



Boojum Bay - 3.9T BP COASTAL TUG

Support for ACUA Ocean's Pioneer USV

Project Summary

Client:

ACUA Ocean

Date:

September 2025



Introduction

Marine Plant Hire provided towage and operational support for PIONEER, ACUA Ocean's hydrogen-powered unmanned surface vessel (USV). The asset was scheduled for high-profile appearances at DSEI and London International Shipping Week in September.

The Challenge

ACUA Ocean needed reliable towage and on-call support as PIONEER toured Plymouth, London and Southampton. With global attention following its 24-hour zero-emission trial, each movement had to be precise, safe, and fully dependable.

The Solution

Marine Plant Hire mobilised Boojum Bay, a versatile coastal tug, supported by jack-up and workboat resources. Our remit included berth-to-berth towage, port-side handling and continued positioning support throughout the tour. Each movement required careful planning around tidal access, port restrictions, and event schedules.

How We Delivered

From Plymouth's naval waters to London's constrained approaches, MPH handled complex towage with discipline and flexibility. At the DSEI Expo, our team stayed on site to support daily positioning, shoreside handling, and reactive towage during PIONEER's live demonstrations. This continued through to Southampton and other UK ports.

The Outcome

PIONEER completed its full national programme on schedule, maintaining operational availability throughout. ACUA Ocean's presence at high-level government and defence events was underpinned by MPH's consistent delivery. The project reinforced our role as a trusted logistics partner for sensitive, high-profile maritime operations - combining specialist crews, flexible fleet mobilisation, and on-call capability where it counts.