

PRESS RELEASE

DEME Breaks Ground in Ho Chi Minh City for the start of Phase 2 Dredging of the Soai Rap

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Ho Chi Minh City (24 November 2012) – Today, the groundbreaking ceremony for the start of the crucial Soai Rap Dredging Project Phase 2 has taken place in Ho Chi Minh City. The project, executed for the account of the Soai Rap Dredging Investment Project of the Ministry of Transport in Vietnam, allows larger vessels to navigate through the Soai Rap channel and eases access to Ho Chi Minh City’s Hiep Phuoc Port and the relocated ports along the Saigon River.

On 26 June 2012, the joint venture *Dredging International NV - Construction Consultation JSC for Maritime Building* has been awarded a contract to deepen and widen the Soai Rap Passage towards Hiep Phuoc Port, close to HCMC in Vietnam. The Soai Rap passage will be dredged over a length of 54km to a depth of 9.5 m in order to accommodate fully loaded 30,000DWT vessels calling berths in the Ports of Hiep Phuoc and HCMC.

The works will be completed within a timeframe of 14 months from the approval of the final design and will be executed by using the 13,000m³ Trailing Suction Hopper Dredger “Uilenspiegel” in combination with Vietnamese dredging equipment in the upper sections of the channel.

This project will undoubtedly generate social and economic benefits to the whole Mekong Delta. It will create employment and boost numerous business opportunities in Ho Chi Minh City as well as further port construction and operation in the Long’An and Tien Giang provinces.

The contract for the second phase of the Soai Rap Dredging Project amounts to 71 million Euro.

About Dredging International NV

Dredging International NV is an operating company of the DEME Group. The Belgian dredging, environmental and marine engineering group **DEME** has won a prominent position on the world market in a number of highly specialized and complex hydraulic disciplines. The DEME Group diversified from dredging operations and land reclamation to marine engineering solutions at sea, services to oil and gas companies, installation of offshore wind farms, environmental activities such as soil remediation, recycling of dredged materials and remediation of brownfields and wreck clearance. The Group has one of the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleets for dredging and marine engineering. DEME employs more than 4,200 people. In 2011 the Group realised a turnover of EUR 1.766 billion.

Contact:**DEME N.V.**

Ann Wittemans

T +32 3 210 67 94

M + 32 470 88 04 71

Wittemans.Ann@deme.be