



PRESS RELEASE

-OPENS-

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**- BURGESS MARINE ACQUIRES SMALL & CO
MARINE ENGINEERING, LOWESTOFT -**

Britain's largest independent ship repairer, [Burgess Marine](#), has today completed the acquisition of [Small & Co Marine Engineering](#), Lowestoft. The business operates a 76.5m x 14.5m dry dock and a 70m layby berth strategically located on the East Anglian coast in the ABP owned and operated [Port of Lowestoft](#).

This transaction represents the first acquisition post [RJD Partners](#) investment in Burgess Marine in January of this year. Financial details of the transaction are undisclosed.

Small & Co. employs circa 50 full time staff and is a major marine engineering force in the ship repair industry not only in the North Sea and East Anglia, but also further afield across the Thames Estuary and the East Coast.

Nicholas Warren, the Managing Director of Burgess Marine comments: *"we've been working on this transaction for many, many months and it's great to finally get it across the line. We're prepared to make a long-term investment in this business and in this port; we're looking for a long-term lease from ABP and we're looking forward to securing the longevity of the yard, the business and the team that's employed here"*.

He goes on to say: *"whilst on paper this is an acquisition it is in all reality a merger. We're going to integrate the Smalls team into the Burgess team, and we're taking the best bits of both businesses. Moreover this is a major strategic step in creating the UK's first national ship repair network. We're now 9 sites here in the UK from East Anglia to the Bristol Channel - we cover HM Naval Base Devonport, Avonmouth, Poole, Marchwood, Southampton, Portchester, HM Naval Base Portsmouth, Dover and now Lowestoft"*.

He concludes by saying: *"I'm personally both proud and honoured to be working with Paul Kirby and Paul Harper, and their team in Lowestoft - the business is fantastic, well-run, well established and we can't wait to get started"*.

Both Paul and Paul will be staying within the Burgess Marine Lowestoft business for the foreseeable future.

Paul Kirby, the Joint Manager Director of Small & Co. comments: *"by merging with Burgess Marine we're not only protecting the business that we've work tirelessly to create we've gone a long way in securing the jobs and the future prosperity of the team that we've built up. This merger is good for both the business and the town"*. Paul Harper goes on to say: *"by working with Burgess Marine we're keen to bring more ships into the port and bring more work into the yard; it's been busy and it's going to get busier"*.

ABP Director Short Sea Ports Andrew Harston said: *“We look forward to working with Burgess Marine as they merge with Small & Co Marine Engineering, who have been a long-time tenant at the Port of Lowestoft. Their investment is a vote of confidence in the town and by providing the company with a long-term lease, it reaffirms our commitment to our customers, the future of the port and the community of Lowestoft”.*

He goes on to say: *“ABP is dedicated to keeping Britain trading, and with Burgess Marine’s commitment to creating the first national ship repair network, it is just one of the ways we are achieving this with our East Anglian ports”.*

-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, Marchwood, Poole, Avonmouth, Devonport, Lowestoft 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 United Kingdom 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.

Website: www.burgessmarine.co.uk

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