

News Release

1 November 2006

Global Marine's Sovereign powers ahead with Estlink power cable installation

Global Marine's Sovereign completed the Beatrice Wind Farm demonstrator installation project in Scotland and moved straight onto the Finland to Estonia power cable installation for the Estlink project

Chelmsford, UK: Global Marine Systems Limited has completed a power cable installation project between Finland and Estonia for ABB, a global leader in power and automation technologies, as part of the Estlink project¹. Estlink will supply the Nordic electricity market with electricity generated in the Baltics and create a competitive power market between the two regions.

ABB's Estlink cable, manufactured in Karlskrona, will provide a reliable and secure power supply between Helsinki, Finland and Talin, Estonia. It is also one of the biggest installation projects Global Marine has worked on in the Baltic States and a 'first' for Global Marine; simultaneously installing 2 bundled cables, utilising purpose built loading arms, trackway and a 5 metre chute.

Sovereign, one of the most advanced off-shore engineering ships in the world, with a 100 tonne underroll winch, a 10 tonne handling crane and a synchronized 6-wheel pair of cable engines for parallel laying, installed the two 77 km high-voltage power cables at various depths. The burial depth requirements for the project were quite precise, being not greater than one metre in the main, and not greater than 0.6m in areas where the soils have high thermal conductivity. The installation began in Estonia and after negotiating the narrow Finnish archipelago Sovereign arrived in Finland. Throughout the project "touchdown" monitoring, using the underwater Inspection ROV Super Mohawk, was used to ensure the power cables were laid at the correct tension avoiding seafloor obstacles. As previously mentioned, the load and lay operations were conducted using two purpose built 17 metre static tank loading arms, each radio controlled for synchronised pay out. Using loading arms for this type of power cable installation was a totally new concept for ABB, Parkburn Precision Handling Systems Ltd (the loading arm manufacturer) and Global Marine.

There were some testing times, namely the discovery of a number of ordnances situated extremely close to the installed route. However, the Global Marine crew, led by Captain Simon Hibberd, responded admirably to all of the unexpected challenges. In between the installation and burial operations, the Ships' Captain and Project Manager Chris Berridge also found the time to conduct a ships' tour for journalists of Eesti Päevaleht, Estonia's national newspaper. A full report and photographs of their visit can be found at: <http://www.epl.ee/artikkel/356560>.

The installation project, including testing, was completed on 11th October 2006.

After a competitive tender process, Global Marine was selected by ABB on the basis of its experience in the power installation market and its leading edge installation and burial technology. "Global Marine has extensive experience in the power industry, ranging from oil, gas and electricity through to wind farm installations." said Arne Abrahamsson, Project Manager Estlink HVDC Cable Project at ABB. "This knowledge, coupled with its innovative technology, made us highly confident that our mission critical installation was in safe hands."

Ian Gaitch, Business Manager at Global Marine responsible for Power & Renewables, "Estlink is a hugely exciting project for the Baltic region and further proof of Global Marine's expertise in large scale and complex power cable installation. We are delighted to be a trusted partner of choice to ABB and look forward to further market opportunities in the region."

The case study is available at: <http://www.globalmarinesystems.com/pdfs/estlink.pdf>

- ends -

For more information please contact

Global Marine Systems Limited:

Peter Fitzpatrick/Kathryn Hughes

hbl media

Tel: +44 (0) 207 612 1830

Email: peter@hblmedia.com / kathryn@hblmedia.com

Deborah Bartlett
Marketing & Communications
Global Marine Systems Limited
Tel: +44 (0) 1245 702105
Email: deborah.bartlett@globalmarinesystems.com

Additional information for Editors

1 - The partners in the Estlink project are the three Baltic power utilities — Eesti Energia, Latvenergo, Lietuvos Energija, as well as Pohjolan Voima and Helsingin Energia of Finland.

About Global Marine

Global Marine, an independent marine engineering company, has been in business for well over 150 years and continues to be the pre-eminent provider of submarine cable installation and maintenance services in the world. 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, as well as scientific research, oil, gas, utilities and the renewable energy sector.

Global Marine is headquartered in the United Kingdom with regional offices in the United States and Asia. The company has established strategic alliances with several of the industry's leading companies and has successful Joint Ventures and partnerships with SBSS in China (China Telecom), NTTWE Marine in Japan (NTT) and ICPL in Singapore (SingTel and ACPL).

Global Marine has installed more undersea fibre optic cables than any other operator, and more than 50% of the world's buried fibre-optic cables have been installed by Global Marine. And between 30 and 40% of all subsea cables repairs and maintenance are undertaken by the company.

Learn more at: www.globalmarinesystems.com

About ABB

ABB is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 107,000 people.

Learn more at: www.abb.com