

VT HALTER MARINE AWARDED CONTRACT TO BUILD T-AGS 60 CLASS OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY SHIP FOR U.S. NAVY

Pascagoula, Ms., December 22, 2009 – VT Halter Marine Inc (VT Halter Marine), a subsidiary of VT Systems Inc (VT Systems), announced today that it has been awarded a contract of approximately \$87 million to build an enhanced version of a T-AGS 60 Class oceanographic survey ship for the U.S. Navy. Construction of the new ship, T-AGS 66, will begin at Halter Moss Point in about five months with delivery scheduled in 42 months.

“We are extremely pleased with this award as it allows us to continue our long standing history of building T-AGS oceanographic vessels for the U.S. Navy. VT Halter Marine is proud to present our government with a quality ship to be in service for years to come.”

*~Bill SKINNER
CEO, VT Halter Marine*

T-AGS 60 Class ships are designed and constructed to provide multi-purpose oceanographic capabilities for the Oceanographer of the Navy. Physical, chemical and biological oceanography; multi-discipline environmental investigations; ocean engineering and marine acoustics; marine geology and geophysics; and bathymetric, gravimetric, and magnetometric surveying are performed from T-AGS 60 Class ships using the latest in oceanographic surveying equipment and other instrument packages with the ability to process and analyze the data onboard using the latest computer technology.

Typical missions of the T-AGS 60 Class ships may include: oceanographic sampling and data collection of surface, midwater and ocean floor parameters; the launching, recovering, and towing of scientific packages both tethered and autonomous including the handling, monitoring, and servicing of remotely operated vehicles (ROV's); shipboard oceanographic data processing and sample analysis; and precise navigation, track line maneuvering, and station keeping to support deep ocean and coastal surveys.

The all-steel vessel is 353' long, with a beam of 58', and an 18' draft. The vessel will have permanent accommodations for 67 persons. VT Halter Marine is the leading designer and builder of specialized oceanographic ships for the U.S. Navy and has experience in building the previous

six ships of the T-AGS 60 Class; T-AGOS 13 through T-AGOS 18 ocean surveillance ships; a T-AGOS 23 Class SWATH ocean surveillance ship, T-AGS 51 and T-AGS 52 hydrographic survey ships; oceanographic survey ships AGOR 23, 24 and 25; and NOAA AGOR *Ronald H. Brown* as well as four fisheries survey vessels (FSVs) for NOAA.

VT Halter Marine, the marine operations of VT Systems, is based in Pascagoula, Mississippi and is a leader in the design and construction of medium-sized ships in the United States. VT Halter Marine designs, builds and repairs a wide variety of ocean-going vessels such as patrol vessels, oil recovery vessels, oil cargo vessels, ferries, logistic support vessels and survey vessels. Please visit www.vthaltermarine.com.

VT Systems is a diversified company providing solutions to the commercial and government markets in the aerospace, electronics, land systems and marine sectors. VT Systems products and services include aircraft inspection, maintenance and modification; software solutions in training and simulation; satellite-based IP communications technology; network solutions that integrate data, voice and video; rugged computers and computer peripheral equipment; specialized truck bodies and trailers; weapons and munitions systems; road construction equipment; and shipbuilding. Headquartered in Alexandria, Va., VT Systems operates globally and is a wholly owned subsidiary of ST Engineering. Please visit www.vt-systems.com.

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