

PRESS RELEASE

Zwijndrecht, 15 mei 2007

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DEME wins 300 million Euros of new jobs in Africa and the Mediterranean area

ZWIJNDRECHT (May 13 2007) – *With new contracts on the African continent and in the countries around the Mediterranean Sea, the Antwerp dredging- and environmental group DEME, has added more than 300 million € to its order book in the last few days. On an annual basis, the order book is now quickly evolving to a record of 2 billion €. Especially the large-scale harbour works in Durban (South-Africa) and Fos-sur-Mer (France) stand out. The new contracts ensure enough work and an optimal fleet occupation for the coming years. In the meantime the Antwerp group is actively seeking new personnel to reinforce the workforce at all levels.*

Africa

Including a very important contract that has been achieved only last weekend, the recently awarded contracts on the African continent, currently represent about 200 million €.

- In Durban, South-Africa, DEME-company Dredging International is widening and deepening the existing port access. This will both enhance the safety and give larger vessels access to the port. The access channel is being widened from 130m to 240m. A navigation channel within the port is deepened from -12.8 m. to -17 m and accesses of the waterway to container quays are being dredged to -15.5 m. In total, 10,5 million m³ of sand will be dredged during works that will start this month and will be completed by mid 2009. The dredged materials will be dumped in a dedicated zone, located 6.5 km at sea. Dredging International will deploy a trailer suction hopper dredge as well as the new very powerful backhoe dredge 'Pinocchio' for works below the waterline along the breakwaters.

The Durban contract represents a value of 193 million Euro and was awarded by Transnet Ltd South Africa, who allocated the dredging works in the same contract as the civil works. DEME won the contract against fierce international and especially Chinese competition. The civil works include the demolition and reconstruction of breakwaters, allowing the actual widening of the port access . The full contract is executed by a consortium of Dredging International and Group Five, with the Belgian Company being the leading party.

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- Two jobs, in Monrovia (Liberia) and in Conakry (Guinea) respectively, illustrate how relatively small investments can become an important driving force for the national economy. Both contracts are being executed by a trailing suction hopper dredge between May and July 2007.
 - In the port of Monrovia, DEME will dredge the access channel, aiming to reboot the national economy after years of civil war in Liberia. These crucial works to raise the standard of the infrastructure are financed by the World Bank. The works concern 500,000 m³ and were awarded by the National Port Authority of Monrovia – that falls under the Ministry of Public Works.
 - For the Port Autonome de Conakry, DEME starts this month with dredging the heavily silted port channel in the capital of Guinea. The contract requires dredging more than 2 million m³ and will restore the draught from the current -6 m until the design depth of -9.5 m. This has to stimulate the international trade, motivate the big shipping companies to moor here and especially profit the export of bauxite.
- By order of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing of Ghana, Dredging International will dredge the Benya lagoon and the access channel to the fishing port of Elmina (Ghana) as well as repair a breakwater. The works are being executed with a cutter suction dredge. In total 200,000 m³ has to be dredged and 170m of breakwaters will be repaired.

The Mediterranean Sea

In addition to the contracts on the African continent, DEME has been awarded a large number of contracts in the countries around the Mediterranean Sea – for a total value of € 100 million. Especially the very recently signed contract for the important work in Fos-sur-Mer close to Marseille stands out.

- The project Fos2XL is a huge mixed dredging- and civil works job that will start 9th May and will take 30 months to execute. The actual dredging works will take

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14 months. Downstream from an existing container terminal, two new container quays of 400 and 800m respectively will be built and dredging works will be undertaken for the deepening of the port access channel. DEME companies will widen the 'Darse 2' dock, deepen it to min 17 à min 17.5 m CM and create a turning basin. The contract was awarded by Port Autonome de Marseille (PAM) and requires the dredging of 6 million m³ sand and 300.000 m³ conglomerate. DEME will deploy trailing suction hopper dredgers, amongst which the 11.650 m³ suction hopper dredge "Brabo", that will be launched and officially named on June 30th 2007, as well as a heavy backhoe dredge.

The contract was acquired by the French DEME subsidiary Société de Dragage International' (SDI), in a consortium with the civil contractors GTM Construction, Eiffage TP and Saipem and has a total value (dredging works and civil works) of 126 million €.

- As the third phase of a contract that runs over 18 months, DEME companies are executing maintenance dredging works with the brand-new trailer 'Reynaert' in the river mouth of the Adour in the French city of Bayonne. The contract was awarded by the Conseil Régional d'Aquitaine and is being executed by the French DEME subsidiary Société de Dragage International (SDI).
- Recently, DEME companies were awarded important jobs on different locations in Italy. They will be executed by the Italian DEME subsidiary Società Italiana Dragaggi Spa (Sidra). The works include dredging works, maintenance of port channels, beach replenishment and the creation of jetties and breakwaters.
 - By order of the Autorita Portuale, a trailing suction hopper dredger will execute deepening works for the port access channel of Ravenna, as well as beach replenishment works . Starting later on this year, the works will bring the 'Canale Candiano' to a depth of 11.5 m. The dredged materials will be dumped at sea or used for beach replenishment.
 - Beach replenishment in Terracina-Anzio nearby Rome. This will also be executed by the brand new cutter suction dredge 'Reynaert'.

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- In Molfetta, Sidra was awarded a new job for the execution of dredging works with a cutter suction dredge. The job also implies construction of a protective dyke and quay walls. The work is being executed in joint venture with an Italian partner.
- In Algeciras, Spain, DEME was recently awarded, in joint venture, a dredging work that will be executed by its offshore subsidiary Tideway. The works were allocated by the Norwegian offshore group Kvaerner and consist of the creation of a waterway from a construction pit in which an LNG storage tank will be built 'in the dry'. This tank will eventually be sunken down in the Adriatic Sea nearby Venice. Before the LNG tank can be towed-out, a channel has to be dredged out of the construction pit.

Because of its expansive growth and the exceptionally strong contract inflow, the DEME Group is actively seeking to substantially enlarge its work force. The Group currently relies on more than 3000 staff members, can count on excellent market perspectives and is on the verge of being granted yet another number of important contracts.

About DEME

The Belgian group Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering (DEME) is one of the largest groups of dredging works, environmental projects and hydraulic realisations in the World. The group has 3000 staff members and is active on all the five continents. DEME owns one of the most modern and versatile fleets of the sector and has a continuous programme of investments, research and innovation. The group is active through different subsidiaries, as amongst others Dredging International. On this moment, the DEME companies are simultaneously executing more than 60 projects all over the World. From an historical point of view, DEME is currently experiencing an exceptional growth with an order book that has reached a figure of € 2 billion.

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