

RoRo conversion

## New stern ramps boost RoPax flexibility



Photo: FRS Group

**CONVERSION OF *TANGER EXPRESS***



MacGregor's installation team, comprising about 30 people, worked in two-shifts around the clock and completed the installation of two stern ramps on board *Tanger Express* in just 12 days

### The challenge

The Germany-based shipping company, FRS Group, has successfully operated fast ferries on the Strait of Gibraltar, between Spain and Morocco, since 2000. Recently it has successfully added cargo services to its existing activities.

In July 2011, FRS took over the 1996-delivered RoPax ferry *Tanger Express* (ex *Mette Mols*) from Danish shipping company Mols Linien. The vessel was acquired for the operator's new fast ferry service between Algeciras, Spain, and Tanger Med, Morocco.

To meet the requirements of the terminal facilities at its new ports of call, *Tanger Express* required a number of stern modifications.

The project included an innovative, newly-designed ramp concept making the vessel capable of operating in almost all European and Mediterranean ports.

### The solution

MacGregor's turnkey solution included the installation of two new 14m-long stern ramps located on deck 3. In a change from its original design, the non-weathertight ramps enable the ferry to load and discharge vehicles and passengers without having to use a linkspan. The existing stern doors were kept to secure weathertightness at the stern.

### Installation

MacGregor's installation team, comprising about 30 people, worked in two-shifts around the clock and carried out the work alongside the quay at Bredo Bremerhavener Dock. It was a streamlined installation that took just 12 days, with minimum impact on the ship's hull.

### MacGregor's scope of supply

- Turnkey contract (design, key components, manufacturing, delivery and installation)
- Two 14m-long MacGregor stern ramps.



### Tanger Express main particulars

**Owner:** FRS Group  
**Operator:** FRS Iberia S.L.  
**Route:** Algeciras - Tanger Med  
**Length, oa:** 136m  
**Breadth, mld:** 24m  
**Gross tonnage:** 30,285gt  
**Draft loaded:** 5.5m  
**Passengers:** 700  
**Cars:** 300 or 60 cargo units  
**RoRo access system:**  
 MacGregor stern doors  
**Year built:** 1996 at Ørskovs Christensens Staalskibsværft A/S, Denmark  
**Former name:** Mette Mols



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