



Below: The Multi-Purpose Elevated Transport unit being delivered.



Key projects and relationships boost fabrication orders

Belmet Marine is currently fabricating products for long-term clients who continue to use the yard for key projects in the offshore market.

"We are busy building our second subsea crawler for De Beers Marine," says managing director, Pieter Kroon adding that the first crawler was commissioned in December last year and is currently in use by the diamond mining company. The second unit will be completed during June before being commissioned by the company.

In addition, following the successful delivery of a multi-purpose elevated transport (MPET) unit 18 months ago for Hampco, Belmet recently received an order for a multi-purpose cart due for completion during July this year.

Kroon explains that, although also designed by Hampco, the order for the unit was placed by Samsung Shipyard in Korea and will be delivered to the shipyard for installation on board a newbuild drillship for Pacific Drilling.

"It will be fabricated here, tested here and delivered to Samsung Shipyard," says Kroon who adds that the 100-ton unit will be load tested to 1200 ton before leaving Cape Town and must therefore adhere to very stringent specifications as well as quality parameters as stipulated by DNV.

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Fabrication of the unit is mainly in S355 grade steel that has been impacted tested to -40° C. While some of the steel was brought in already certified, a quantity had to undergo external testing at approved labs.

Final load testing of the unit will be undertaken in conjunction with Origen and include a training element that will provide practical experience for students from the University of Stellenbosch.

Explaining the process, Kroon says that strain gauges will simulate a 1200-ton load using 250 hydraulic jacks to ensure that the strains registered on the gauges correspond with the final element analysis specifications for the specific load.

Kroon confirms that the project is on schedule for delivery at the end of July.

Market outlook

Despite a relatively flat fabricating market locally, Belmet has continued to remain busy. Kroon ascribes this to their ability to offer a full turnkey solution to clients from surveying to fabrication as well as onsite installation.

He adds that the joint venture riser business with 3C Metal has also helped maintain activity levels for the company.

With a number of projects scheduled for the coming months, he believes the tendency for business to pick up in the last quarter of the year is likely to continue in 2013. "Going forward we hope to see the workshops full; develop Namibia further and hopefully see our first Ghana contract," says Kroon.

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Belmet is a diversified steel fabricator operating in the oil and gas, diamond mining, mineral processing and marine industries in both the local and international markets. We provide steel fabrication of offshore structures for the oil and gas industry for, amongst others, rigs, drill ships and subsea structures as well as high pressure piping and general fabrication work. Belmet also handles general engineering, equipment rental and project management services for a growing base of international customers.

"We hope to get our first contract in Ghana in the near future," says Managing Director, Pieter Kroon adding that they are currently awaiting adjudication on two projects.

Pursuing opportunities for growth in Africa

Belmet Marine is actively pursuing growth in the African markets and, since establishing a presence in Ghana and Namibia, is poised to take advantage of projects as they happen.

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It is a strategy that aims to see the company expand in relation to the development in these areas. Pieter Kroon, managing director of Belmet Marine, says that the aggressive port development by the government of Namibia highlights the country's commitment to fostering growth in the maritime sectors.

Prompted by these positive indicators, Belmet Marine has invested in new machinery for their Walvis Bay-based workshop and purchased an adjacent erf to accommodate further expansion of the Namibian facility. According to Kroon the expansion is already in the design phase.

Although currently also accommodating industrial-related projects at their Namibian base, it is the development of the harbour and the prospects associated with this that Kroon believes will drive the future success of the facility.

"It is encouraging to see the transparency within Namport with regard to their development and how they interact with industry," says Kroon adding that exciting short, medium and long-term plans make it viable to make educated business

decisions for investment.

Namport's plans include the significant reclamation of land to create additional container capacity as well as the establishment of an offshore oil and gas service hub. In addition to this a third floating drydock is being introduced and indications are that there is space for up to three additional docks in the foreseeable future.

Even longer-term plans suggest a completely new harbour providing additional scope for servicing the offshore sector.

With an office in Ghana, Belmet Marine is fully registered with the Ghana National Petroleum Company (GNPC) and Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, and is already receiving enquiries for projects.

"We hope to get our first contract in Ghana in the near future," says Kroon adding that they are currently awaiting adjudication on two projects. At this stage any production would be handled between the Cape Town and Walvis Bay facilities with final assembly and commissioning being undertaken in Ghana.

Describing one of the potential projects in Ghana, Kroon highlights that it would include a training component. "This would be similar to the training we offered to Angolans in our training facility during a contract on the *Subsea* project," says Kroon adding that the trained-up group would form the core for final commissioning in Ghana.

Further development in their Ghana office will be pursued on the back of future projects in the country.

The Subsea crawler built for DeBeers Marine





Turnkey solution for marine risers

Following a joint venture agreement between Belmet Marine and 3C Metal SA in 2012, the new entity – 3C Belmet Services – has been buoyed by significant investment and offers a turnkey solution for marine risers to the offshore oil and gas sectors.

With 26 000 m² of yard capacity at their disposal, 3C Belmet Services is currently producing risers for the *Marianas*, the *Celtic Sea* and the *Deepwater Millennium*. And, according to the Pieter Kroon, the facility looks set to benefit from additional orders for the remainder of the year indicating that the new entity will see a return in investment.

“The joint venture was initiated after repeated requests from existing clients,” says Kroon adding that the yard was officially secured in August 2012 and the first orders were on the books just a month later. “We have OEM accreditation in place for various OEM’s,” adds Kroon.

Investment in the yard

The yard, situated in Bellville Cape Town, offers five sheds for inspection and coating as well as warehousing space for components. With a complete racking system, there is no need for mobile cranes to move the risers around the yard. In addition two dedicated shotblasting booths cater for risers up to 100 foot and include filter as well as recycling systems. “We have also got all the required testing facilities on site so we can undertake high pressure testing of the risers at source. It is a complete turnkey solution for risers. We offer inspection, dismantling, coating, assembly and repairs as well as any auxiliary work that is required,” explains Kroon.

With a long-term lease as well as first right to purchase the land, the yard has been fully tarred and also features an upgraded electricity supply as well as office facilities for clients and inspection bodies on site.

The establishment of the joint venture also saw the opportunity to work on 40 to 50 riser joints on site at any given time.

