

Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc.  
12227 FM 529  
Houston, Texas 77041  
Phone: (713) 937-6295  
Fax: (713) 937-5244  
www.thrustmastertexas.com



**Contact:**

Amy T. Carrick

Phone: 713/937-6295

Fax: 713/937-7962

E-mail: [acarrick@thrustmastertexas.com](mailto:acarrick@thrustmastertexas.com)

**Astro Maritima purchases 42" Tunnel Thruster from Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc.**

**(3/23/2001)** -- Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc. has supplied a tunnel thruster to Astro Maritima to enhance maneuverability of the Astro Pargo, a 240' platform supply vessel currently working in the Brazilian oil patch.

Thrustmaster, based in Houston, Texas, supplied (1) Model 42TT350 hydraulic tunnel thruster. The unit has a 42-inch diameter tunnel and uses a 350 horsepower podded hydraulic propeller drive. The hydraulic power system is diesel engine driven closed loop hydrostatic transmission, providing infinite propeller speed control with high accuracy and excellent efficiency over the full speed range of the propeller. The hydrostatic transmission in combination with podded hydraulic drive (no gears) has a better overall efficiency than diesel electric, especially at partial load conditions. In the lower horsepower brackets, the acquisition cost of diesel hydraulic drives is lower than diesel electric drives.

Dalton Schmitt, Director of Operations for Astro Maritima, stated, "We use Thrustmaster thrusters because of their proven performance and reliability. This is evidenced by our multiple purchases over the past 3 years."

Thrustmaster manufactures a wide variety of propeller thrusters up to 3,000 horsepower. They include tunnel thrusters, Z-drives and retractable azimuthing thrusters. They can be powered hydraulically, electrically or with direct engine drive.