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PRESS RELEASE

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DEME christens new 'mega' trailing suction hopper dredger CONGO RIVER and fall pipe vessel FLINTSTONE

Zeebrugge – 8 July 2011. Today, before a huge crowd, the DEME Group christened the 'mega' trailing suction hopper dredger 'Congo River' (hopper capacity 30,000 m³) and the DP2 fall pipe vessel 'Flintstone' in the outer port of Zeebrugge. Olympic tennis champion Justine Henin is the godmother of the 'Congo River'. The 'Flintstone' was christened by Olympic high jump champion Tia Hellebaut: a unique 'e-christening', as the ship is still at the Sembawang shipyard in Singapore where it was built and where it is being prepared for its first assignment in the People's Republic of China.

Both 'golden ladies', Justine Henin and Tia Hellebaut, symbolise the type of Olympic performance that DEME strives to achieve.

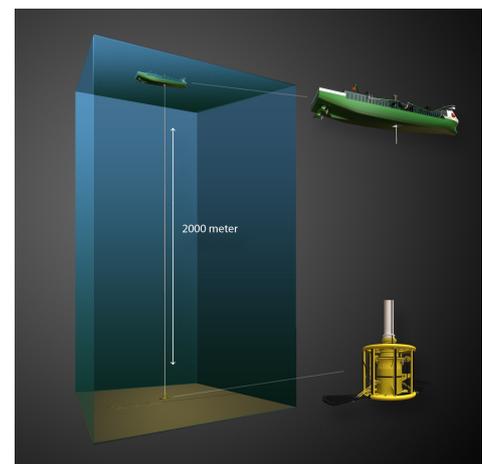
1. Christening of the *Flintstone*

DP2 fall pipe vessel performs stone dumping to a depth of 2,000 m and reinforces the high-tech profile of DEME for the oil and gas industry.

At 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, the new fall pipe vessel was virtually christened by Ms Tia Hellebaut, who literally passed on an Olympic flame in the huge party tent erected at the Sea Station in the outer port of Zeebrugge. The flame then proceeded to Singapore by means of a long relay chain. There, the flame burned through a rope and the traditional champagne bottle crashed against the bow, christening the ship. And with that, what is likely the first e-christening ever, was history!

The *Flintstone* was built by the Sembawang shipyard in Singapore, commissioned by Tideway, the offshore branch for oil and gas activities of the Belgian dredging and environmental group DEME. The *Flintstone* can take 19,000 tons of quarry stone on board and, thanks to its highly sophisticated equipment, very precisely install it at record depths of up to 2,000 m.

The *Flintstone* is Tideway's third and largest fall pipe vessel, after the 11,500-ton *Rollingstone* and the 17,500-



ton *Seahorse*. The vessel meets Ice Class criteria and as a result is able to work in the most extreme conditions.

A fall pipe vessel is a very exceptional vessel, with a space to store sorted quarry stone in the requested volume and grade. A 'fall pipe', which hangs under the ship, ensures that this quarry stone is placed at the exact location on top of pipelines or directly on the sea floor. For this, the bottom of the fall pipe is equipped with a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). This ROV is operated from the deck and controls the placement of the quarry stone in three dimensions. Offshore stone dumping activities are usually performed in order to stabilise and protect pipelines and high-voltage cables. Tideway's new fall pipe vessel can carry out stone dumping operations to absolute record depths of up to 2,000 m.

The new ship will to a great extent further promote the oil and gas activities of the DEME Group. In the coming years, among its other activities the Group will focus on services to oil & gas companies, the mining industry and energy companies. In March of this year the DEME Group announced its plans to develop deep sea mining activities through the joint venture SEAFLORE, together with IHC Merwede. A ship such as the *Flintstone*, which is able to work at great depths, can be utilised for this as well.

Furthermore, recent market trends, such as the rising price of crude oil, make laying deep sea pipelines and protecting them deep at sea more feasible. New opportunities are arising with the exploration of deep sea oil fields off the coast of Brazil, West Africa and the polar regions. In this context, the *Flintstone* has a few important features.

The *Flintstone* is equipped with an installation for dynamic positioning (DP2). A highly sophisticated, remotely operated robot (Remotely Operated Vehicle, ROV) with an active wave and swell compensator and the newest measuring and surveying equipment. The ship has an Ice Class notation, and is thereby fully certified to work in arctic conditions. The potential to work at depths of up to 2,000 m is obviously a competitive advantage in itself. The cruising speed of 15 knots is a significant trump card. This speed enables it to travel more quickly from one quarry to another and thus to be operational for a longer duration at the actual site. The *Flintstone* has a 'green' design, and was built according to the Lloyd's Register Code for Environmental Protection. This implies, among other things, that energy-saving measures are fully utilised and that the emission of NO_x is kept to an absolute minimum.

2. Christening of the *Congo River*

New 'mega' trailer becomes the new flagship of the DEME fleet.

Around 4:30 p.m., Justine Henin, Olympic tennis champion and winner of several Grand Slam titles, sent the christening champagne hurtling against the bow of the *Congo River* with a sharp blow from her racquet.

The contract between DEME N.V. and IHC Dredgers B.V. for the design, building and delivery of the ship was signed in December 2008. The laying of the keel started on 15 December 2009. The ship was launched at the IHC Merwede shipyard in Kapelle aan den IJssel in the Netherlands on 21 January 2011.

The impressive ship, 168 m in length, is packed with high-tech equipment, making it one of the highest performing and most economical dredgers on today's market. With the launch of this

'mega' trailing suction hopper dredger, DEME confirms its conviction that the dredging market also holds great prospects in the coming years.

The name *Congo River* fits into the series of great world rivers whose names grace the bows of some of DEME's large dredgers. Other examples are the *Pearl River*, the *Nile River* and the *Amazon*. DEME also finds an interesting parallel in the fact that the Congo River, at certain stretches along its course, has the distinguishing feature of very rapidly displacing enormous volumes of sand.

The *Congo River* is an innovative and versatile vessel, very manoeuvrable due to its large beam (38 m) and short length (168 m) and deployable for many different purposes. Because of its shallow draught, the ship can operate at a limited depth even when fully loaded. The *Congo River* can thus be efficiently deployed in ports, channels, for beach nourishment and land reclamation on both a small and large scale, etc., as well as for long-distance transport. With its deep-suction installation, the new 'mega' trailer can dredge at depths of more than a hundred metres.

Additional information about the *Congo River*

Name	<i>Congo River</i>
Type	trailing suction hopper dredger
Overall length	168.00 m
Length between perpendiculars	153.30 m
Beam	38.00 m
Draught	13.30 m
Dredger draught	12.15 m
Hopper capacity	30,000 m ³
Diameter suction pipe	1,300 mm
Total power output	23,200 kW
Speed	16.60 knots
Accommodation	30 persons

Only a few days ago, DBM – the DEME company that extracts sea gravel for the construction industry – launched the *Victor Horta*, its second gravel suction dredger with a capacity of 5,000 m³. Furthermore, alongside the *Congo River* and the *Flintstone*, DEME currently has six more ultramodern dredgers and marine vessels under construction: the 11,000 m³ suction dredger *Breughel*, the DP2 jack-up platform *Neptune*, the 16,000 kW self-propelled cutter suction dredgers *Al Jarraf* and *Amazon*, a Ravenstein 900 backhoe pontoon and the super-powerful 28,000 kW, self-propelled rock cutter dredger *Ambiorix*. In the years 2011-2012, all of these new vessels will provide DME with one of the most advanced and efficient fleets in the world.

About DEME

The Belgian dredging and environmental group DEME is a conglomerate of enterprises whose roots were established more than a century and a half ago. The group is specialised in deepening and maintenance dredging; port construction and port expansion; providing services to the oil and gas industry; wreckage clearance; deep sea operations; construction of offshore wind farms; and a wide range of environmental activities – from water treatment to sludge recycling and from soil remediation to the treatment of both lightly and heavily contaminated sedimentation. DEME operates a modern and multi-functional fleet of 90 large dredgers and some 200 auxiliary vessels. The company employs 4,000 people. The Group is active worldwide – in 2010 it reported a turnover of EUR 1.8 billion and was active in more than 50 countries on all continents. Its current investment programme in high-tech equipment will enable DEME to meet future challenges with an ultra-efficient and very modern fleet.

About Tideway

Tideway is a division of the Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering Group (DEME). The company is located in Breda, the Netherlands, and is active worldwide. Tideway is a full-service provider for the oil and gas industry, and is specialised in the precise underwater placement of quarry stone as protection for pipelines and high-voltage cables, and the construction of landing sites for pipelines. The company was established in 1991, has a staff of 250 men and women, and reports an annual turnover of around EUR 150 million. Tideway is owner and operator of the fall pipe vessels Rollingstone, Seahorse and Flintstone. On a project for the protection of the Enagas Balearic Pipeline, Tideway successfully carried out a very precise stone dumping operation at a depth of 987 m (until today still a record in the industry). Recent projects completed by Tideway include stone dumping for the NordStream pipeline at the bottom of the Baltic Sea between Russia and Germany; laying high-voltage cables such as the 576 km-long NorNed cable between Norway and the Netherlands, or the cabling for the Farshore wind farm on the Thortonbank off the coast of Ostend.

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This press release can be consulted on www.deme.be