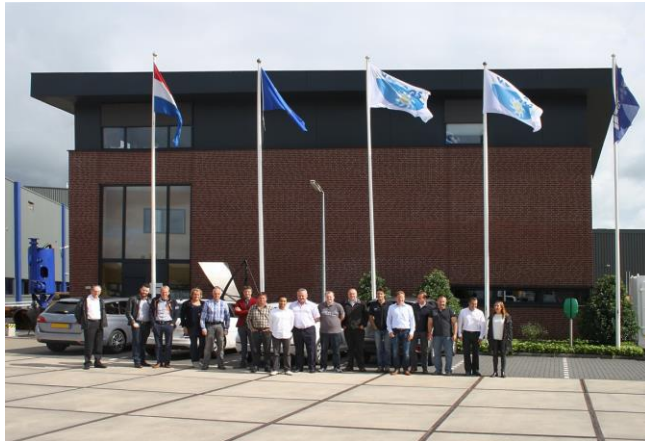




**PRESS RELEASE | 1 October 2015 | ¡VAMOS! delivers conceptual design plans for submerged mining prototype**



¡VAMOS!, the Viable Alternative Mining Operating System, a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, has passed a major milestone with the successful delivery of conceptual design plans of the prototype and all associated equipment. This work was carried out in Work Package 2 (WP2),

which also designed the system's architecture and its functional specifications. WP2 is now successfully completed and the ¡VAMOS! Consortium is looking forward to the challenges ahead.

At a Technical Project Meeting held in Nijkerk, the Netherlands on 7-8 September, the project status was evaluated. Frank Bosman, Manager Research Development & Innovation at Damen Dredging Equipment, based in Nijkerk, says that the conclusion of WP2 demonstrated that the partnership behind the project was functioning well.

"WP2 went very smoothly. There was good cooperation between all partners, ensuring that everything went to schedule and all documentation was submitted to the EU on time. We are now looking forward to Work Package 3 with optimism."

In WP3 the partners will initially be detailing the system components further, and will focus on verifying and validating the design.

"We will look into the elements supplied by the various partners in order to ensure commonality so each piece can be integrated into the whole," explains Mr Bosman.

Stef Kapusniak, SMD's Business Development Manager and Technical Manager of the project adds: "Also, there are some operational issues to be verified at the test locations."

¡VAMOS! will test the equipment on four existing mine sites across Europe within the next 2 years to prove the new submerged inland mining concept.

¡VAMOS! is a 42-month research and development project launched to enable the opening and rehabilitation of underexploited European mineral deposits, using a safe, clean and low visibility method.



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 642477".

Currently, the EU consumes in the region of 25-35% of the world's metal production, whilst EU-based mineral extraction accounts for just 3% of global ore production. This situation leads to the EU's importation of around 200 million tonnes of minerals per year.

Featuring a total of 17 partners from 9 EU countries, ¡VAMOS! seeks to address this situation by making possible the extraction of European mineral deposits from inland water-bearing areas. To reach this aim, the partners are developing an innovative system whereby a remotely operated mining vehicle is launched from a waterborne carriage. The underwater mining equipment is operated without any effect on groundwater levels. For more information visit the project website <http://www.vamos-project.eu/>.

Based on its broad European and international network, the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) supports the consortium through stakeholder engagement and diffusion. Within the scope of this task, EFG will mobilise the consortium's industrial and scientific networks, participate in the organisation of stakeholder workshops and support applied and scientific dissemination activities.

**-Ends-**

**More information:**

[www.vamos-project.eu](http://www.vamos-project.eu)

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