



DEME

Dredging, Environmental
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Joint research effort from DEME and IHC Merwede to optimise dredging performance

The Belgian contractor DEME (Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering) and IHC Merwede are engaged in the joint development of a unique model for forecasting the condition of dredging equipment on board dredgers. The model will generate maintenance information as support for decisions about predictive maintenance. It is therefore a major step forward in terms of enhancing the availability of equipment.

The project is unique, as it combines DEME's excellent operational and technological knowledge with IHC Merwede's knowledge and worldwide experience as an original equipment manufacturer (OEM). The aim is to develop a unique, customised forecasting model that will optimise the availability of the equipment throughout the DEME fleet. The challenge is how to determine and monitor the wear process in the mixture-transporting equipment. It is known that wear is highly dependent on the type of soil and the specific dredging approach, and that this variation normally precludes predictions. So the challenge is clear. The project will start in a single DEME dredger before the results are rolled out to the entire fleet.

Technical specialists of different disciplines, within DEME and IHC Merwede, participate in this long-term research project. The project also includes the delivery of a computerised Condition-Based Maintenance System. This system collects measurement data, and exchanges them with data from operational administrative systems and with the integrated monitoring and control system. It also contains the models that have already been set up but that will be moving into the joint development process. It regulates online data exchanges between the ship and a remote office, allowing for rapid responses and online remote upgrading of the models.

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. IHC Merwede is also recognised as an outstanding builder of complex, custom-built vessels for offshore construction. The clients of IHC Merwede include major dredging companies, oil and gas exploration groups, offshore contractors and government authorities.

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Profile DEME

The Belgian group Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering (DEME) is one of the world's largest contracting groups in the area of dredging works, environmental projects and hydraulic engineering. The group has a workforce of 3,500 and is active on all five continents.

DEME owns one of the most modern and versatile fleets in the sector and has a continuous programme of investments, research and innovation. The group operates through different subsidiaries, which include Dredging International. At present, the DEME companies are engaged simultaneously in more than 60 projects worldwide.

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