

## HM the King inaugurates Tangier maritime traffic control centre



Ksar Sghir (Fahs Anjra Province) - HM King Mohammed VI inaugurated, on Saturday in Ksar Sghir commune (Fahs Anjra province), the Tangier maritime traffic control centre (CSTM), worth 50 million dirhams.

The new Centre will contribute to improving the maritime traffic efficiency and protecting the environment in the Gibraltar Strait.

The Tangier centre is the first in the Arab world and Africa to be mandated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a "Coastal Vessel Traffic Service" with a mandatory ship reporting system.

The Sovereign visited the different facilities of the new centre which will contribute to improving the maritime traffic safety and efficiency and protecting environment in the Gibraltar Strait.

The Tangier centre operates an integrated system to keep track of vessel movements, commonly called the Tangier VTS (Vessel Traffic Services). The VTS enables the competent authorities to continually assess the situation in the area in order to prevent accidents, promote maritime safety and security and protect the marine environment in the Strait.

The new centre includes three stations: the main station in Ras Parort (15 km from Tangier), the remote station of Ras Cires (located in the Tanger-Med port) and the intermediary station to interconnect the two previous stations.

The Strait of Gibraltar has the second highest density of traffic in the world, just behind that of Malacca in Singapore. Every year, over 100,000 trade vessels transit the Strait, over a third of which (300 vessels per day) transport hazardous materials.

The traffic is also expected to grow sharply over the coming years, especially due to the climb of the Tanger-Med's activity.

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## Additional Background:

In term of Maritime Safety, the four most important Straits in the world are: Malacca (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore), Pas de Calais (England, France), Gibraltar (Spain, Morocco) and Ormuz (Iran, Oman).

For each of these Straits, ships sail through a TSS (Traffic Separation Scheme) under the IMO regulation (International Maritime Organisation). These four TSS are monitored by Coastal VTMISS using solutions provided by SOFRELOG.

For Malacca, Pas de Calais and Gibraltar TSSs, all ships are responsible for following the compulsory ORC (Obligatory Report Call) that obligate them to contact by radio the TSS Authority in order to transmit or confirm the essential data related to the security of their passage, as soon as they enter the TSS zone,.

The Ormuz Strait is completely inside the Territorial Waters of the Sultanate of Oman that did not wish to impose such an ORC regulation.

The Straits of Gibraltar is the only one in the world to separate two continents: Africa and Europe. Its maritime safety has been ensured for 30 years by Spain, from the Tarifa Operational Centre that receive all Report Calls (named GIBREP: GIBraltar REPorts) from ships coming from the Atlantic Ocean as well as from the Mediterranean Sea. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2010 the Centre de Surveillance du Traffic Maritime (CSTM) of Tanger, Morocco, is officially designed by IMO to receive GIBREP from all ships coming from the Atlantic and from the Port of Tanger Ville as well as Port of Tanger Med.

SOFRELOG is proud to participate to this very important AFRICA FIRST (CSTM Tanger is the first Coastal VTMISS in Africa and the Arabic world to be mandated by IMO to receive Report Calls) first by providing the system with all necessary equipment but also by paying the most important attention to satisfy the end user (Operators and Supervisor).

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