PRESS RELEASE

Van Oord develops deep dredging solution

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 05 May 2015 - Over the past few years, Van Oord has developed a new technique for dredging at great water depths. This Deep Excavation System (DES) is an innovative method to prepare a sea bottom profile for installing offshore pipelines. The system has been patented by Van Oord.

Uneven sea beds are traditionally prepared for laying offshore pipelines by installing large volumes of rock. As an alternative to this Subsea Rock Installation (SRI) method, Van Oord has applied the Deep Excavation System in Australia and Norway. On these projects, excavating several thousand cubic metres of hard and soft soil made the installation of hundreds of thousand tonnes of rock unnecessary. Combining the excavating system and SRI can be a cost-effective solution for sea bed preparation.

The Deep Excavation System allows dredging to take place at depths varying from 100 to at least 1,000 m. Van Oord’s flexible fall pipe vessels Stornes and Bravenes (operational in 2016) can be equipped with this system, which has been developed in-house. It consists of the combined application of a sophisticated grab and a Fall Pipe Remotely Operated Vehicle (FPROV). The DES has a very accurate position control system and generates only very limited turbidity, which is vital in view of potential nearby sensitive marine environment like coral.

‘Nowadays, oil and gas are being extracted more and more from isolated fields in deep water and transported over long distances. Our clients face these challenges. To meet their needs, we offer tailor-made solutions by applying our marine ingenuity. The Deep Excavation System is an example of this and a valuable addition to our complete package of offshore services’, says Joep Athmer, Managing Director of Van Oord Offshore.
About Van Oord

Van Oord is a leading international contractor specialising in dredging, marine engineering and offshore projects (oil, gas and wind). Its head office is located in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The company's expertise ranges from design to execution and it has been involved in such noteworthy projects as Palm Jumeirah in Dubai, the port of Rotterdam’s Maasvlakte 2 expansion, trench dredging and backfilling and pipe lay installation worldwide.

Since 2002, Van Oord has been involved in the construction of offshore wind farms in the North Sea. The company's track record includes the Princess Amalia (Netherlands), Belwind (Belgium) and Teesside (United Kingdom) wind farm projects. Van Oord is currently constructing two offshore wind farms in the Netherlands, Eneco Luchterduinen (120 MW) and Gemini (600 MW).

Van Oord is an independent family business and employs approx. 5,000 professionals worldwide. Its modern fleet consists of more than a hundred vessels and other specialised equipment.

More information

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