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TRANSPORT CHIEF WINS MANOEL ISLAND YARD



Transport Malta chairman Mark Portelli

MATTHEW VELLA

THE government-appointed head of the maritime regulator, Mark Portelli, has opened himself up to a possible conflict in his role as chairman of Transport Malta, because he is a shareholder of the company awarded the 30-year concession for the Manoel Island yacht yard (MIYY) two weeks ago, and a business partner of entrepreneurs with interests in upcoming marina privatisations.

Portelli is director of Manoel Island Yacht Yard Ltd, a company formed on 1 December 2009, just two months before the Privatisation Unit accepted a €12.4 million offer for MIYY.

The finance ministry ignored various questions by MaltaToday on Portelli's involvement in the winning consortium, claiming that yacht repair is not regulated by the Malta Maritime Authority (now falling under Transport Malta). "Any involvement of Portelli's in MIYY is completely irrelevant to the privatisation process since the MMA was at no point involved in the privatisation process," a spokesperson said.

But Portelli's involvement in MIYY opens him up to questions on his impartiality as Transport Malta chief, and the interest of his co-shareholders.

His other directors and shareholders include Midi plc chairman Albert Mizzi,

Conflict of interest? Transport Malta head Mark Portelli teams up with Midi to clinch Manoel Island yacht yard. But will his new business links open him up to conflict claims in upcoming marina privatisations?

Victor Bezzina of Bezzina Ship Repair, Raphael Bianchi, Michael Hili, and Christopher Mizzi.

Midi plc, a shareholder in Manoel Island Yacht Yard Ltd, was already earmarked by the

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Bondì was Consuelo's dinner guest

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BLOG STANDARD: Musumeci speaks

ROBERT Musumeci speaks out on his relationship with Magistrate Scerri Herrera, whose private lives became the subject of attacks by Malta Independent columnist Daphne Caruana Galizia in her blog.



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Joseph Calleja