



## **PORTLAND PORT AND UMC FORM PARTNERSHIP**

**UMC International Plc and Portland Port Authority have recently formalised a partnership to provide afloat maintenance and ship repair services.**

Portland Port with its sheltered breakwater system provides protection from adverse weather conditions and makes this location a perfect venue for UMC to carry out a comprehensive range of underwater engineering services.

Founded in 1972, UMC International's core business has been the underwater repair and maintenance of ships afloat and since its commercial development some 10 years ago, Portland has seen UMC carry out more than 300 underwater operations consisting of repairs, Class surveys, cleaning and propeller polishing to vessels within its safe harbour walls and in recognition of the growing relationship between UMC and Portland Port the two companies have now formalised a joint agreement to promote the location as a prime venue for afloat repairs and services.

Portland played an important strategic role during the salvage recovery of cargo from the stricken vessel MSC Napoli that ran aground on the UK south coast during 2007, with the entire operation managed and co-ordinated from offices within the Port itself.

In addition Portland's benign tidal conditions and clear underwater visibility has been recognised by the major Classification societies and is a formally approved location for In Water Surveys. These same conditions allow for safe underwater hull cleaning and UMC have conducted a number of operations on vessels coated with the new generation of non-toxic paint utilising the UMC Mini Pamper Cleaning System.

These clear water conditions also favour trials and training carried out by UMC during testing of innovative underwater products to enhance the range of services to the shipping industry.

“A rapid response to a vessel that’s on a tight delivery schedule makes all the difference to the ship owner,” explained Paul Summers, UK Operations General Manager, “If the vessel is not scheduled to dry dock for repairs or maintenance, a waterborne solution can represent a huge saving of both time and money to the ship owner.”

He continued, “The proximity of Portland makes it an exceptional gateway to Europe and its protected harbour makes our waterborne repair and maintenance service more achievable in any weather conditions.”

UMC International enjoys a global reputation for developing and implementing solutions to reduce the through-life costs of operating ships; reduce downtime for repairs and maintenance, and enhance the options for maintaining performance and efficiency faced by commercial and naval vessel owners and operators.

*Caption: Ian MacQuaid and Peter Airey of Portland Port Authority with Paul Summers of UMC International.*