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PRESS RELEASE

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DEME AND THE OYSTER RESTORATION COMPANY TO DELIVER OYSTER REEF RESTORATION PROJECT IN THE BELGIAN NORTH SEA

DEME and The Oyster Restoration Company (TORC) have joined forces to deliver EuroReefs, which is set to become a landmark large-scale offshore nature restoration project for native European flat oyster reefs. Commissioned by Belgium's Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (financed by NextGenerationEU), 1,800 natural and biodegradable clay bricks carrying at least one million European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) spat were installed last week on the seabed at a dedicated offshore site in the Hinderbanken gravel bed area, supporting the development of a healthy, reproducing reef. Elements for this innovative reef were loaded onto DEME's split hopper barge Vlaanderen VIII in the port of Ardersier (Scotland), after which the vessel was deployed to place the spat on the seabed. Building on earlier pilot initiatives, EuroReefs represents a major step toward achieving large-scale marine ecosystem restoration, combining biodiversity expertise with advanced offshore engineering and logistics.

EuroReefs is a clear example of a restoration project moving beyond pilot phase into industrial scale. By restoring oyster reefs, this project not only enhances biodiversity but also strengthens ecosystem services such as water filtration, seabed stabilization, and the creation of habitats that support marine life. This project will contribute to the European Union's Nature Restoration ambitions and support Belgium's efforts to enhance biodiversity and improve the environmental status of the North Sea.

Annelies Verlinden, Minister in charge of the North Sea: "This project hits the core of Belgium's marine restoration goals. Through oyster repopulation, we are turning the Nature Restoration Regulation from a legal requirement into a vibrant, living reality in the North Sea."

Tomas Sterckx, Project Manager at DEME, commented: "EuroReefs demonstrates how offshore engineering can support nature Restoration and integrate nature-based solutions at scale. By combining our marine engineering capabilities with TORC's ecological expertise, we are helping to restore marine ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and build more resilient environments in the Belgian North Sea."

Dr. Nik Sachlikidis, CEO of The Oyster Restoration Company, said: "Through EuroReefs, we are restoring native oyster reefs at a meaningful scale. This project brings together science, technology, and offshore expertise to help rebuild a habitat that is critical for marine biodiversity."

About DEME

DEME (Euronext Brussels: DEME) is a leading contractor in the fields of offshore energy, dredging and marine infrastructure, and environmental remediation. DEME also engages in concessions activities in offshore wind, marine infrastructure, green hydrogen, and deep-sea mineral harvesting. The company can build on 150 years of experience and is a front-runner in innovation and new technologies. DEME's vision is to work towards a sustainable future by offering solutions for global challenges: climate change, a growing population and urbanization, increasing maritime trade, and environmental issues. With a team of approximately 6,000 highly skilled professionals and one of the most advanced fleets in the world, DEME is well-positioned to tackle even the most complex projects. DEME realized a turnover of 4.2 billion euros with an EBITDA of 931 million euros in 2025. For more information, please visit www.deme-group.com.

Contact

Media relations

Frederic Dryhoel

dryhoel.frederic@deme-group.com

+32 473 86 31 91

Investor relations

Carl Vanden Bussche

vanden.bussche.carl@deme-group.com

+32 498 90 61 13