Maritime Developments’ first portable vertical lay system (PVLS) has set off on its first mission as part of a complete flex-lay package for a global offshore contractor.

The 75-tonne system will support installation of risers and flowlines in a major North Sea development throughout 2015/16. It will work as part of an integrated Maritime Developments spread consisting of a 4-track tensioner and a 350-tonne multiple reel drive system (RDS), as well as horizontal and vertical deck deflectors. “In recent months we have been speaking to our existing and potential clients across the globe about cost-saving options and our portfolio of product handling equipment, in particular our portable vertical lay system,” said Derek Smith, Maritime Developments CEO. “The response we received has been very positive. Our proposed solutions worked as an eye-opener to our commercial and technical audience on the potential returns from using equipment that is smarter, quicker to mobilise and takes up less space.”
New spread cuts vessel mission time

Maritime Developments

PVLS is a portable system used to transport flexible product from carousels or reels to a vertical orientation so that they can be installed over the side of a vessel or through the moon pool.

Thanks to its movable chute, which canfleet by up to 30 degrees, products can be fed into the PVLS from different locations on or below the deck.

The system’s functionality is further increased by a 10-tonne initiation winch, two 5-tonne tugger winches and two 5-tonne trolley hoists on retractable runway beams through the centre of the tower to aid installation of buoyancy modules and ancillary equipment.

The 75-tonne system will be initially run with Maritime Developments’ 50-tonne 4-track tensioner, which forms part of the company’s rental fleet. The patented solution features a unique design allowing two track doors to open when in vertical orientation, minimising the potential damage to the product during handling.

“Our PVLS has met with huge industry interest globally thanks to its unique features that save the operator time and money,” said Derek Smith, Maritime Developments CEO. “The modular design, operability over the stern or side of a vessel and integrated control systems within the body of the tower have been estimated to significantly reduce vessel days of fshore and downtime during mobilisation and demobilisation.

“On top of that, the fact that the solution can be broken down quickly for road transport and reassembled at the quayside in a matter of days has proven extremely popular with our international customers who see the potential of using this single piece of equipment on their global operations.

“Together with our third-generation reel drive system and 4-track tensioner, this package offers an unparalleled value in terms of the overall mission time and therefore project costs.”
Sixth system marks new generation RDS

The latest delivery by Maritime Developments has launched a new generation of reel drive systems (RDS), aiming to reduce vessel mission time.

The 350-tonne third-generation system is the company’s sixth RDS delivered in under two years.

It has joined the company’s rental fleet, which already consists of a 400-tonne RDS and a 50-tonne 4-track tensioner, among others.

The 350Te RDS was delivered as part of the complete pipelaying spread for an industry major to carry out flexible riser installation in a North Sea field this summer.

Following from its second-generation predecessor, the 350Te RDS is a modular reel drive, which is road transportable and can be reassembled at the quayside, before being lifted onto the vessel. It features an automated raising and lowering system which negates working at height.

A unique feature of the third-generation system is its integrated electro-hydraulic power pack, reducing the back-deck footprint taken up by the system.

The RDS is also supplied with tracks with built-in reel cradles and reel rigging pad eyes, eliminating the need for the product to be sea fastened to the deck, which significantly reduces vessel downtime during mobilisation and demobilisation operations.

“As we developed our second-generation RDS we identified a growing demand for more user-friendly product handling equipment in the sub-400-tonne reel weight market,” said Mike Gaskin, Maritime Developments commercial director.

“This new equipment sets us further apart from our competition who are still using first-generation systems.

“The distinct features of the third-generation RDS, including integrated cradles on the tracks, help reduce downtime during mobilisation and sea fastening, without compromising on operational safety. In addition, the built-in power pack reduces the overall footprint taken up by the system, leaving more space on the back deck for other equipment or allowing the use of a smaller vessel.

“This latest system will be an important addition to our growing rental fleet by allowing us to deliver on our promise of adding value to our customer’s projects.”

Other systems delivered to date include four 400-tonne RDS and a 500-tonne system for operations in Mobile, Alabama.
Our assets are the perfect match for your asset.
A carnival atmosphere, complete with simulators, a magician and even an ice-cream van, was the theme of the day as Maritime Developments held a summer staff event. The company welcomed over 90 people to its Wilson Street premises in Peterhead for a well-deserved afternoon away from work, held as a “thank you” to staff members.

It marked the delivery of Maritime Developments’ first complete pipelaying spread, including the first portable vertical lay system (PVLS). “At Maritime Developments we’re fortunate that many of our employees have been with us now for a number of years, while some have been with us since we first started back in 1999,” said the company’s commercial director Mike Gaskin. “The company has grown hugely over that period, particularly in the past few years, but it never lost sight of what made it successful in the first place: its people. "With that in mind our main focus at the staff event was on giving something back to our employees for their hard work and dedication. This hard work allowed us to deliver Maritime Developments’ first complete pipelaying spread with our PVLS. This latest innovation has led to extremely positive feedback from major clients around the world for its ability to maximise operators’ return on investment and reduce mission time offshore. "It wouldn’t have been possible but for the skills and expertise of our team in Aberdeen and Peterhead."
**Upping the tension**

Maritime Developments is developing a new 4-track tensioner to add to its patented portfolio.

The TTS-4/240 is an 85-tonne system for deployment and retrieval of subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines.

The 85-tonne innovation follows the design of the company’s original 50-tonne 4-track tensioner, patented in 2014. It has been developed to address an increased requirement for the solution in overseas markets.

Joining its range of 2- and 4-track tensioners, the TTS-4/240 will be a mid-range unit, with a 130-tonne model following early next year. The solution features caterpillar tracks fitted with V-shaped pads which operate by gripping the product between the opposing track carriages with failsafe hydraulic cylinders.

The safety of the product is further increased by the system’s self-centring alignment. Thanks to its innovative design, the 4-track tensioner can be used vertically, horizontally or on a ramp.

When in vertical orientation two tracks can open to feed the product into the tensioner, as recently demonstrated on the company’s portable vertical lay system (PVLS).

“This latest innovation clearly demonstrates our ability to proactively respond to the needs of the market,” said Mike Gaskin, Maritime Developments commercial director. “The new 85-tonne system builds upon the success of our existing portfolio of tensioners with extended track length and enhanced safety measures which make the product ideal for operating anywhere in the world.”

**MDL Carnival-goers raise £1,400 for charity**

Maritime Developments has raised more than £1,400 for a leading cancer support charity.

MDL Carnival-goers raise £1,400 for charity.

Marie Curie Cancer Care, which provides care and support for terminally ill people and their families, will benefit from the proceeds with a total of £1,409.93 raised by the company during its summer staff event.

“We’re pleased to have been able to raise money for Marie Curie and hopefully this support can go some way towards helping the charity continue its fine work with people suffering from the illness in the Peterhead area,” said Derek Smith, Maritime Developments CEO.

Christine Masson, a Peterhead-based nurse at Marie Curie Cancer Care, added: “This fundraising is an extremely generous gesture from everyone connected to Maritime Developments and we couldn’t be more grateful.

It will help the charity commit extra time to cancer and end-of-life patients and provide further support to their families and loved ones.”
Orange fleet continues to grow

Just like the innovative technology that sets it apart from the competition, the Maritime Developments orange is becoming the company’s trademark on the back-deck rental market.

Since its launch in February 2014 the Maritime Rentals fleet has grown with a range of the company’s key products, including its patented 4-track tensioner and its third-generation reel drive system (pages 4-5).

To maximise the benefits from using an integrated Maritime Developments spread in offshore operations, the company has also added a set of customisable deck deflectors to its rental range.

The modular deflector turning frames are supplied in 45-degree segments, which can be joined together to provide a 360-degree deflector.

Depending on the set-up orientation, the units comprise of vertical or horizontal rollers with a movable guide at the top or side to ensure the product is captured and does not lift out under tension.

A combination of five horizontal and vertical deflectors has recently been delivered to an industry major as part of the pipelaying spread for flexible riser installation in the North Sea. The deflectors will support the transitioning of the product from a horizontal orientation to vertical positioning between the RDS and Maritime Developments portable vertical lay system (PVLS).

“The Maritime Developments orange is becoming synonymous with a high quality product and increased operational efficiency in the global rental market,” said the company’s operations director, George Mackintosh.

“We note a growing demand for our technology and strive to gradually increase our rental offering to be able to cater for all kinds of customers and markets.”

A combination of five horizontal and vertical deflectors has recently been delivered to an industry major as part of the pipelaying spread for flexible riser installation in the North Sea. The deflectors will support the transitioning of the product from a horizontal orientation to vertical positioning between the RDS and Maritime Developments portable vertical lay system (PVLS).

“The Maritime Developments orange is becoming synonymous with a high quality product and increased operational efficiency in the global rental market,” said the company’s operations director, George Mackintosh.

“We note a growing demand for our technology and strive to gradually increase our rental offering to be able to cater for all kinds of customers and markets.”