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PRESS RELEASE

Ambitious fleet investment programme continues with the order of two trailing suction hopper dredgers and two split barges

DEME continues its ambitious fleet investment programme by adding two trailing suction hopper dredgers and two self-propelled split barges to the dredging fleet. The new vessels and barges will be built by Royal IHC.

The first vessel will be a trailing suction hopper dredger (TSHD) with a hopper volume of 8,300 m³. The new trailing suction hopper has the same innovative design as its dual fuel sister vessel 'Scheldt River', which entered the DEME fleet in 2017. Since it became part of the fleet 'Scheldt River' has operated non-stop on waterways and access channels in Europe. In line with this success, DEME is keen to provide clients with a versatile and highly efficient vessel identical to the 'Scheldt River' for a broad range of dredging activities.

The second vessel will be a 2,300 m³ trailing suction hopper dredger. With a deadweight of circa 2,800 tonnes and a design draught of only 4.25 m, the compact design ensures high manoeuvrability and optimised dredging works in shallow waters. This shallow water TSHD has a very robust design and is easy to operate and maintain.

Additionally, two self-propelled split hopper barges are joining the DEME fleet, both with a volume of 3,500 m³. The barges are designed specifically in view of working together with DEME's larger cutter suction dredgers and in particular the 'Spartacus', as well as DEME's backacter 'Samson'. They are a development of DEME's proven and successful 2,750 m³ barges 'Pagadder' and 'Sloeber'.

The new trailing suction hopper dredgers and barges will enter the fleet in 2020.

"This order once again signifies our ongoing commitment to operate the most modern, versatile and environmental friendly fleet in the industry," says **Alain Bernard, Director and CEO of DEME**. "With our multi-year fleet investment programme we are driving new levels of performance and further enhance the capacity of our fleet, providing our clients with flexible solutions for dredging and reclamation projects in various environments."

Dave Vander Heyde, CEO of Royal IHC: "IHC is proud that DEME has ordered four highly competitive new vessels. With this order the number of trailing suction hopper dredgers in the fleet of DEME, designed and built by IHC adds up to 21. The partnership with DEME has proven to be successful in the past, and we are pleased to continue our partnership with DEME by adding more value and technical capabilities to their advanced fleet."

A number of pioneering vessels recently entered the DEME fleet, including the dual-fuel dredgers 'Minerva' and 'Scheldt River' in 2017, the cable installation vessel 'Living Stone' and DP2 jack-up platform 'Apollo' in 2018. Currently, DEME has no less than three other innovative vessels under construction: the powerful 44,180 kW cutter suction dredger 'Spartacus', the 15,000 m³ trailing suction hopper dredger 'Bonny River' and the giant offshore installation vessel 'Orion'.



Impression of the 2,300 m³ trailing suction hopper dredger

About DEME

The Belgian dredging, environmental and marine engineering group DEME is an international market leader for complex marine engineering works.

Building on more than 140 years of experience and know-how, DEME has organically moved into several related sectors, such as the financing of marine engineering and environmental projects, executing complex EPC related marine engineering projects including civil engineering works, the development and construction of renewable energy projects, providing services for the oil, gas and energy sector, the decontaminating and recycling of polluted soils and silts, the harvesting of marine resources, etc.

Thanks to an integrated company structure, DEME strongly emerges as a 'global solutions provider' which offers its clients overall solutions. DEME has the most modern, high-tech and versatile fleet in the industry.

DEME Group has 5,100 employees worldwide and the company achieved a turnover of 2.37 billion euros in 2017.

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