Babcock awarded De Beers Marine contract

UK-based Babcock International, a leader in the aerospace and defence sectors, has been awarded a contract by De Beers Marine (a business unit of the De Beers Group) to undertake design development activity in support of the planned upgrade to the power and propulsion system on the offshore diamond vessel mv !Gariep.

The vessel is owned and operated by Debmarine Namibia – a joint venture offshore marine diamond prospecting and exploration company owned in equal shares by De Beers and the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Babcock has been a trusted supplier to the De Beers Group for a number of years. The design development activity, which will take place from Babcock's engineering office in Rosyth, UK, will support modifications to the vessel system to allow the physical and functional integration of new generating plants, a new electrically driven propulsion system and the necessary changes to support auxiliary, structural and control systems.

With a bespoke team leading the work, Babcock will utilise its engineering, naval architecture and project management expertise to provide the design documentation required to complete the upgrade of the mv !Gariep.

Sean Donaldson, Managing Director for Babcock at Rosyth, said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this contract by De Beers Marine South Africa and look forward to starting another engineering package of work for this important client.

"A team from our 560 experienced engineering and design resources will work to complete the vessel survey in South Africa and then complete the programme critical engineering and design for this re-engineering project from our new state-of-the-art engineering hub at Rosyth."

The offshore diamond recovery vessel has previously undergone a number of conversion stages including a hull extension upgrade and multiple recovery equipment upgrade programmes. It is anticipated that the design work will be complete by November 2019.

In the United Kingdom Babcock has been providing complex asset management and training to navies, air forces and specialised emergency and rescue services for decades, with projects that extend across land, air, water and nuclear. Internationally Babcock is the United Kingdom's leading naval support business, having worked closely with the Royal Navy and Ministry of Defence for decades.

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