

Navy's Russian ship has arrived

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■ The South African Navy has bought an Arctic supply ship from Russia for R40,9 million. Alterations to re-equip the ship for naval duties will be carried out at Simon's Town dockyard.

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THE South African Navy's newest vessel arrived in Simon's Town on Thursday. The Juvent represents a change from previous types of naval vessels and is to replace the 35-year-old replenishment tanker SAS Tafelberg.

It is one of several specially designed Arctic supply ships built by the Kherson shipyards. Classed as "Vitus Bering types", they are all similar to the Vitus Bering, pictured above.

The vessel acquired by South Africa is the newest of the class and has a number of modifications and improvements.

The earlier ships of the class had engines forward with a larger superstructure housing the funnel. The Juvent has engines aft with a funnel on the starboard aft area of the helicopter hangar.

The ships have an ice-breaking capability of up to 0,8m thick at 1,5 knots.

Juvent has a dead weight tonnage of 10 125 and a gross tonnage of 14 184.

The vessels have a range of 8 000 miles at a service speed of 17 knots.

They are fitted with a helicopter deck, hangar and control cabin aft, while the accommodation and navigation bridge are situated forward.

Cargo can be carried in three holds, with support facilities from deck cranes. Some 326 teu plus a mix of heavy cargo can be carried. The vessels are equipped with a starboard aft door and ramp.

Alterations to re-equip the ship for naval duties will be done in the naval dockyard at Simon's Town, with the vessel being painted grey.

The Juvent, which will be manned by the crew of SAS Tafelberg, will also be renamed.



□ **NAVY ACQUISITION:** A sister ship of the Juvent, which has been bought by the South African Navy from Russia for R40,9 million.