

Press release - 31 May 2008

## **WELL ENHANCER launched at IHC Krimpen Shipyard**



*artist's impression of the WELL ENHANCER*

On Saturday 31 May 2008 Well Intervention/Diving Support/Offshore Construction vessel WELL ENHANCER was launched at the IHC Merwede Shipyard, IHC Krimpen Shipyard in Krimpen aan den IJssel, the Netherlands. The vessel is being under construction for Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. based in Houston, USA. Before launching the WELL ENHANCER was named by Mrs. Nikki Morrice, spouse of Mr. Bill Morrice, Vice President of Well Ops, the company that will operate the vessel. Well Ops is a subsidiary of Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc.

The WELL ENHANCER has been developed by IHC Krimpen Shipyard based on the successful IHC Merwede Type 22 series of vessels. This particular Type 22 has been further enhanced in close cooperation with Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. She will be a fully dynamically positioned Well Intervention/Diving Support/Offshore construction Vessel for operations worldwide.

### **Developments at IHC Krimpen Shipyard**

Since December 2007 IHC Krimpen Shipyard fully owns her construction hall including the surrounding area south of the yard's entrance. In 2008 an investment programme was launched which will result in a new outfitting quay, an additional 23 x 90m hall for a panel assembly line and a flexible unit building to accommodate yard's offices, suppliers and sub-contractors.

The prospects for IHC Krimpen Shipyard are good. The order book is filled with four vessels for Hornbeck Offshore services, Helix Energy Solutions, Seaway Heavy Lifting and Subsea 7. The outfitting quay is fully booked until end of June 2010.



### **Profile Helix Energy Solutions Inc.**

Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc. (Helix) is a leading marine contractor and operator of offshore oil and gas properties and production facilities.

The company seeks to align the interest of the producer and the contractor by investing in mature offshore oil and gas properties, hub production facilities and proven undeveloped reserves where Helix adds value by deploying vessels from its diverse contracting fleet. This unique integration of marine contracting and oil and gas operations is designed to add stability to revenues and earnings in an industry as cyclical as energy.

### **Profile IHC Merwede**

IHC Merwede is focused on the continuous development of its design and construction activities for the specialised shipbuilding sector, in particular the dredging and offshore industries.

IHC Merwede is world market leader in the construction of specialist dredging equipment and complex custom-built offshore vessels. The clients of IHC Merwede include major dredging companies, oil and gas exploration groups, offshore contractors and government authorities.

IHC Merwede has a staff of approximately 2,200 at its locations in the Netherlands. There are also branches in China, India, the Middle East, Nigeria, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

### **Note for the editor, not for publication**

For more information on IHC Merwede please contact:

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#### **Links**

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

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

#### **Pictures**

Pictures will be available under the topic "news" on our website [www.ihcmerwede.com](http://www.ihcmerwede.com) as from Monday 2 June 2008

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## **Appendix – additional information**

The WELL ENHANCER features a well intervention system for offshore oil and gas subsea well intervention work up to a depth of 3,000 meter through a dedicated working moonpool. This system is capable of handling 150 tons through a heave compensated hoisting mechanism. The working moonpool may be closed at the bottom when not in use.

The vessel also has an eighteen man capacity saturation diving system for dive operations rated to 300 meter water depth. 4 (four) dive decompression chambers and 2 (two) dedicated dive moonpools have been installed. Sub-sea operations may be supported by two work-class remote operated vehicles launched over the side.

For offshore construction a 100-tons crane is available which can be operated through the working moonpool or over the side of the hull up to depth of 600 meter.

### **Principal characteristics of WELL ENHANCER**

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Length overall                       | 131.70 metres     |
| Length between PP, on design draught | 117.70 metres     |
| Breadth moulded                      | 22.00 metres      |
| Depth main deck moulded              | 9.50 metres       |
| Draught design moulded               | 6.25 metres       |
| Draught scantling moulded            | 6.75 metres       |
| Deadweight at design draught         | 6,750 metric tons |
| Accommodation                        | 120 persons       |

The vessel will be built in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of Det Norske Veritas, to obtain the following notations and description:  
The vessel will also comply with the Rules and Regulations of the MCA, United Kingdom.