHNOLOGY 2025, a high-level forum that brought together key stakeholders to serious discussions on the latest advances in energy transition, safety, performance and automation in towage. A particular highlight was the opportunity to visit some tugs at Port of Antwerp-Bruges already operating with alternative energy sources such as electricity, methanol and hydrogen, clear evidence that the transition is well underway."

Luiz Felipe Antunes de Gouvea, Managing Director, L FAG



The place where people who are engaged in the towing industry want to go and meet.. a couple of really good papers which drive the innovation forward, which give an opportunity to have dialogues about the new technology and the innovation which is happening. It's an excellent platform to have those conversations and listen to what is happening."

Gijsbert de Jong, Marine Chief Executive Nordics, Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore

Networking & Hospitality Events

Our social events and functions were exclusively open to TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 delegates.



**TUG PRESENTATION
TECHNICAL TOUR**

Organised and
hosted by

DAMEN



WELCOME DRINKS RECEPTION

Sponsored by
UZMAR



**UZMAR SHIPYARD
VIP RECEPTION**

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hosted by
UZMAR



**PRE-DINNER
DRINKS RECEPTION**



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**INDUSTRY DINNER
& ITS AWARDS**

Industry dinner
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DAMEN AFTER PARTY

Hosted by
DAMEN

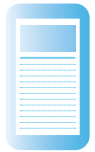


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Social media activity pre/during event



Total posts 80



Total impressions 86,523



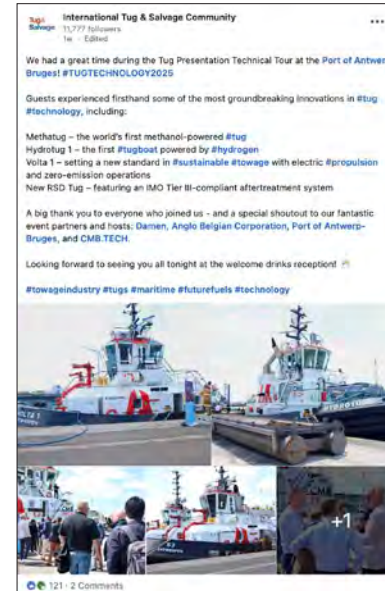
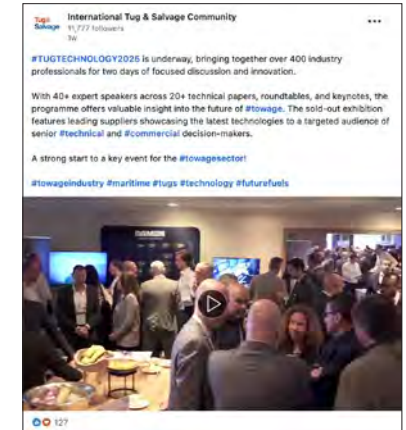
Total clicks 8,220



Average engagement rate 12.71%



Total reactions 2,567



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Media coverage

Total impressions

78,739

Total views

39,067



(left) Jim Hyslop (Robert Allan Ltd) and Thomas Bangslund (Svitzer) presented the TRAnverse tug design at TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 (source: Riviera)

Svitzer bets on TRAnverse tugs to reduce its environmental impact in ports

20 May 2025 by Martyn Wingrove

Svitzer will soon begin operating its second and third TRAnverse tugs in Australia after the success with the first supporting ships docking in the Netherlands



Two tugs built to a new design for efficient ship escort and handling are sailing to Australia to begin operations at one of the world's busiest bulk cargo export ports.

Svitzer Australia is preparing for their arrival by training crews on simulators ready for the arrival of Svitzer Barrington and Svitzer Nobbys in Newcastle.

These were built by Uzmar Shipyard in Turkey to a TRAnverse 3200 design and are transiting on their own keel to eastern Australia via the Panama Canal, to avoid the Red Sea, in Q2 2025.



(left to right) Kasper Karlzen (Svitzer), Matthew Callan (P&O Maritime Logistics), Ferlin Brown (Noatum Maritime) and Patrick Everts (Kotug International) debated the importance of digital tools for optimising harbour towage (source: Riviera)

Tug owners weigh in on sector digitalisation

27 May 2025 by Martyn Wingrove

Tug owners have recognised the importance of digitalisation to reduce costs, lower emissions in ports and improve harbour towage efficiency



Harbour towage providers are adopting artificial intelligence (AI), implementing advanced planning software and real-time monitoring and managing energy consumption on tugs.

Their use of digitalisation technologies was revealed in a tug-owner roundtable discussion in the final session of Riviera's TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, on 21 May.

During this event, four top executives from global tug owners described the impact of AI, data analytics and digital services on towage operations and how this puts them in the centre of future port ecosystems.

Abu Dhabi Ports subsidiary Noatum Maritime director of commercial and business development in marine



Kommer Damen receives ITS Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 at TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 (source: Riviera)

ITS Lifetime Achievement Award: Kommer Damen

28 May 2025 by Martyn Wingrove

Damen Shipyards group chairman Kommer Damen received Riviera's International Tug & Salvage (ITS) Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 during an industry gala dinner and conference in northern Europe



Kommer Damen was presented with the annual ITS Lifetime Achievement Award in front of his wife, family members, colleagues, clients and maritime professionals during the prestigious event, TUGTECHNOLOGY '25, in Antwerp, Belgium.

This award recognises individuals whose contributions have had a lasting and significant impact on the global tug industry.

In Mr Damen's case, this impact is through decades of constructing newbuild tugboats and workboats, as a global tugowner, and introducing the principle of standardised shipbuilding in 1969.

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slido audience engagement app

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It was a pleasure connecting with fellow experts, partners, and new faces passionate about advancing marine technology. Every conversation fuels our drive to deliver smarter, more sustainable propulsion solutions.”

Berg Propulsion

74%

Active users

228

Questions asked

476

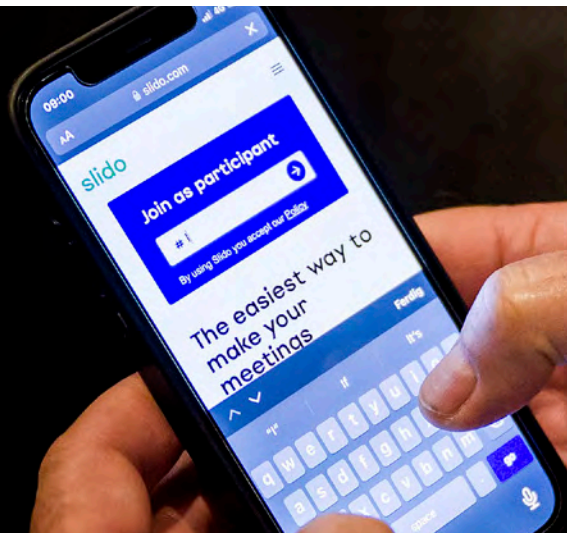
Question likes

33

Polls

2,738

Total poll votes



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TUGTECHNOLOGY '25 Exhibition

The sold-out exhibition showcased game-changing products and services from key players in the tug and towage industry, offering attendees innovative solutions to enhance their operations.



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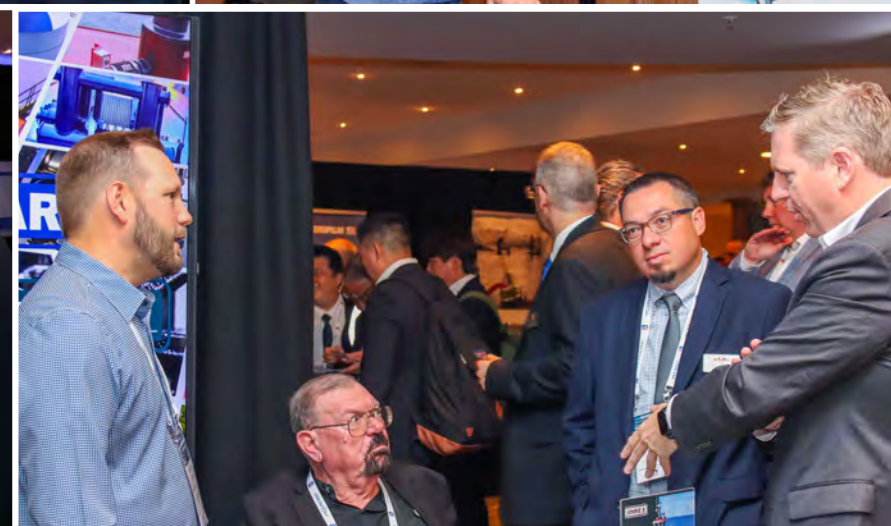




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ITS 2025 Award Winners



Tug of the Year Award 2025
LNG Sentinel I



Tug Owner of the Year Award 2025
Port of Antwerp-Bruges



Innovation of the Year Award 2025
MAHI Solution – Ultratug



Lifetime Achievement Award 2025
*Kommer Damen
Damen Shipyards Group*

Award	Number of votes
Tug of the Year Award	3,210
Tug Owner of the Year Award	1,530
Innovation of the Year Award	1,370

6,110
Total votes placed



All ITS 2025 Winners



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19-21 May 2026



Conference



Exhibition



Awards



Technical Tour



Social Events

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the first to hear – register your
interest to receive updates.



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www.tugandsalvage.co.uk/ITS2026

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