



Press release – 4 February 2010

EB opens new facilities to support the offshore sector

Successful ventures breed more success, and the need for expansion – no mean feat in strained times. Tyneside offshore engineering specialist, IHC Engineering Business (EB) has opened a new manufacturing and support facility at Riverside Quay, Port of Tyne. It will now form the central hub of their manufacturing activity. This new base enables the company to continue its outstanding track record of delivering complex and custom built offshore and subsea equipment.

“EB’s existing business, as a leading supplier of offshore systems will be expanded to offer an increase in services to our oil and gas and other offshore clients” explains Managing Director, Toby Bailey. “Our new facility allows us to accommodate larger vessels than those that could take advantage of our previous base at the Hadrian Yard on the North bank of the Tyne. At Riverside Quay we can take vessels of up to 10.5m draft. Split between three areas, we now have some 1,300m of quayside accommodating multiple vessels and operations at any one time.”

EB’s ambition is to make the Riverside Quay facility an attractive winter and downtime base for vessels by offering a combination of cost effective berthing charges backed up by extensive support and engineering services. A major investment is being made to upgrade the 7,484m² of covered space by installing hydraulic and electrical cleans rooms, overhead craneage, office facilities, secure storage and project offices for clients operating from the base.

Mick Beezer, EB’s newly appointed Offshore Support Base Manager, explains: “Although set up to provide standard support services such as a location for vessel crew change outs and equipment loadouts, EB differentiates itself from other offshore bases by the ability to support new equipment design and modifications to vessel systems in-house.”

“Linked to this EB can provide appointed person lifts, welding inspection, hire of certified lifting equipment, test facilities for mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems, as well as training for EB-provided equipment,” he adds. “Commissioning, mobilisation, demobilisation and conversion activities will all be conducted with EB’s dedicated on-site team support.”

“The development of our new support base business is a further commitment to offer our clients a full range of services from concept design right through the operational life of equipment and vessels. The base at Riverside Quay allows us to offer a single point of contact and management for a broad range of support services, all on one site.”

Andrew Moffat, CEO of the Port of Tyne says: “We are delighted to welcome EB to the Port of Tyne. We believe this not only cements the position of a hugely successful and growing business in the North East but also retains some highly skilled jobs in the region, it also marks a milestone in the port’s development and is another example of the diversification in our business model.”

Further information on EB and the services it offers clients is available at www.engb.com

Profile IHC Merwede

IHC Merwede is focused on the continuous development of its design and construction activities for the specialised shipbuilding sector, in particular the dredging and offshore industries.

IHC Merwede is world market leader in the construction of specialist dredging equipment. IHC Merwede is also recognised as an outstanding builder of complex, custom-built vessels for

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offshore construction. The clients of IHC Merwede include major dredging companies, oil and gas exploration groups, offshore contractors and government authorities. IHC Merwede has a staff of approximately 2,800 at its locations in the Netherlands. There are also branches in China, India, the Middle East, Nigeria, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Note for the editor, not for publication

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