

MEDIA RELEASE

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SVITZER HOLDS NAMING CEREMONY FOR NEWEST LONDON TUG, SVITZER MERIDIAN

Event on the Thames, in partnership with National Grid Grain LNG and Sanmar, celebrates latest addition to ten-strong London fleet

In London, leading global towage operator Svitzer and key partners have today officially christened *Svitzer Meridian* as the latest and tenth vessel in its Port of London fleet.

During a naming ceremony held on the River Thames with guests representing a variety of customers and partners - including vessel builder Sanmar - the 70 tonnes bollard pull Azimuth Tractor Drive (ATD) *Svitzer Meridian* was officially christened by representatives from multinational electricity and gas utility company National Grid Grain LNG, who are godparenting the vessel.

Meridian, whose name was chosen to reflect Maritime Greenwich's Prime Meridian longitude line - and Svitzer's longstanding links with the local area - has been in operation at the Port of London since November 2018.

Speaking on the event, **Kasper Friis Nilaus, Managing Director, Europe, Svitzer**, said: "At Svitzer, we understand how important it is to have strong links with the local community. That is why it is appropriate that our local employees have named *Svitzer Meridian* after such an important maritime and geographical landmark. *Svitzer Meridian* has been specifically designed to meet requirements in London and she is a welcome addition to our existing fleet in the port. I know she will excel, helmed by our 70 experienced members of crew based out of London. The *Meridian* will be providing best-in-class towage services to our diverse pool of customers including container lines, tankers, cruise ships and bulk carriers, as well as LNG vessels.

"Recently, we have seen a significant increase in activity and volumes in the port of London, making it one of our busiest operations in Europe. Our team in London has capitalised on Svitzer's global size and scale by quickly matching changing market demands and by utilising the flexibility of our fleet in neighbouring ports or on the continent. Moving assets between ports is a huge advantage", he added.

Vimal Choy, Sanmar's Director, Key Accounts and Client Services Europe pointed out that this was the 21st tug built by Sanmar for Svitzer and another five were under construction in Turkey, and added: "Svitzer Meridian is special in many ways. It is of the tractor concept originally developed for ship-handling due to its exceptional manoeuvrability and improved safety in close quarters operations. We have also given special care and attention to reducing noise levels for improved crew comfort."

Exclusively commissioned by Sanmar from renowned Canadian tug designers Robert Allan Ltd, the main difference between tractor tugs and other types of towage vessels is the location of the propulsion units. As part of this new series, *Svitzer Meridian* has forward mounted Z-drives, whilst aft is a fixed skeg. Furthermore, and to accommodate operations ongoing throughout the Thames and in the Medway, *Svitzer Meridian* boasts firefighting capabilities alongside its exceptional manoeuvrability.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Rhys Thomas
BLUE Communications
T: + 44 (0)1865 514 214
E: rhys.thomas@blue-comms.com

ABOUT SVITZER

Since 1833, Svitzer has provided safety and support at sea. With 4,000 employees, a fleet of more than 440 vessels and operations all over the world, we are the global market leader within towage and marine related services. www.svitzer.com

ABOUT SANMAR

Sanmar Shipyards, established some 40 years ago, has risen to become the leading tug builder in Turkey but with an international reputation second to none, having completed more than 200 tugs which have been delivered all around the world. It prides itself on its advanced construction techniques to the highest European standards of safety and comfort. It has two custom-built tug construction yards. www.sanmar.com.tr

ABOUT NATIONAL GRID GRAIN LNG

National Grid Grain LNG aims to be the foremost LNG importation terminal in the world, with a first-class team delivering high performance for our customers, communities and National Grid, through unparalleled safety, reliability and efficiency. Grain LNG is of strategic national importance to UK energy infrastructure and security of supply. We are the largest terminal in Europe and eighth largest in the world by tank capacity with a site that spans over 600 acres in total. www.grainlng.com