

Global Marine Systems Completes Power Connection Between the Netherlands and the UK

~ BritNed installation to further integrate the UK power grid with the rest of Europe ~

Chelmsford UK, 27th October 2010: Global Marine Systems has completed its scope of work related to the installation and burial of a submarine power cable which will provide connectivity between the UK and the Netherlands.

The first and only interconnector between the UK and the Netherlands, BritNed has a capacity of 1000 MW and is approximately 260 kilometres in length. The goal of its construction is to further integrate the UK power grid with continental and northern Europe. Global Marine's scope of work exceeded 1,000,000 man hours and 3,500 vessel days, a significant milestone, the successful testing of the Interconnector cables, has been achieved by Global Marine Energy (the energy division of Global Marine Systems) and ABB, a global leader in power and automation technologies.

The companies jointly entered into a Project Agreement back in April 2009 and this month Global Marine completed the installation of the last omega joint, connecting a converter station at the Isle of Grain in Kent, England with one in Maasvlakte near Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

"The completion of this cable system signals a further step towards a single European energy market and Global Marine has worked with ABB to deliver a full range of installation capabilities," said Nicola Broom, managing director, Global Marine Energy. "Our combined experience in managing the complexities of installing subsea power cables has been crucial to this project, and we are committed to delivering excellence in offshore transmission design."

Various vessels including the Team Oman, North Ocean 102, Edda Fjord, Olympic Zeus, Olympic Hera Atlantic, Guardian and the barge Union Beaver were all vessels that formed part of the solution engineered by Global Marine Systems and ABB for the cable installation and burial. BritNed is expected to be fully operational by early 2011.

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About Global Marine Systems

Global Marine Systems, the largest independent provider of submarine cables, installation, maintenance and related engineering services worldwide, has been in business for well over 160 years. Operating the world's largest fleet of cable ships and subsea vehicles, it is a market leader in marine cable installation and maintenance for telecommunications; subsea cable maintenance, installation and related services as well as offshore power; cable installation and maintenance for renewable energy and subsea inter-connects; oil and gas life of field services. We are headquartered in the United Kingdom, with resources throughout Europe, Asia Pacific and the Americas.

For further information go to: www.globalmarinesystems.com