

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Gulf Coast Shipyard Group Launches Florida Marine Transporters First 6000 Series Barge**

### **FMT New 6000 SERIES ENVIROMENTALLY-FRIENDLY BARGE**

**June 13, 2014, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI:** Gulf Coast Shipyard Group (GCSG) is proud to announce the launching of “FMT 6000,” the first of FMT’s new 6000 series 6.4 PSI–30,000 barrel **ENVIROMENTALLY-FRIENDLY** tank barges.

The new series continues Florida Marine Transporters tradition of having the latest design and most environmentally-friendly equipment operating on America’s waterways. Utilizing proprietary engineering developed for FMT by the engineering group of Guarino & Cox, this series of new barges minimizes vapors escaping into the atmosphere while increasing safety factors when the barge is in operation. To further reduce emissions, all diesel engines mounted on these barges are Tier III/EPA compliant.

The new design achieves 6.4 pounds per square inch (PSI) of pressure and 2.0 pounds per square inch (PSI) of vacuum with minimum loss of cargo capacity, allowing these barges to deliver more product for FMT’s customers than other barges with similar pressure ratings.

As with all barges GCSG has built for FMT prior to this delivery, this barge is ice-strengthened in order to minimize damage in harsh winter conditions. Remarkably, FMT’s barges suffered no damage when operating in severe ice conditions this past winter, one of the coldest in recent history.

The coating system for all FMT barges was also selected for reduce the release of harmful VOCs (volatile organic components) and is of a higher standard than normally found in the inland industry. FMT also requires painting of voids and other areas which would not normally be painted in order to insure the quality and longevity of their young fleet. FMT insisted that the construction of these barges take place entirely on concrete and under cover to insure that no paint or other contaminates ends up in the soil or streams. Additional spill containments and redundant gauging systems are also incorporated to protect against accidental overflow of product—all in an attempt to protect the environment and the safety of the crew.

While many of the measures FMT incorporated in the design, construction and operation of this new barge series exceed current federal regulations; it is in keeping with CEO Dennis Pasentine’s vision when he founded FMT 20 years ago to operate in the *relentless pursuit* of a safe, efficient and environmentally-sound manner.

GCSG began building state-of-the-art 297 ft. x 54 ft. 30,000 barrel barges for FMT in late 2011 at its Gulfport, Mississippi facility. The contract currently calls for a total of 32 barges; however with options for 18 additional units, the contract could grow to 50 barges. GCSG is now delivering FMT barges on a 25-28 day schedule.

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### **About Gulf Coast Shipyard Group**

Gulf Coast Shipyard Group Inc. is a Mississippi based company, and a leader in the design and construction of offshore commercial vessels, offshore and inland barges, oil spill response and patrol vessels—as well as oil field support vessels—in aluminum, steel and composite. Vessels range from 10 meters to 125 meters in length. Gulf Coast Shipyard Group’s in-house engineering and under-cover construction facilities ensure quality workmanship and on-time delivery. For more information on Gulf Coast Shipyard Group, please contact Jim Rivers at [riversj@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com](mailto:riversj@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com), Billy Smith at [wssmith3@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com](mailto:wssmith3@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com) or John Dane III at [jdane3@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com](mailto:jdane3@GulfCoastShipyardGroup.com) and visit [www.GulfCoastShipYardGroup.com](http://www.GulfCoastShipYardGroup.com).

### **About Florida Marine**

Florida Marine provides quality marine transportation services throughout the inland waterways of the United States, while providing the resources necessary to ensure the safety of personnel and cargo, dedicated customer care, integrity of equipment, and responsible environmental stewardship.

Since 1998, Florida Marine has committed significant resources for the construction of the newest, most operationally efficient, and diverse fleet of barges and towboats in the industry. Florida Marine has systematically expanded its fleet to provide a full range of transportation and vessel repair services to customers, including such areas as refined liquid petrochemicals, distillates, agricultural liquids, specialty chemicals, pressurized cargoes, dry cargoes including grains, aggregates and coal, and full-service shipyard maintenance, repair and refurbishment. Florida Marine’s diversified fleet is comprised of some eighty push boats and several hundred tank, deck, hopper and pressure barges dedicated to liquid, chemical, dry and LPG cargo transportation services.

