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Jack-up vessel *Seafox 5* departs Damen Verolme Rotterdam ready for the next generation of wind turbines

The 151-metre, self-propelled, DP2 jack-up rig *Seafox 5* has left the Damen Verolme Rotterdam (DVR) shipyard following a four-month refit in which the boom of its main crane was lengthened to prepare it for a new contract, along with a range of maintenance and other upgrade works. *Seafox 5* is now equipped to undertake offshore wind projects involving the next generation of larger wind turbines in water depths of up to 65 metres.

Delivered in 2012, *Seafox 5* is owned and operated by jack-up specialist Seafox BV; the world's largest offshore jack-up ASV / offshore support company. 151 metres long and with a breadth of 50 metres, she is the largest vessel in the Seafox fleet and has a 1,200 tonne main crane and accommodation for up to 150 personnel. Her arrival at DVR in September last year marked her first time in drydock since her initial delivery.

The primary reason for the visit was to lengthen the main boom of her Liebherr crane. This will enable her to fulfil an upcoming contract with GeoSea to install 66 six-megawatt wind turbines at the Merkur wind farm off the coast of Germany. While she was alongside, a series of other works were undertaken including a special periodic survey, testing the jacking system up to 70-metres above sea level, renewing the leg guide wear plates, installing a secondary Sormec crane and a repaint.

Seafox 5 Rig manager Alex Eijgenraam commented: "Seafox 5's call at the Damen Verolme yard marked a busy and intense period for Seafox 5, its crew and office project team. However, all the scheduled works were completed on time and without incident. Seafox 5 left the yard as good as new and ready for her next assignment for the offshore wind industry. The long experience of Damen Verolme with jack up rigs has contributed greatly to this result."

"It was a tight time frame, but we finished on time and to budget," added Mark Heuders, Project Manager at DVR. "The key to success was, as always, preparation and cooperation, with careful planning of lead times for each activity and regular progress meetings. It has once again been a pleasure to work with Seafox."

Damen has a longstanding relationship with Seafox, with the latter's vessels regular visitors to both DVR and Damen Shiprepair Amsterdam. The most recent arrival is the *Seafox 2*, which moored at DVR in the early hours of the 4th of February for some minor maintenance.

Damen Shipyards Group

Damen Shipyards Group operates 33 shipbuilding and repair yards, employing 9,000 people worldwide. Damen has delivered more than 6,000 vessels in more than 100 countries and delivers some 180 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.

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, anchors, anchor chains and steel works.

Damen Shiprepair & Conversion (DSC) has a worldwide network of sixteen repair and conversion yards of which twelve are located in North West Europe. Facilities at the yards include more than 50 drydocks; conventional, floating and covered, the largest of which is 420 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 1,350 repair and maintenance jobs annually, both at the yards as well as in ports and while vessels are at sea.

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