



Press Release

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**Launching of Flintstone gives
boost to DEME oil & gas business**

SINGAPORE (28th April 2010) – Today a brand-new fallpipe vessel for the next generation was launched at Sembawang Shipyard in Singapore. The ‘Flintstone’ is built on behalf of Tideway, the offshore subsidiary for oil & gas activities of Belgium’s ‘Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering’ (DEME) Group. The Flintstone has a carrying capacity of 19.000 tonnes and can place rock with high accuracy at depths of up to 2.000 m – thanks to highly sophisticated state-of-the art equipment.

Emphasizing the importance of the event, the launching ceremony was presided by Mrs. Nora Kassam, the Lady Sponsor of the day. The Flintstone is the third and biggest fallpipe vessel of Tideway, after the 11.500 tonnes Rollingstone and the 17.500 tonnes Seahorse.

A fallpipe vessel is a very specialised ship consisting of a hold in which graded rock is stocked. The rock material is placed at an exact location on pipelines or the sea bottom through a ‘fallpipe’, at the lower end of which a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) is fixed. This ROV is operated from the deck and controls the rock placement in three dimensions. Offshore rock placement is applied mostly to

stabilise and protect pipelines, flowlines and (power) cables. Tideway's new fallpipe vessel is able to carry out rock placement works at a depth of no less than 2.000 m.

The € 100 million investment will boost the oil & gas activities of Tideway. DEME CEO Alain Bernard was recently on the record as saying that in the next years the Group will focus on oil & gas companies, the mining industry and energy utilities. Recent trends in the market (including the increased price of crude oil) have made deep sea pipe laying and deep sea pipeline protection better affordable. The search for deeper offshore oilfields in Brazil, West Africa and the arctic regions is offering new unseen opportunities. In this respect, Flintstone has some very important features.

Flintstone is equipped with Dynamic Positioning (DP2); a highly sophisticated active heave compensated Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV); and state-of-the art survey equipment. She is fully certified for working in arctic conditions by means of her Ice Class notation. The capability to place rock with high accuracy to depths of up to 2.000 m, is a competitive advantage in itself. Her cruising speed of 15 knots is also a valuable asset, since the run to and from the quarry becomes less time consuming – leaving more operational time on the project site. The 'green design' Flintstone was built under Lloyds Environmental Protection Code, which means amongst others the full implementation of energy-saving measures and the limitation of NO_x to the absolute minimum.

The final delivery of the Flintstone and the christening ceremony are expected for the first quarter of 2011. Already now she has secured a first assignment with the Russian company Sevmash: the installation of scour protection around the Prirazlomnaya Platform in the Barents Sea southwest of Novaya Zemlya.

About Tideway:

Tideway is an operating company of the 'Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering' (DEME) Group. Based in Breda in the Netherlands, Tideway is present on the five continents

as a full-service provider for the offshore oil & gas industry, specialising in precision rock placement and landfalls. The company was established in 1991, and currently has a staff of some 200 generating a turnover of € 150 million at the end of 2009. Recent assignments include subsea intervention works for the Nord Stream pipeline between Russia and Germany through the Baltic Sea, and the Enagas Balearic Pipeline where rock placement was successfully carried out at a depth of 987 m. Besides protection and the construction of landfalls of offshore oil & gas pipelines, Tideway is also involved in the laying of subsea high voltage power cables, such as the 576 km NorNed cable between Norway and the Netherlands and the installation of the power cables for the Thornton Bank Farshore windfarm project.

Editor's note:

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