

MEDIA RELEASE

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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

**FIRST STEEL CUTTING TAKES PLACE AT MANGALIA
SHIPYARD OF DEBMARINE NAMIBIA VESSEL***Damen and Debmarine Namibia formalise partnership*

Damen Shipyards Group and Debmarine Namibia participated in a special steel cutting ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on a new offshore vessel.

At 177 metres (577 feet) long, the new vessel will be slightly larger than the current largest vessel in the Debmarine Namibia fleet, Mafuta. Constructed from a Marin Teknikk design, the MT 6027 will be the most technologically advanced marine diamond recovery vessel in the world. On-board features include a dynamic positioning system (DP2) based on a seven-thruster propulsion system powered by six generators of 3230 eKW each.

This is the first time Debmarine Namibia interacts with Damen as clients, the Mangalia shipyard in Romania has the largest capacity of all Damen's yards, with a total of three graven drydocks up to 60 metres in width and 1.6 km total berthing space.

Damen sales director offshore, Ruud van der Stroom, is thrilled at the opportunity for Damen to apply its expertise at this greater scale. "So far, Damen's newbuild focus has mainly been on standardisation and in-house or own design vessels, along with various types of support and service vessels built for the offshore market," he said. "However, the facilities in Mangalia allow us to respond positively to Debmarine Namibia's newbuild enquiry: an engineered-to-order project with vessel dimensions beyond that built by Damen ever before."

After an intensive and very constructive tender process, Damen was able to secure the contract with Debmarine Namibia and has since been working on design completion and on preparation of the Mangalia yard for the vessel's construction. In terms of progress, Mr van der Stroom adds, "This week we reached a first milestone: steel cutting. We are looking forward to the construction of this vessel, a challenging project I'm convinced Damen, with its extensive expertise and knowledgeable personnel, will successfully deliver on time."

Michael Curtis, head of the AMV3 vessel project for De Beers Marine South Africa, sees the new vessel order as a harbinger for potential future collaboration. "We were already well aware of Damen's reputation as a reliable, efficient shipbuilder," says Mr Curtis, "and we are pleased to contract Damen to build this vessel for us after successfully winning a global tender for the construction of the vessel. De Beers Marine South Africa will construct the mission equipment, comprising a subsea crawler and diamond recovery plant, in South Africa in parallel to the vessel construction. Once the vessel is delivered by Damen, it will be sailed to South Africa where the mission equipment will be integrated into the vessel by De Beers Marine South Africa. Given the

parallel path and complexity of the project, it is critical to work with the best shipbuilders who have a reputation for performance and on-time delivery.”

The steel cutting ceremony marks the beginning of construction on the vessel, which will take around two years to build. Damen Shipyards Mangalia will deliver the vessel platform in Mangalia and the vessel will sail on its own keel to Cape Town, South Africa. After the integration of the mission equipment in Cape Town, the vessel is expected to deliver first diamond production in Q2 2022.

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ABOUT DEBMARINE NAMIBIA

Debmarmine Namibia is a joint venture marine diamond prospecting and mining company, owned in equal shares by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and De Beers Group. Debmarmine Namibia commenced operations in January 2002 and mines off the southern coast of Namibia. The company operates five diamond mining vessels and one exploration and sampling vessel, the mv SS Nujoma. The mining vessels mine diamonds off the ocean floor using highly advanced drill technology, supported with sophisticated tracking, positioning and surveying equipment. Debmarmine Namibia is ISO 14001, ISM and OHSAS 18001 certified, in line with its commitment to safety and environmental management. Debmarmine Namibia is a recognised world leader in marine diamond exploration and mining technology.

ABOUT DAMEN SHIPYARDS GROUP

Damen Shipyards Group operates 36 shipbuilding and repair yards, employing 12,000 people worldwide. Damen has delivered more than 6,500 vessels in more than 100 countries and delivers around 175 vessels annually to customers worldwide. Based on its unique, standardised ship-design concept Damen is able to guarantee consistent quality.

Damen’s focus on standardisation, modular construction and keeping vessels in stock leads to short delivery times, low ‘total cost of ownership’, high resale values and reliable performance. Furthermore, Damen vessels are based on thorough R&D and proven technology.

Damen offers a wide range of products, including tugs, workboats, naval and patrol vessels, high speed craft, cargo vessels, dredgers, vessels for the offshore industry, ferries, pontoons and superyachts.



A NAMIBIA DE BEERS PARTNERSHIP

For nearly all vessel types Damen offers a broad range of services, including maintenance, spare parts delivery, training and the transfer of (shipbuilding) know-how. Damen also offers a variety of marine components, such as nozzles, rudders, winches, anchors, anchor chains and steel works.

Damen Shiprepair & Conversion (DSC) has a worldwide network of eighteen repair and conversion yards of which twelve are located in North West Europe. Facilities at the yards include more than 50 floating (and covered) drydocks, including the longest, 420 x 80 metres, and the widest, 405 x 90 metres, as well as slopes, ship lifts and indoor halls. Projects range from the smallest simple repairs through Class' maintenance to complex refits and the complete conversion of large offshore structures. DSC completes around 1,300 repair and maintenance jobs annually, both at yards as well as in ports and during voyage.

