



News Release

1 June 2006

Hibernia Atlantic renews Guardian Maintenance Agreement with Global Marine

Confidence high in Guardian service for mission critical cable network as bandwidth demand across the Atlantic continues to rise

Chelmsford, UK: Hibernia Atlantic, the secure and diverse Trans-Atlantic bandwidth provider, has renewed its Guardian Private Cable Maintenance agreement with Global Marine Systems Limited, the independent market-leading subsea cable installation and maintenance company.

Hibernia Atlantic has been part of Global Marine's Guardian agreement, which provides fibre optic cable owners and operators with maintenance and repair services, since December 2003 and, as industry demand for network capacity grows¹, will continue to benefit from surety of costs and a bespoke maintenance solution.

The Guardian agreement accommodates Hibernia Atlantic's specific operational and technical requests in line with mutually agreed performance metrics, such as a guaranteed rapid response time for maintenance requests. The renewed contract began earlier this month and will run until 2009.

Commenting today, Bjarni K. Thorvardarson, CEO of Hibernia Atlantic said, "We are delighted to continue our strong working relationship with Global Marine and, as the demand for bandwidth rises, Hibernia Atlantic and its customers can have total peace of mind that this mission critical cable network is in safe hands. Global Marine has continued to impress us with its highly professional service, cutting edge technology and impressive fleet of cable ships."

Spanning over 12,000 kilometres, Hibernia Atlantic's Trans-Atlantic Cable System connects the UK to North America by two submarine cables in the North and South Atlantic, and provides European and US customers with direct, secure and high speed transatlantic

connectivity. As part of the Guardian agreement, it will be covered by Global Marine's full time, four vessel Atlantic footprint that is based in the ports of Portland UK, Bermuda and Curaçao.

"Hibernia Atlantic is a key player in the telecommunications market and its decision to remain part of the Guardian programme is further validation of Global Marine's customer first approach to the transatlantic cable maintenance market." concluded Gabriel Ruhan, Managing Director at Global Marine.

- ends -

Notes to Editors:

For more information please contact:

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

Footnotes:


¹According to recent research from TeleGeography Research, a Washington research firm that track global bandwidth usage, the industry raised capacity by about one terabit (a trillion bits) per second to about 5.5 terabits per second last year to meet growing demand for bandwidth across the Atlantic.

Additional information for Editors:

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

Learn more about our Guardian: www.globalmarinesystems.com/guardian.asp

About Hibernia Atlantic:

The Hibernia Atlantic network offers security through diversity. The low-latency cable circuit provides European and US customers with direct trans-Atlantic connectivity at competitive prices, with unparalleled support and service. Hibernia Atlantic's redundant rings between Dublin, Manchester, London, New York, Halifax, Montreal and Boston are the fastest way to communicate across the Atlantic, providing dedicated Ethernet and optical level service up to GigE and 10G wavelengths. With Hibernia's cutting-edge, network technology, enterprise customers, carriers and wholesale customers will now be able to offer reliable, next-generation bundled services to their end-users at affordable prices. Hibernia Atlantic is a private company, established in 2001 by Columbia Ventures Corporation (CVC).

For more information, please visit www.hiberniaatlantic.com