

## Re-launch Noordhoek Group



Noordhoek Pathfinder

Noordhoek Group, provider of subsea construction, diving, ROV and survey services to the offshore oil and gas industry and located in Zierikzee, the Netherlands, have finalized a re-launch of the company. The investment company Value Enhancement Partners from Amsterdam will obtain a majority share and will be supported by the Noordhoek family and Hanzevast, the owner of the *Noordhoek Pathfinder*. All major activities, including various recently awarded projects, are continued unaffected and the vast majority of the staff will be able to join the company. Cees Noordhoek stated: "Because of the new financial structure and the planned reinforcement of the management, future development will be looked upon with great confidence and the company will be able to extend their specialist knowledge in the area of diving, subsea IRM, survey and subsea equipment."

### Launches

## De Hoop launches *Caballo Galiceno*

On April, 22nd, 2011 the first KISS Supplier, *Caballo Galiceno*, was launched at Shipyard De Hoop yard in Foxhol, the Netherlands. The offshore support vessel with an overall length of 67 metre is the first out of a series of four, designed for the Mexican shipping company Oceanografia and has an enormous seahorse painted on both sides (in Mexican: caballo de mar), Oceanografia's logo. The KISS concept (Keep It Stupid Simple) is a new design by De Hoop and a reaction to the trend of making suppliers more and more complex, even if the complex design does not contribute to the functionality of the vessel. The KISS design has a bent hull which leads to fuel savings, among others. The new lay-out of the tanks in the hull and de engine room on the main deck also creates 30% more cargo space compared to other suppliers with similar dimensions. Therefore, the design also adapts to the trend of transporting more diversified products to offshore platforms. The yard applied their experience with designing and building hotel passenger vessels to the concept which resulted in an efficient and comfortable accommodation for thirty people. The lay-out of the accommodation also creates a deck of 430 m<sup>2</sup>. The vessel is equipped with the newest technologies, like a satellite-driven positioning system and a diesel electric propulsion system with rudder popellers.

*Caballo Galiceno* is expected to be delivered in June. Her sister ship, *Caballo Xanthus*, is being built at De Hoop's yard in Lobith and the other two ships, *Don Alfonso* and *Caballo Genitor*, will be built at the Foxhol-yard. Next to that, Shipyard De Hoop has received 15 requests to build KISS suppliers.



### Acquisitions

## IHC Merwede acquires Hytech to strengthen offshore market position

On May 3rd IHC Merwede announced that the company acquired Hytech, designer of onboard equipment required by these vessels. By combining knowledge and equipment, IHC Merwede are able to develop complete saturation diving systems in-house and supply their offshore vessels with diving equipment. The purchase of Hytech fits in with IHC Merwede's strategy of growth through acquisition, which aims to offer turnkey solutions to customers of all its maritime divisions.

The access to essential know-how is an important advantage for Hytech. IHC Merwede's knowledge,



combined with its financial backing, makes Hytech able to develop, manufacture and support larger, more complex and capital-intensive diving systems.

Thanks to the increases in efficiency vessels can be built faster. This will have a positive impact on delivery times. The vessel itself will also become more efficient and safer, because of this integration. Furthermore, IHC Merwede are now able to develop customised, innovative diving systems, in addition to its existing standard diving equipment systems.

Hytech will be named 'IHC Hytech B.V.' under the flag of IHC Merwede, but the company will operate independently and maintain its existing activities. Both companies will focus together on the expansion of the full service principle, which means the design, commissioning and support of diving systems. Technological innovation will remain IHC Merwede's underlying strength through the continuous investment in research and development.