**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**Shipyard De Hoop: Ready for the future**

***De Hoop Lobith completes 3-year yard renewal program including De Hoop Shiprepair***

*Shipyard De Hoop is a Dutch Shipyard with an impressive history. The company is strong in custom-build sea-going vessels as well as inland vessels. Virtually, any vessel, up to 200 x 60 meter, can be completely engineered and built. De Hoop has a positive problem: a full order book. “Therefore, the last three years have been about modernization of our Lobith yard. Now we are ready for the future.” says Patrick Janssens, CEO of Shipyard De Hoop. “As a yard, De Hoop really wants to be a one stop shop, providing facilities for all the key disciplines of shipbuilding on one terrain.”*

**Starting with designing and engineering the vessels**

It all started with converting a large canteen-building into a new yard head office with an open engineering office-garden and several offices for production management and board. Besides various meeting rooms and a large conference room the new head office was fitted out with a brand new computer-network including glass fiber cabling and new server and terminals. Shipyard De Hoop always starts with designing and engineering the vessels, they build. The engineers now have large workspaces and fast computers with multiple screens. Also De Hoop has several engineering places for extra engineers, sometimes hired on temporarily basis in the peak periods.

**Effective shipbuilding is all about good logistics**

Simultaneously to the development of the head office, a new warehouse was built and on top of this, a large new canteen with a roof terrace overlooking the fitting out of the yard, the harbor and the river Rhine. This was really necessary, as De Hoop values the importance of a well organized warehouse. Effective shipbuilding is all about good logistics on the yard. Besides receipt of goods, the identification and entry inspection are very important for the yard. “We have a lot of expensive equipment coming in. A ship consists of thousands of different products from many different suppliers” says Janssens. He follows: “We try to purchase and take deliveries just in time as much as possible, so in a very short time, a lot of products and sub-assemblies have to find their way to the right place on the right time.”

**People need a clean and comfortable place to rest**

Also the canteen facilities really needed to be updated. People need a clean and comfortable place to rest with lots of light and all around view. The new canteen is now centrally placed on the yard. From the 250m2 roof terrace, our people can see hundreds of ships passing by each day. Also a new change room with new sanitary facilities where build below the new canteen.

**A large part of the investment went into the ground**

New pipeline-systems for water, sewage, air, gas, etc. have been installed in the 10.5 hectare large yard terrain. Moreover, a complete new pressure air system has been fitted with Atlas Copco compressors feeding into the network on various places. Secondly, large parts of the yard terrain where just sand and gravel. In these areas large fields of Stelcon plates have been placed enabling a much better movement of trucks, forklifts and other rolling material. Almost all our terrain is now covered with extra heavy Stelcon floor plates (20ton/sqM). Again, these changes are all done to improve the logistics.

**A complete new look**

First of all the security office at the yard entrance was demolished. The area was turned into a new parking area for visitors. A new gate and entry system was fitted and all around the yard a video surveillance system was installed. A modern system for entry control and security, up to the latest standards, as required more and more by the yard’s clients in the offshore industry. Secondly, various old office buildings and the old yard electricity station where demolished. This, in combination with a complete new plating on the exterior walls of all large halls, gave the yard a complete new look. The old brick buildings now look completely new, with their white plating. The roof of the large pre-fabrication hall has been renewed and many clear roof panels have been fitted to increase the amount of light in the working areas.

The various section build halls where also covered with new plating for walls and roofs. In the roof, polyester panels where installed to increase the amount of natural lighting. Also the electric lighting was renewed and new heaters where purchased for these section build halls. Finally new internal gantry cranes where installed enabling safe, swift and effective lifting capabilities for the section builders.

**Groundbreaking steel cutting machine**

In order to boost production and to introduce a more flexible, integrated process, De Hoop purchased an effective steel cutting machine, with robot arm. Hanko B.U.S., a company specialized in the creation and implementation of customized robotic solutions, developed the software program. Inputs to the program came from the design files; this information is translated into a library of shop floor production files along with the instructions for the robot’s own control system; then the parts are automatically marked and cut with laser-sharp precision. In addition, the program controls the 3-axis movements of the gantry as well as the extraction system that removes the dust and fumes.

**Latest development: De Hoop Shiprepair**

A few months ago, Shipyard De Hoop expanded their business by De Hoop Shiprepair. The old customs harbor was dredged and De Hoop acquired a large pontoon, which has been converted to act as a base and warehouse for the repair activities. The idea behind De Hoop Shiprepair is to provide a “one stop shop” for all service and repair works on river cruise vessels as well as on day passenger vessels. In Europe, the cruise market has multiplied. In the winter, all these vessels require maintenance. In 2011, 15 vessels will already make use of the new service of De Hoop Shiprepair.

**Shipyard De Hoop, *designers & builders since 1889.***

Each investment had its own particular goal. Overall, the improvements make the yard look more organized and tidier. As a result of this, it has a positive effect on the workforce’s moral and the way of working. The yard is ready for the future and able to offer fast delivery times, a high level of flexibility and good quality.

Enclosed the article and photographs.

For questions and / or high resolution photographs, please contact Annemarie Janssens-Voorn, Marketing-Communication Manager, M +31 (0)6 30302407.



Shipyard De Hoop Lobith
Bijlandseweg 17-19, 6916 BH Tolkamer
P.O. Box 12, 6916 ZG Tolkamer
The Netherlands

P +31 (0)316 541641, F +31 (0)316 542322
Lobith@dehoop.net
[www.dehoop.net](http://www.dehoop.net/)

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