Rising Star award scooped by ABP Southampton’s Rebekah Keeler

Cruise Trade News has named seven members of the cruise industry as Rising Stars including Rebekah Keeler, Commercial manager, ABP Southampton who has been awarded Ports Rising Star.

The winners, all aged 35 and under, were judged by a panel of industry leaders and were presented with their awards at a lunchtime ceremony at the Royal Garden Hotel in London.

Rebekah was nominated by Rebekah Captain Ian Diaper, senior marine officer, ABP Southampton: ‘Rebekah has a ‘can do’ attitude and an approachable nature, plus an attention to detail and ability to go beyond the norm, all of which ensure that Southampton Port’s cruise customers’ expectations are met.

She has been at the port 16 months and has been instrumental in attracting new cruise business, playing a pivotal role in securing a seven-year deal with Royal Caribbean to continue with Southampton as its home port, which is worth £200 million to the local economy.

She has overseen a continuing rise in cruise calls and her dynamism is welcomed by cruise industry leaders. Rebekah has also been an integral part of the team that secured both Seatrade port of the year and Cruise Critic best UK departure port for 2016.She has played a signifi cant role in our ability to manage future cruise bookings by means of historical data, which allows the port to react swiftly to enquiries from cruise lines.

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Rebekah has also helped capture very late cruise bookings – due to weather or another reason that requires an alternative destination port for a customer. Our ability to accept these bookings (often with fewer than 24 hours’ notice) makes Southampton the first point of approach when vessels are in the locality and require an alternative destination.