

**News Release**  
16 June 2005

## **Global Marine to Partner with University of Victoria on VENUS Project**

*Long-term study of coastal waters around southern Vancouver Island to provide researchers with improved understanding of the worlds' oceans*

**Chelmsford, UK:** British company, Global Marine Systems Limited and Canadian OceanWorks International have signed a contract with the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, to install a cable and node in Patricia Bay near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in October 2005. The cable is the first stage of the VENUS (Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea) project, an undersea observatory that will provide scientists and the public with around-the-clock biological, oceanographic and geological images and information on coastal waters around southern Vancouver Island. The project is led by the University of Victoria.

"Universities are often at the leading edge of undersea research and this project is a great example of the type of thing which can continue to increase understanding of undersea life." said Dr Phil Hart, Director of Research and Engineering for Global Marine. "Global Marine was selected in part because of our Universal Jointing capabilities as well as our cable laying experience."

"Considering our extensive sub-sea knowledge, and our long history of successful project collaboration with research organisations and various government agencies, we are delighted to be part of this exciting project." said Hart. "We believe Global Marine is ideally suited to both install the node, which is designed and manufactured by OceanWorks, and to connect the node to any sub sea cable the VENUS Project chooses to employ".

Global Marine and OceanWorks were selected by the University of Victoria following a tender. Venus Project Manager Adrian Round said, "Following the competitive process, their bid was viewed as having the most pragmatic solution and really seemed to understand what we needed. We were also attracted to the British/Canadian partnership this would foster."

Historically oceanography has been only possible through short expeditions aboard ships. Research instruments are left at the bottom of the sea for a few weeks and when recovered, the short time series results are analysed ashore. The VENUS Project allows an interface or node with various instruments attached to it to be fitted to a permanently installed cable, and then live results from the seabed can be streamed down the cable direct into scientists' and school-children's PCs over many years. The long time period results which are obtained from this, and other systems of its type which will follow, should reveal detail and information about the oceans which were impossible to obtain using previous methods, leading to improved understanding of processes in the world's oceans.

The Venus Project's first cable installation is due to take place in October 2005.

**For more information on Global Marine please contact:**

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**Additional information for Editors:**

**About Global Marine**

Global Marine has been in business for well over a century and continues to be the pre-eminent provider of submarine cable installation and maintenance services in the world. Since the installation of the first telegraph cables in the 1850s, it has been essential for system owners to produce detailed cable maps to plot the location of a cable on the seabed, keep it maintained and ensure that information is regularly updated.

Global Marine has remained at the forefront of cable installation and maintenance ever since. Operating with the world's most advanced 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.

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

Global Marine is at the forefront of data record management and is continually developing new technology to meet the needs of the submarine cable industry. Its developments in state of the art geographical information systems and computer mapping technology play a vital part in the drive for greater system security.

**Learn more at:**

[www.globalmarinesystems.com](http://www.globalmarinesystems.com)

[www.venus.uvic.ca](http://www.venus.uvic.ca)

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