

VT HALTER MARINE DELIVERS FOURTH FISHERIES SURVEY VESSEL TO NOAA

Pascagoula, Miss., February 2, 2010 – VT Halter Marine Inc (VT Halter Marine), a subsidiary of VT Systems Inc (VT Systems), today announced the delivery of the *Bell M. Shimada*, the final in a series of four fisheries survey vessels (FSV) to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The 208-foot FSV is renowned for its quiet hull which minimizes underwater sounds made by the ship and significantly reduces changes in the natural behavior of marine life caused by ship noise.

The first ship in the series – *Oscar Dyson* – was delivered to NOAA in January 2005. It operates out of Kodiak, Alaska. The second ship – *Henry B. Bigelow* – was delivered to NOAA in July 2006 and supports research efforts in conservation and management of fisheries and marine ecosystems primarily in northeastern US waters. The third ship – *Pisces* – was delivered to NOAA in June 2009. *Pisces'* primary objective is to study, monitor and collect data on a wide range of sea life and ocean conditions in U.S. waters from the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and South Atlantic to North Carolina.

The *Bell M. Shimada* will conduct both fisheries and oceanographic research on the U.S. West Coast. The ship is named after an eminent fishery scientist from Seattle, Wash., who specialized in Pacific tropical tuna stocks.

“The men and women of VT Halter Marine are proud to have completed and delivered the full series of the most technologically advanced FSVs in the world. The Shimada and its sister ships are critical to NOAA’s vital mission of monitoring and protecting our nation’s fisheries.”

**~Bill SKINNER
CEO, VT Halter Marine**

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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VT Halter Marine

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