



PRESS RELEASE

Offshore & Wind Assistance names first maintenance vessels for wind farms and other offshore installations

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Ostend – 8 November 2012. *Amongst great public interest, the vessels 'Aquata' and 'Arista' were named at the port of Ostend. Ms Evi Van Acker, Belgian sailor and bronze medal winner at the London 2012 Olympics, accepted to be godmother to the 'Arista'. Mrs Sabine Cartrysse, spouse of Mr Kris Vanmassenhove, accepted to be godmother to the 'Aquata'. The christening also marked the launch of GeoSea subsidiary Offshore & Wind Assistance (OWA).*

Damen Shipyards of Gorinchem in the Netherlands was responsible for the detailed design, construction and delivery of the auxiliary vessels 'Aquata' and 'Arista'. Measuring almost 26 m in length and 10 m in width, these so-called 'Fast Crew Suppliers' are equipped with a 3 ton capacity crane. The unique 'Sea Axe' hull shape patented by Damen Shipyards allows for high speeds even in rough waters. In addition, the 'Aquata' and 'Arista' have a very large carrying capacity in comparison to other, similar vessels, making them extremely suitable for quick transport of large quantities of goods and personnel.

The first mission of the 'Aquata' and the 'Arista' will take them to the Thornton Bank off the Belgian coast, where earlier this year with the use of the DP2 jack-up vessel 'Neptune', parent company GeoSea installed already 30 wind turbines for the second and third stages of the C-power offshore wind farm. In the summer of 2011 OWA signed a long term contract with Repower for the support of the maintenance of all wind turbines at C-Power wind farm. For a period of 10 years OWA will be the exclusive provider of all crew transfer vessels for the regular inspections and maintenance as well as all jack up vessels which from time to time may be required for overhauls or repairs of larger components.

Offshore & Wind Assistance (OWA) is looking to further strengthen its position at the forefront of companies specialising in supplying and maintaining wind farms at sea. Auxiliary vessels 'Aquata' and 'Arista' form an essential part of the strategy to realise that objective.

Deployment of the 'Aquata' and the 'Arista' and the further growth of Offshore and Wind Assistance (OWA) will provide additional employment in the form of operational and technical maintenance and local employment for third parties on the coast.

The new vessels 'Aquata' and 'Arista' are named after two of the seven daughters of Triton, the king of the sea who, together with his brothers, reigned over the sea under the watchful eye of their father, god of the sea Poseidon – Neptune in Roman mythology.

Princesses Aquata and Arista helped King Triton in fulfilling his task; their main qualities included helpfulness, integrity, a sense of responsibility and foresight – features that perfectly match the goals and values of Offshore & Wind Assistance (OWA).

Key characteristics of the 'Aquata' and the 'Arista':

Class

Type: FCS 2610

Class notation: Bureau Veritas, I Hull MACH, Light ship / Fast utility vessel, sea area 3

Construction: Marine grade aluminium

Main dimensions

Length OA: 25.75 m

Length hull: 24.95 m

Beam OA: 10.40 m

Design draught: 1.75 m

Foredeck load: 10 tons

Aft deck load: 2 tons

Foredeck area: 75 m²

Aft deck area: 9 m²

Crane

Type: Heila HLM20-25

Capacity: 2.9 tons @ 6.5 m

Engines

Capacity: 2,400 hp

Cruising speed 22 kts

Maximum speed 25 kts

Fuel cargo system 2,000 l/h @ 3.0 bar

Accessories

High pressure cleaner on bow fender

Diving platform aft (Electric)

Accommodation

24 passengers

About OWA

OWA (Offshore & Wind Assistance NV) is a GeoSea subsidiary. The company offers a wide range of services, including maintenance of offshore installations for wind energy and oil and gas applications. OWA provides marine logistic services (transport of technical personnel, goods and (spare) parts, heavy lifting) and conducts surveys and inspections and maintenance and repair works.

About GeoSea

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

In 2011, GeoSea realised a turnover of EUR 145.68 million, a growth of 57% compared to 2010; the company employed 150 people. GeoSea's jack-up platforms currently include Innovation, Neptune, Goliath, Vagant, Buzzard, Zeebouwer, Halewijn, Tijn II, and Kobe.

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, recycling of dredged material and remediation 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 4,200 people in over 50 countries around the globe. 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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