



a Dubai World company

*For Immediate Release*

## **HRH Crown Prince Haakon reaffirms Norway's maritime ties with Drydocks World**

High level Norwegian delegation visits Dubai yard, lauds technological excellence

**Dubai, 14 April 2010** – Drydocks World – Dubai, the region's largest ship repair, conversion and newbuilding yard and the flag ship operation of Drydocks World Group, today received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and a high level government delegation accompanying him.

Senior officials of Drydocks World welcomed Prince Haakon and his entourage. The visit came as part of the Crown Prince's official trip to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha. Talks focused on Dubai's long standing relations with the Norwegian maritime industry. According to Dubai World's Statistics Department, the overall trade between Norway and Dubai in 2009 was valued at Dhs1.25 billion.

The delegation also included His Excellency Trond Giske, Minister of Trade and Industry and Her Excellency Ase Elin Bjerke, Ambassador of Norway to the UAE. A number of senior officials from various ministries and departments were part of the entourage.

The dignitaries later visited the yard's world class facilities and took an on-board tour of Polarcus Asima, the third 3-D seismic vessel by Norwegian design currently being built at the yard.

The Crown Prince expressed his appreciation for Drydocks World – Dubai's commitment to excellence. He was keen to see how the shipyard made use of Norway's state of the art maritime technology in ship building. Crown Prince Haakon Magnus said: "Drydocks World

has impressive new building, repair and conversion facilities at its Dubai yard and I am hopeful that this visit will help cement Norway's ties with the UAE and lead to further cooperation between both countries in marine projects including the exchange of modern technology in maritime transport to make it safer and cleaner.”



Hamed Bin Lahej, Regional CEO MEINA, Drydocks World said, “The visit by Crown Prince Haakon and the other Norwegian leaders was an important occasion for us. It showed Norway’s high regard for Drydocks World - Dubai shipyard and its role in facilitating strong bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries. Drydocks World – Dubai has for long been associated with the Norwegian maritime industry. This visit provided us with an opportunity to showcase the latest developments at the yard, including our expanded newbuilding capabilities such as in the building of the most advanced seismic vessels.”

Polarcus Asima, now undergoing final touches, is the third in a series of six seismic vessels being built at the yard for Polarcus, the leading marine geophysical company based in Dubai. The first two units, Nadia and Naila, have already been delivered and deployed for operation.

Like its predecessors, the double-hulled, DP2 class ‘Polarcus Asima’ incorporates many features to enhance performance with improved safety and comfort elements while ensuring minimum emissions. The 12 streamer vessel has Ulstein SX134 design and is purpose-built

for high-end 3D marine seismic operations, as well as being one of the most advanced and environment friendly vessels built.

Almost all key Norwegian companies have used the services of Drydocks World – Dubai for ship repair, offshore construction, conversion and new building. Apart from the landmark 16,500 tonne semi-submersible rig hulls constructed for Aker Solutions a couple of years ago, Drydocks World – Dubai is building eight ultra-modern and highly sophisticated seismic vessels – six for Polarcus. The yard continues to receive vessels from key ship owners such as Frontline, Siem Offshore, Westfal-Larsen and Opstad Shipping. Drydocks World – Dubai has repair agreements with Frontline Management As and Western Geco AS and received a series of vessels from both companies during 2009-2010.

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#### About Drydocks World

Drydocks World, a Dubai World company, is one of the most prominent names in the maritime industry. Over the past 25 years, Drydocks World has established itself as a leading, and fast growing international player in ship repair, shipbuilding, rig building, FPSO conversion, offshore fabrication and fleet operations with facilities in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Drydocks World's flagship facility, Drydocks World - Dubai is the largest, cutting edge ship repair, conversion and new building facility between Europe and the Far East.

The yard's strategic geographic location, advanced technologies and well-resourced workshops have made it the preferred facility for local and international maritime companies. The 200 hectares facility has direct access to the sea, through a 350-metre wide entrance channel. Its three graving docks can handle any existing or planned size type of vessel, supplemented with a 15,000 tonnes floating dock and 3,100 metres of repair berths in the main yard.

For more information, please refer to [www.drydocks.gov.ae](http://www.drydocks.gov.ae)

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