



PRESS RELEASE

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-OPENS-

- BURGESS MARINE ACQUIRES MEERCAT WORKBOATS -

Britain's largest independent ship repairer, [Burgess Marine](#), has successfully acquired 100% of the share capital in [Meercat Workboats Ltd](#). Meercat, based in Portchester, currently builds custom road transportable multi-role workboats up to 18m in length; with plans to expand into both Class approved vessels and aluminium wind farm support vessels the company has appointed Mr Jason Coltman as Managing Director.

Burgess Marine is already building two wind farm support vessels for [Mainprize Offshore Ltd](#); the company will complete these builds and then launch the two new vessels as Meercats. Subject to berth availability the firms' intent is to exhibit the first of these two new vessels at [Seawork](#) in 2015.

Mr Nicholas Warren, Burgess Marine's Managing Director comments: "the acquisition of Meercat is very much in line with our plans for longer-term strategic growth - Meercat builds boats, Burgess Marine repairs ships, and Trafalgar Yacht Management manages Yachts. Our intent is to develop Meercat by gradually expanding the company's product range and facilities - we're looking at barges, canal tugs, larger Class approved workboats and the potential for further 'Sure Build' style aluminium builds".

In respect to 'Sure Build' Nicholas goes on to say "the 'Sure Build' concept has been very well received by the offshore wind farm industry - the customers love it. Yes its low margin, but from our perspective it's also very low risk and completely safe from the customers side. 'Sure Build' really suits the WFSV market as so many customers have had their fingers burned. In terms of core business Meercat will keep doing exactly what it's always done - building great, practical and bespoke multi-role workboats on a fixed price basis. Why change what works?"

Jason Coltman, Meercat's Managing Director comments: "since the acquisition we've contracted one 14m new build to [Dawnfresh Farming Ltd](#) and we're in the final stages of agreeing a Canal Tug contract too. Business remains brisk and we're very much looking forward to the future. From a fiscal perspective being part of Burgess definitely helps; that said we're very much our own entity and we're intent on building both our own brand and our position within the market."

-ENDS-

Burgess Marine

Burgess Marine is at the forefront of the specialised marine engineering industry, having earned a worldwide reputation as experts in all aspects of structural repairs and renewals as well as mechanical repairs both above and below the waterline.

With workshops and offices in Dover, Portsmouth, Portchester, Southampton, Poole, Avonmouth, Devonport and within STP Palma the business is ideally located not only to support the UK's largest passenger ports, but also shipping in general throughout the busy English Channel and Superyacht's based in Mallorca.

From its head office in Dover, Burgess Marine also provides highly skilled teams capable of carrying out planned refits and emergency works worldwide, having worked extensively throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Far East, North America, South America and the Caribbean.

The combined marine engineering experience of the Directors and Technical Management within Burgess Marine exceeds some 250 years; it is this level of knowledge and experience, together with complete commitment, that gives customers total peace of mind and Burgess Marine the leading edge.

Burgess Marine is an ISO 9001:2008 British Standards Institute accredited company and holds 'DNV Approved Supplier' status; the company is also a full member of the Association of Diving Contractors. [Click here](#) to view all accreditations and policies.

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