



Office **Mammoet Salvage B.V.**
Karel Doormanweg 47, Haven 580
3115 JD Schiedam
P.O. Box 570
3100 AN Schiedam
The Netherlands

Phone +31 (0)10 2042 445 (24 hrs)
Fax +31 (0)10 2042 447
Website www.mammoetsalvage.com
Email salvage@mammoetsalvage.com

PRESS RELEASE

Contract salvage U-864 signed by NCA and Mammoet

01-12-2008

November 28, the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) and Mammoet Salvage B.V. signed the contract concerning the possible salvage of the German U-864 submarine. The World War II German submarine, which is loaded with toxic mercury and explosives, lies off the Norwegian west coast, near Bergen.

Two alternatives

The Norwegian Parliament has now to decide if the wreck and its cargo should be raised to the surface, or be encased on the seabed and the contaminated sediment capped to prevent the spread of pollutants. Mammoet Salvage has proposed a method to raise the wreck which satisfies the environmental and the personal safety requirements. If the Norwegian Parliament approves this method then the salvage operation is likely to take place in 2010.

An innovative solution

The NCA selected Mammoet Salvage for the potential salvage of the German submarine because of the company's innovative engineered solution. This together with the experience gained on the remote control salvage of the Runner 4 in the Baltic Sea last year, has resulted in a safe, fully remotely-controlled operation. With the remote operated techniques with a surface controlled gripper and ROV support, Mammoet will raise the submarine and take away the source of pollution forever without the need for anyone working under water. The new Transport Safeguard will prevent mercury leakage during the lifting and transport of the wreck. Mammoet Salvage has also found a solution to overcome one of the specific challenges: lifting the wreck from the unstable seabed.



Decision

The Norwegian Parliament now has to decide if the wreck and its cargo should be salvaged forever or be left in place and encased and capped. Mammoet believes, even before the start of the tender procedures, Norway will choose the salvage option which will solve this environmental problem completely. The Norwegian decision will probably be taken before the end of 2008.

The U-864 time bomb

On 9 February 1945, the German submarine U-864 was torpedoed by the British submarine HMS Venturer. The U-864 sank about two nautical miles west of the island Fedje, just north of Bergen, with the loss of all 73 on board. The submarine's cargo included approximately 67 tons of metallic mercury which is highly toxic. As the U-864 was on a mission it was also carrying a full load of weapons. The vessel's wreckage is considered to be a potential long-term threat to human health and the environment.

Extensive experience

Mammoet Salvage B.V. and affiliated company Mammoet Norge AS are part of the Mammoet Holding B.V. (heavy transport and lifting specialists) which was awarded the contract of the salvage of the Kursk Russian nuclear submarine in 2001. Since then Mammoet Salvage has carried out a range of salvage projects throughout the world. The company emphasizes innovative engineered solutions to improve safety and reduce costs.

=====

For editors:

www.mammoetsalvage.com and www.mammoet.com

To view an animation of the Mammoet Salvage solution for salvaging the U-864 check www.mammoetsalvage.com

Mammoet Holding B.V.
Karel Doormanweg 47, Haven 580
3115 JD Schiedam
The Netherlands
Contact: Johan Pastoor
+ 31 (0)10 204 2609
+ 31 (0)6 51 610653
johan.pastoor@mammoet.com