

Seatools wins largest order yet for specialist dredging instruments



Artist's impression of the new Jan De Nul fleet equipped with Seatoools sensors.

Just recently Seatoools, the Dutch specialist manufacturer of underwater equipment, signed a contract with Belgium's Jan De Nul Group supply the underwater sensors for monitoring the dredging process on board four hopper dredgers and three cutter-suction dredgers currently under construction. Jan De Nul is a world leader in dredging and the order is worth a half million euro.

Seatoools will supply all the underwater sensors for these vessels. Specifically, this entails the rotation angle sensor, Rotax[®] HD, and the highly innovative Sinclino 200, a single-axis inclinometer that is magnetically damped and

encased in a specially designed submersible stainless steel housing.

For Seatoools, still a relatively new company, this is a milestone - the largest order of its kind from a dredging company since Seatoools was established in 1999. "We are pleased that Jan de Nul contacted us directly and that, after intensive consultation, they decided to award us this contract," Jan Frumau, managing director of Seatoools, said. "We see it as an expression of approval on the international dredging market."

According to Frumau, the contract award also stems from the fact that Seatoools, as an underwater specialist, has considerable

experience and affinity with dredging technology. "We selected the sensors in close consultation with Jan De Nul and, with them, looked at adaptations and improvements. This will be a customised product. A specific sensor package has been put together for each of the seven ships."

Delivery of the sensors is scheduled between October 2007 and December 2009 for the two 46,000 m³ mega hopper dredgers, which are now under construction in Sestao, Spain; for two 7,500 m³ hopper dredgers under construction in Busan, South Korea; and for three 23,520 kW, self-propelled cutter-suction dredgers being built in Pula, Croatia. ■