



21 December 2006

Mermaid Marine and P&O Maritime Services Announce Merger

Creates Australia's leading diversified marine services business with a strong contracted earnings base and exciting global growth opportunities

Mermaid Marine will hold a market briefing at 12.30pm EST on Thursday 21 December 2006 using the following conference call details:

Dial: 1800 009 696

Materials to be presented to investors and analysts regarding the merger are attached.



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Mermaid Marine Australia Ltd

INVESTOR BRIEFING 21 December 2006

Merger with P&O Maritime Services (A DP World Company)

Creation of Australia's leading diversified marine services business with exciting global growth opportunities



Merger Highlights

- Creates Australia's leading diversified marine services business
- Combines two highly complementary asset portfolios with activities across the marine services industry
- Enhanced growth opportunities in Australia and globally
- EPS positive on a full year basis¹
- Diversifies the earnings base
- Improves quality and visibility of earnings
- Enhances financial strength and flexibility reduces gearing
- Enhanced growth opportunities in Australia and globally
- Cost synergies in excess of \$2.5m per annum

¹ Excluding transaction costs and any amortisation of intangibles



A Snapshot of the Merged Company

- Annual revenue ~ A\$200m
- Approx 75% of revenue under medium to long term contracts
- Diversified across market segments and geographies
- Over 1300 employees¹
- Operates more than 40 owned specialist vessels and manage a further 100+¹
- Substantially reduced gearing and increased cash flow
- Support of major shareholder, DP World, in growing the business within Australia and internationally in all business sectors



Transaction Overview

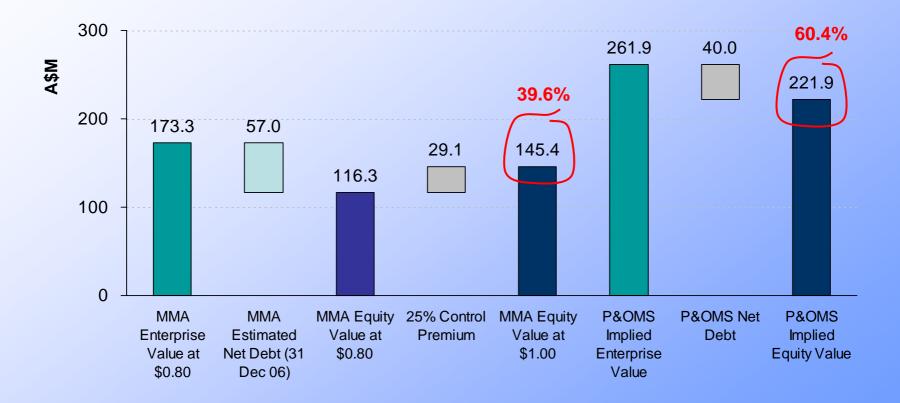
- Merger is implemented via the issue of 221.9 million shares to DP World Group (the current owner of P&O) in return for the P&OMS business plus the assumption of \$40 million of net debt¹
- DP World becomes a 60% shareholder
- Key Conditions include:
 - Mermaid Shareholder Approval
 - FIRB approval
 - Independent Expert's Report
- Change of Name to "P&O Marine Limited"



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Relative Valuations



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Strong Combined Performance

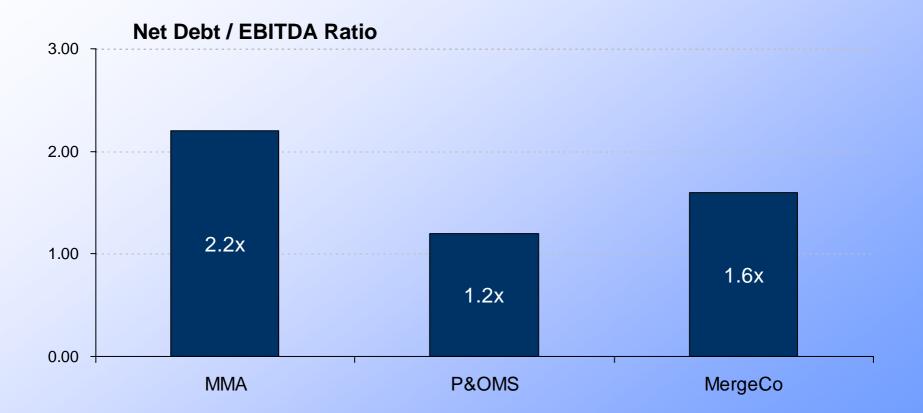
• Table below summarises MergeCo forecast financial performance excluding any cost synergies estimated to be in excess of \$2.5m per annum

	MMA 30 June 2007 Forecast (\$m) ⁽¹⁾	P&OMS 30 June 2007 Forecast (\$m) ¹	MergeCo 30 June 2007 Pro-forma ³
Revenue	85.5	118.9 ⁴	204.4
EBITDA	23.2	33.2	56.4
EBIT	17.9	24.8	42.7
Interest	4.1	3.0 ²	7.1
Profit before Tax	13.8	21.8	35.6
Tax at 30%	4.1	6.5	10.6
Net Profit after Tax	9.6	15.3	24.9
Fully Diluted EPS (cents)	6.6	n/a	6.8

- ¹ MMA forecast excludes transaction costs; P&OMS forecast excludes one-off items of \$850,000 and transaction costs
- ² Based on estimated \$40m net debt and 7.5% cost of debt
- 3 Excludes the impact of transaction costs and amortisation of intangibles
- 4 Excludes share of flow through revenue associated with construction of Royal Australian Navy Armadale class patrol boat 6



Strengthened Balance Sheet



¹ MMA net debt / EBITDA based on 30 June 2006 Net Debt and FY07 forecast EBITDA ; P&OMS net debt / EBITDA based on 31 December estimated net debt and FY07 forecast EBITDA

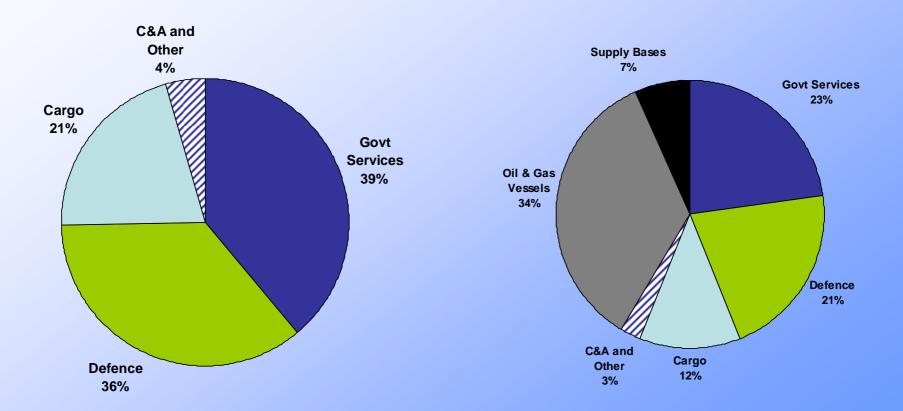


P&O Maritime Services Diversified Marine Earnings Base

P&OMS EBITDA Split

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MergeCo EBITDA Split



¹ Based on FY07 forecasts earnings Corporate Overheads allocated based on EBITDA contribution



Overview of Mermaid Marine

- Strong market position in rapidly growing oil and gas sector
- Over \$100m invested in vessels and infrastructure
- Over 20 vessels high utilisation rates
- Approximately 50% of revenue contracted with exposure to the buoyant spot market
- Significant infrastructure investment in supply bases at Dampier and Broome strategic advantage
- Well positioned to take advantage of increased activity in the North West Shelf and the Browse Basin
- Current market cap ~A\$131m



Overview of P&OMS

P&OMS provides marine services in four key areas:

Govt Services	 Vessel ownership and/or operation for provision of Antarctic re-supply, marine science & research and border protection services to various government organisations.
Defence	 Operates and maintains a fleet of specialist port services and support vessels Provides through life fleet and vessel management for non-combat vessels 50/50 JV with Serco Plc - Defence Maritime Services (DMS)
Cargo	 Provision of shipping and logistic support services for remote mining operations Carpentaria JV with IBA & the Mawa people
Chartering & Agency	 Chartering and Ship-broking through 100% subsidiary Anderson Hughes Agency business provides various port agency services to ships 50/50 JV with Adsteam; 70/30 JV with Argentinean Partner

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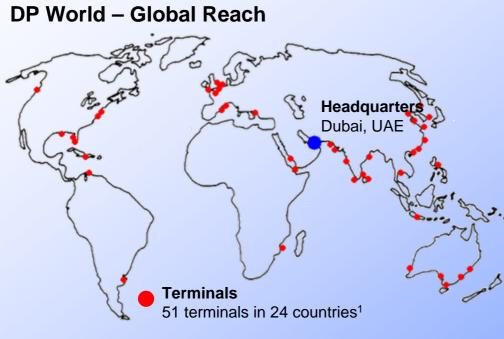
Key Contracts

Govt Services	 Australian Antarctic Division – Aurora Australis (owned vessel) Fugro Survey – Southern Supporter (owned vessel) Australian Customs – (chartered vessel) CSIRO – management of research vessel Southern Surveyor Marine Institute of Ireland – management of two research vessels
Defence	 Royal Aust Navy – Armidale Class Patrol Boats – Build and through life support Royal Aust Navy – Port Services and Support Craft operation and management Australian Customs – Through life support for Bay Class Patrol Boats
Cargo	 Ok Tedi Mining (PNG) – dedicated bulk cargo transport (7 owned vessels) Lihir Gold Mine – Management and Operation of 5 waste barges Xstrata – Transport of concentrate from MacArthur River Mine
Chartering & Agency	Multiple chartering contractsNationwide ship agency presence



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Global Growth Opportunities through DP World Support



¹ US Operations currently being divested

- DP World Supports P&O Marine as its marine services business worldwide
- 3rd largest Port Operator in the World having recently acquired P&O Group
- DP World sees this transaction as an opportunity to build a world class marine company on the back of their global contacts and market position.



Growth Opportunities

Specialist Vessels in niche markets across different market segments

Oil & Gas	New GeographiesIncreased capability and scale
Government Services	 Outsourcing ownership / management Commercial solutions
Defence	 Global trend of outsourcing support operations
Cargo	Specialised solutions in remote areasOutsource key infrastructure



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Strengthened Board and Management Team

Board and Management				
Tony Howarth	Chairman			
Andrew King	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer			
Jeff Weber	Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer			
1 Independent from MMA (to be appointed)				
2 DP World Representatives (to be appointed)				
1 Independent Non-Executive Director (to be appointed)				



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Completion Timetable

Item	Indicative Timing
Despatch Notice of Meeting, Explanatory Memorandum and Independent Expert's Report	February 2007
EGM to approve transaction	March 2007
Completion	March / April 2007



Summary - Significant Benefits for MMA Shareholders

- Diversifies the company across different market segments and geographies
- Improves quality and visibility of earnings
- Strengthens the financial position of the company with gearing reduced and cash flow increased
- Changes the scale and scope of opportunities that the company can now sensibly pursue
- Creates Australia's leading diversified marine services company



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