

# UPDATES

## Fall pipe & mining vessel **SIMON STEVIN** launched

Vuyk Engineering Rotterdam has concluded the basic design work for the new fall pipe and mining vessel **SIMON STEVIN** for the Belgian dredging contractor Jan de Nul. The vessel will be one of the largest of its kind and will be used for precise rock dumping up to a depth of 2 000 m. The deployment system of the fall pipe is very advanced and operates fully automatically. The system can handle 2 000 ton of rock per hour with a diameter of up to 400 mm. The **SIMON STEVIN** is also suitable for deep sea mining operations entailing the recovery of minerals from the seabed.

The equipment for the fall pipe system is being constructed at several locations in Europe. The assembly of the system will take place in Belgium, after which the complete system will be shipped to Spain for installation on the vessel.

On 13 March 2009 the vessel was launched at the shipyard Construcciones Navales del Norte in Sestao, Spain. A few members of our staff attended the launching ceremony at the yard and the festivities at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.



## QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS

As described in the previous edition of Vuyk Today, the rebuilding of the **QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS** started in November 2008 at Keppel Shipyard, Singapore. Within a very tight schedule of about four months this enormous job was finished. In March 2009 the sea and dredge trials were performed successfully.

With its hopper capacity of more than 35 000 m<sup>3</sup> the **QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS** now belongs to the small group of mega dredgers with hopper capacities exceeding 30 000 m<sup>3</sup>.

On the picture below you see the vessel sailing on its way to its first job in Melbourne, Australia. The engineering was mainly performed by Vuyk Engineering Rotterdam in close cooperation with the Dutch owners, Royal Boskalis Westminster, Papendrecht. Finishing this extensive project has boosted the long relationship between the two firms.

