

# Automated stowage secures safety on deck

In another initiative designed to enhance deck safety onboard offshore vessels, Rolls Royce has developed an automated cargo securing system for offshore supply vessels, as an alternative to traditional deck lashing systems.

The patented Automated Sea Fastening System (ASFA), tested extensively on the Norsk Hydro operated PSV *Far Star* in early 2005, features a series of tracks, which run transversely the full width of the deck and which are positioned at intervals along the full length of the deck. Inside each track there is a slider carriage, to which chocks can be attached.

During the loading process, containers are placed on deck and the chocks are then moved by remote control

to position the containers and lock them against the cargo rail. One of the main advantages of the system is that when discharging cargo, the crew do not have to release more containers than is absolutely necessary, thereby reducing the risk of containers moving during this phase of the operation.

As well as containers, ASFA can be used when carrying pipes, avoiding the need for chocking individual pipes by hand, a procedure that can prove hazardous. With ASFA, chocks

can be steered to position the pipes and lock them securely to prevent rolling.

ASFA is already proving popular with offshore operators. The system is for instance being fitted to three newbuildings under construction at Aker Yards, Brevik, including two UT 755 L vessels for Island Offshore, and a UT 751 E design building for Farstad Shipping.

**The stages in securing a container with the patented Automated Sea Fastening system.**

