

## **Global Marine Systems and A.P. Moller/Maersk Supply Service Agree to Strategic Arrangement for Provision of Cable Ships**

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**London** – Global Marine Systems Limited, the world's leading submarine cable installation and maintenance company, has concluded an eight year agreement with A. P. Moller of Denmark for the long term provision of four new cable ships currently being built by Maersk in its shipyard at Volkswerft Stralsund, Germany.

Agreement has also been reached for a fifth, existing vessel, the Maersk Forwarder, which was built in 1992 and modified for cable laying duties earlier this year at the Frederica Shipyard, Denmark.

The first of the four ships currently under construction will come into service in August 2000 and will be followed by the remaining three vessels at approximately six week intervals thereafter. The Maersk Forwarder will join the Global Marine Systems' fleet in early 2000.

The four vessels currently under construction have been specifically designed to meet the market's increasing requirements for positioning and burial capability. Each vessel will be capable of carrying in excess of 6,000 tonnes of cable, will have a bollard pull of up to 100 tonnes and will be capable of deploying the next generation of sub-sea ploughs. Each will be able to accommodate a 60-strong crew.

Global Marine Systems will provide the cable working expertise - expected to create a significant number of new cable handling and cable engineering jobs - and A.P. Moller will provide the marine crew and vessel management.

"This is a landmark deal where the leaders from the submarine cable industry and the shipping industry have joined forces to provide state of the art, cost effective tonnage to a growing but changing market," explains Dave Skentelbery, Global Marine System's director, operational facilities and Asia Pacific.

"In recent months many customers have asked how we plan to meet their demand for tonnage. This deal represents a significant investment in our future. It gives us the capacity we need to target new business whilst demonstrating our commitment to meet the on-going needs of both new and existing customers."

Skentelbery's comments are echoed by Tage Bundgaard, executive vice president of A.P. Moller, who said the deal marks "the start of an important co-operation where we leverage the best out of two marine companies to provide an ever improving service to the end customer."

Visit Global Marine Systems on the World Wide Web at [www.globalmarinesystems.com](http://www.globalmarinesystems.com).

Visit A.P. Moller at <http://www.maersk.com> or [www.maersksupply.com](http://www.maersksupply.com) on the World Wide Web.

### **ABOUT GLOBAL MARINE SYSTEMS**

Global Marine Systems is the world leader in the installation and maintenance of submarine telecommunications cable systems. The company owns and operates the world's largest, most advanced fleet of cable ships and subsea vehicles: 15 cable ships, 3 installation barges and 22

submersible vehicles Global Marine Systems, a unit of Global Crossing Ltd. (NASDAQ: GBLX), has a worldwide workforce of 1,200 people, based in more than ten countries.

**ABOUT A.P. MOLLER**

The A.P. Moller Group, whose headquarters are at Esplanaden, Copenhagen, has more than 40,000 employees and 320 offices in 95 countries around the world. The A.P. Moller fleet comprises about 150 vessels with a total deadweight of about 7,000,000 tons and includes container vessels, tankers, bulk and special vessels, supply ships and drilling rigs. Besides shipping, the A.P. Moller Group is engaged in exploration for and production of oil and gas, shipbuilding, aviation, industry, supermarkets and EDP services.

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