New VLS launched as MDL targets further growth

Maritime Developments continues to go from strength to strength after securing contracts and launching new products.

MDL has introduced to the market a lightweight and more flexible vertical lay system (VLS) which has been well received by clients.

Mike Gaskin, commercial director at MDL, said: “We’ve had an extremely positive response from the market. We now have the full suite of back deck equipment and expertise to deliver projects not only in the North Sea but worldwide.”

As well as securing key projects in the North Sea for international contractors, MDL has expanded in the past year into new markets, including the Gulf of Mexico, Asia/Australia and West Africa.

The company has been awarded further contracts for its innovative 4-track tensioner, which can be installed vertically or horizontally.

It has also clinched a deal in Brazil for a 400-tonne reel drive system. In addition, MDL has secured a repeat order for 10 product handling winches from an international subsea business.

Find out more about MDL and its capabilities, products and services inside the latest edition of our newsletter, or email commercial director, Mike Gaskin on m.gaskin@maritimedevelopments.co.uk
Repeat order success for MDL’s winch systems

Maritime Developments has secured a repeat order for 10 winch systems with an international subsea business.

The winches, ranging from five tonnes to 40 tonnes, will be used for product handling at a number of locations around a new build vessel.

Mike Gaskin, commercial director at MDL, said: “This repeat order for our winches is important as we look to continue to develop this area of the business. The client was delighted with our initial level of service and communication throughout the project. We are expecting additional growth in the next year in this sector of the business.”

As with the previous order, the winches have electric drives and can be operated in either manual, constant tension or render mode and integrate with the vessel’s SCADA (System Control And Data Acquisition) system.
Maritime Developments (MDL) has tripled the size of its Aberdeen office. The company has moved from Spademill Lane in the west end to 1,500sq ft premises on Dee Street in the city centre. The new four-floor office has its own entrance, reception area and car parking. The move will allow Maritime Developments to expand its team from 6 to 12 people in the city.

In late 2012, Maritime Developments announced it had acquired a workshop, office and yard facility next to its 33,000 sq ft base at Wilson Street, Peterhead. The additional space is being used to house its rapidly-expanding electrical services division and testing facilities.

Derek Smith, chief executive officer of Maritime Developments, said: “The expansion of the Aberdeen office is the next step in the growth of MDL. We’ve put the structure in place with a view to growing the business internationally.”

Maritime Developments specialises in the provision of deck equipment solutions for vessels to support the deployment and retrieval of subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines (SURF) for the oil and gas sector.

MDL has a team of 32 across the Aberdeen and Peterhead operations after securing a series of contract wins.

As well as vertical lay systems, tensioners and reel drive systems, Maritime Developments delivers compensators, overboarding chutes, level winders, manifold systems and hydraulic power units (HPUs), control systems and electrical power units, reel under rollers, small turntables, spoolers, radius controllers, small horizontal lay systems, vertical lay systems, product support and service, maintenance and repair, system adaptation and upgrades.

The business, which has its origins in the fishing industry, recently unveiled a new range of 4-tracked tensioners to enhance operational and safety demands for the deepwater market.
A market leader in the delivery of pipelay systems and associated equipment, MDL’s VLS system has several advantages over systems currently on the market.

The MDL system is road transportable; can be assembled on the quayside; can be used with a vessel of opportunity and requires only two lifts onto the vessel, one for the VLS, and the other for the tensioner. This latter benefit allows for smaller, cost effective cranes to be used. Additionally, the innovation is lighter than other systems currently available.

The integrated VLS includes a work platform / moon pool doors; hang-off clamp; a control cabin; tensioner; top chute and HPU (hydraulic power unit) / spares container. The system utilises unique runway beams for straightforward, safer introduction of buoyancy modules and jewellery to the product.

The VLS system is compatible with MDL’s patent-pending 4-track tensioner systems.

Mike Gaskin, commercial director at MDL, said: “We’ve had an extremely positive response from the market place. Our in-house designed and built VLS system gives clients greater control in this important arena of subsea projects.”

“We have the full suite of back-deck equipment and the expertise to deliver projects not only in the North Sea but worldwide. Additionally, beyond its weight benefits, the fact our system is transportable via road is appealing.”

In addition to securing key projects in the North Sea for international contractors, MDL has expanded in the past year into markets such as the Gulf of Mexico, Asia / Australia and West Africa.
Maritime Developments is to highlight its products and services to industry professionals at Offshore Europe 2013.

Visitors will get the chance to test their golfing skills, as MDL’s stand at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre features a mini golf challenge.

Derek Smith, Chief Executive at Maritime Developments, said: “As with the Subsea UK exhibition, Offshore Europe allows us to promote our innovative back-deck solutions to a key audience. The golf is just a bit of fun, but it goes down well with visitors to the stand.”

The stand (4D85) was designed and built by Aberdeen design agency Weave Digital.
Contract secured for three 400-tonne reel drive systems

Maritime Developments is currently manufacturing three 400-tonne reel drive systems for international oil and gas businesses

Two systems are due for delivery by the end of 2013, while the third is due in the summer of next year.

Mike Gaskin, commercial director at MDL, said: “These are significant contracts for the business that again highlight our in-house expertise and capabilities to deliver key projects.”

The MDL reel drive system is road transportable and can be assembled on the quayside.

It features automatic fail-safe clamps, and an automated raising and lowering system which negates working at height. The MDL system also monitors torque on the reel ensuring that the reel, or product, are operated within their design and operational limits.

Continued demand for tensioners

Demand for MDL tensioner systems continues to grow

MDL is currently fabricating a bespoke 15-tonne electric drive tensioner with a hydraulic grip circuit, to be used for the installation of steel pipe. This is the company’s first contract for the West African market.

Additionally, MDL has won two contracts for its patent-pending 4-track tensioners, with two industry leading installation contractors.

MDL has the capability to deliver tensioners with electric drives or hydraulic drives. The 2-track tensioner can be side or top loading, while the 4-track can be used vertically, horizontally or on a ramp.

The 4-track tensioner was unveiled at the Subsea UK exhibition in Aberdeen earlier this year. MDL can deliver tensioners with capacity from three tonnes to 100 tonnes.

Radius Chute for hire

MDL has completed the manufacture of a 3-metre radius chute. This chute is suitable for 50-tonne installation and recovery loads and is available for hire. The chute is hinged allowing it to be swung inboard for transit on reduced freeboard vessels.
MDL has agreed to support Peterhead Academy’s Young Engineers, an after-school club run by teacher Martin Kennett along with Gareth Davies, lecturer in engineering, technology and renewables at Banff and Buchan College.

Pupils of the club - named The Blue Toon Bullets - meet after school every Tuesday to discover more about engineering. It is made up of 12 pupils aged between 12 and 16-years old.

They have been working on the design and build of an electric car for Greenpower - an event which attracted around 650 pupils from schools across Scotland. Peterhead Academy finished 5th out of 22 secondary schools taking part in the Formula 24 challenge. They were also awarded the Best Presented Team honour at the event held at the Grampian Transport Museum in Alford in recognition of their organisation and teamwork on the day.

MDL has supported the Bullets by providing a financial donation and branded overalls for the team.

George Mackintosh, operations director at MDL, said: “Maritime Developments is delighted to support young people with an interest in engineering and finding out how things work. The pupils have been very committed and the car they built was extremely impressive.”

Martin Kennett, technical teacher at Peterhead Academy, said: “We’ve all been delighted by the support from Maritime Developments and our other sponsors. This is has been an exciting project for the school and we hope can continue to encourage pupils to look at design, engineering and manufacturing as a career.”

Back row, from L-R: Jordan Kearney, Marie Cartner (technical teacher at Peterhead Academy), Jamie Buchan, Ian Buchan, Ben Mackintosh, Liam Pirie, Nathan Anderson, Gareth Davies (engineering lecturer at Banff and Buchan College), Hannah Banks, George Mackintosh (operations director at MDL) and Martin Kennett (technical teacher at Peterhead Academy)

Front row, from L-R: Luke Duthie, Nathan Robertson, Jacob Banks and Lee Mackintosh
Growth of electrical division

Maritime Developments’ electrical division continues to grow since being launched at the start of 2013.

The division produces marine electrical equipment such as variable speed drives and SCADA based PLC control systems for the complete range of Maritime Developments products.

Mike Gaskin, commercial director at MDL, said: "We’ve expanded the electrical team with a number of clients requiring electric drives for projects. The growth of the division has been a key part of the overall success of the business.”

As well as working on contracts, the division can provide equipment refurbishments, maintenance, repair and support to MDL clients.

Forward Thinking

Back-Deck Systems

Products
- **Tensioners**: 3 tonnes to 84 tonnes / 2 and 4 track units
- **Reel Drive Systems**: 30T to 500T reel + product
- **Compensators**: Vertical and horizontal
- **Overboarding Chutes**
- **Level Winders**

**Systems & HPUs/EPUs**
- **Manifold Systems & HPUs**
- **Control Systems & EPUs**

**Reel Under Rollers**: up to 400 tonne capacity
- **Small Turntables**: for flying leads / flexible jumpers
- **Spoolers**
- **Radius Controllers**
- **Small HLS / VLS Systems**

**Services**
- **Full life of Product Support / Service**
- **Maintenance and Repair**
- **System Adaption/Upgrades**

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