



Press Release

Innovation at the core of DEME: Nodulier 2022 winner in the Worldwide Innovation Challenge

Zwijndrecht, 21 March 2014 - Yesterday, the French Prime Minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, and Anne Lauvergeon, Chair of the 2030 Innovation Committee, introduced the first winners of the Worldwide Innovation Challenge at the Matignon.

'Nodulier 2022', a partnership between SDI (Société de Dragage International, part of the DEME Group), OceanfLORE and G-Tec SAS, is one of the winners of this prestigious competition.

In April 2013, the President of the Republic, François Hollande, set up the Innovation 2030 Commission, which is chaired by Anne Lauvergeon. This Committee explored the major global challenges for 2030 and has identified a limited number of opportunities.

At the conclusion of this exercise, seven ambitions were outlined. They rest on strong societal expectations, on growth sectors: Energy Storage; Recycling of Metals; Development of Marine Resources; Plant Proteins and Plant Chemistry; Personalised Medicine; the Silver Economy (innovation at the service of longevity) and Big Data.

Nodulier 2022 is a partnership between SDI (Société de Dragage International, part of the DEME Group), OceanfLORE and G-Tec SAS and participated in this competition.

The grouping intends to set up a consortium for the harvesting of polymetallic nodules in partnership with French and European 'consumers' of these raw materials.

For the development of a technical and operational solution, the partnership has completed the general feasibility study of harvesting nodules by means of proven technology.

To conduct a harvesting test, Nodulier 2022 will initially focus on the design and the laboratory testing of the harvesting vehicle, the collector, the riser transfer pipe and the vehicle launch and recovery system, including a feasibility study on processing and utilisation of manganese nodules.

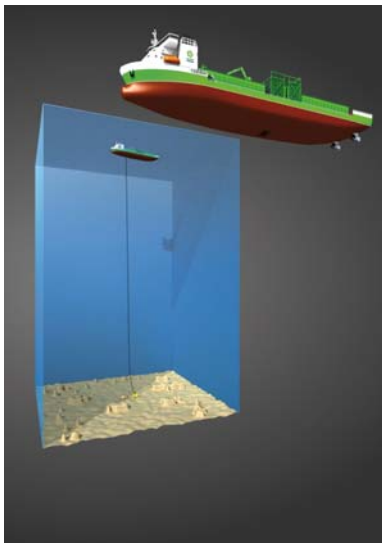
About SDI

SDI is part of the DEME Group and specialises in maritime and river works. In recent years, SDI has carried out, in a grouping with the majors of civil engineering, projects in the new port of Le Havre (PORT 2000), FOS2XL in Marseilles and the extension of the East Port of La Réunion. SDI is also involved in more specific work such as the implementation of underwater foundations of bridges and caissons (foundations of the Jacques Chaban-Delmas - Bacalan Bastide bridge in Bordeaux), the reinforcement of beaches as on the Dune de Pyla or the deepening and widening of the Seine in 2012 and 2014 (2nd phase) for the Great Sea Port of Rouen.

SDI is also ship owner of a part of the DEME fleet of which the CSD 'D'Artagnan'. With regard to this investment, SDI has created a center of excellence in Lambersart with the installation of an electronic dredging simulator and the creation of 100 skilled jobs. Related to the innovation project Nodulier 2022, SDI intends to renew this initiative on the issue of dredging in great depth.

About DEME

*The Belgian dredging, hydraulic engineering and environmental group **DEME** has earned itself a prominent position on the world market in a few highly specialist and complex hydraulic disciplines. Having started out with dredging operations and reclamation, the group diversified into hydraulic projects at sea, services to oil and gas companies, the installation of offshore wind farms, environmental activities such as soil remediation and sludge recycling, and revalidation of brownfields and wreck clearance. Its multi-disciplinary know-how and experience, project synergies and integrated business structure allowed DEME to grow into a global solutions provider. The Group owns one of the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleets for dredging and hydraulic engineering activities. DEME employs 4,500 people. In 2013 the Group realised a turnover of EUR 2.53 billion.*



Fallpipe vessel 'Flintstone' equipped to perform stone dumping to a depth of 2,000m

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