



## PRESS RELEASE

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PB 333  
Page 1/3

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Ostend – 7 March 2012. *Amid great public attention, the new DP2 jack-up vessel 'Neptune' was named today at the port of Ostend by Mrs Isabel Casteleyn, partner of **Federal State Secretary for Energy and the Environment** Melchior Wathelet. This self-propelled jack-up vessel was built by IHC Merwede for GeoSea N.V., the offshore marine construction specialist of the Belgian DEME Group.*

The contract for the detailed design, construction and delivery of this vessel was signed between GeoSea and IHC Merwede on 16. September 2010, the keel was laid on 25. March 2011 and the ship was launched on 23. September 2011. A short delivery time for this complex, advanced and unique vessel.

The 60 metre long and 38 metre wide 'Neptune' is a DP2 (dynamic positioning) jack-up vessel and is equipped with a 600-ton crane that is fully integrated into the hull. As such, the 'Neptune' will be perfect for the transport and installation of offshore wind turbines and any other heavy marine offshore structures.

The 'Neptune' also obtained a 'Green Passport', provided by ABS (American Bureau of Shipping).

The 'Neptune's' first assignment will take it to the Thornton Bank off the Belgian coast, where it will install 48 wind turbines for the second and third stages of the C-Power offshore wind farm. Subsequently, the 'Neptune' will be mobilised to the German waters of the North Sea for the construction of both the Trianel West Borkum II wind farm, 45 km north of the East Frisian Island Borkum, and the EnBW Baltic 2 wind farm, 32 km north of the island of Rügen.

GeoSea has already put its experiences with the construction of the first phase of the C-Power project to good use with the construction of large-scale offshore wind farms in the United Kingdom (wind farms Walney I and II and Ormonde) and Germany (Alpha Ventus, Baltic II, Borkum West) and in preparatory geotechnical investigations at many locations off the coast of England, Germany, The Netherlands etc.

The competitiveness of GeoSea thus relies on its ability to provide innovative techniques and high operational reliability on the basis of high-tech equipment.

The use of the 'Neptune' and the growth of GeoSea will provide an additional 100 jobs. The DEME Group, to which GeoSea belongs, will be recruiting 500 new employees in the coming year.

GeoSea aims to further strengthen its position in the leading group of companies that specialise in developing renewable energy and building wind farms at sea. The company also carries out activities such as offshore geotechnical investigations, drilling large diameter piles for building structures such as jetties, and high-tech horizontal drilling as was successfully executed under the wreck of the sunken car carrier Tricolor.

The new jack-up vessel has been given the name 'Neptune' as this god of the seas represents the universal ocean of oneness with all beings. Neptune is strong, unyielding, indomitable, idealistic and imaginative. The planet Neptune, moreover, is regarded as a planet of inspiration, dreams and creativity. All these characteristics suit the purposes and values of GeoSea perfectly.

### **Neptune's main features:**

#### **Hull**

Length: 60.0 m

Width: 38.0 m

Draught: 6.0 m

Design draught hull: 3.90 m

#### **Legs**

Number: 4

Type: circular, diameter 3.5 m

Leg length: 92.00 m

#### **Jacking system**

Type: GustoMSC hydraulic positive engagement

Drive: Electro-hydraulic

Capacity: 2,750 t preload per leg

#### **Cranes**

600 mT Wind turbine installation crane (make Huisman)

10 mt Auxiliary crane

#### **Propulsion**

Thrusters 4 x azimuthing dismountable thrusters with CPP propellers, 2 aft and 2 forward

Propeller diameter 2.30 m

Drives 4x diesel engine 1,600 kW each

#### **Accommodation**

Accommodation for 60 people

#### **Class**

ABS for self propelled vessel (IMO MODU Code)

Class notation: ABS +A1, Self Elevating Unit, +AMS, +ABCU, DPS-2, CRC

## **About GeoSea**

*GeoSea is a fast growing company specialising in complex offshore maritime projects. The company is part of the Belgian DEME Group that is active across the globe.*

*In 2011, GeoSea realised turnover of 145.68 million euros, a growth of 57% compared to 2010; the company employed 150 people. GeoSea's jack-up platforms include Goliath, Vagant, Buzzard, Zeebouwer, Halewijn, Tijn II, and Kobe. The Neptune will now join this group. The Innovation (in co-ownership with Hochtief) will complete the fleet in mid-2012.*

## **About DEME**

*The Belgian dredging, environmental and marine engineering group DEME was established in 1991 from the merger between Dredging International and Baggerwerken Decloedt. A global market leader, the Group diversified from dredging operations and reclamation to hydraulic engineering projects at sea, services to oil and gas companies, installation of offshore wind farms, environmental activities such as soil remediation, sludge recycling and revalidation of brownfields and wreck clearance. The Group has one of the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleets for dredging and hydraulic engineering, with ships and rigs in every size and for every activity sector. DEME employs more than 4,000 people. The Belgian Group is implementing more than 70 projects simultaneously in over 50 countries around the world. Its current investment programme in high-tech equipment enables DEME to meet future challenges with an ultra-efficient and modern fleet.*

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This information is published on the website [www.deme.be](http://www.deme.be)