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## PROSPECTS AND ORDERS

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### EUROPE

#### NETHERLANDS

**Damen Shipyards Group has signed a contract with Gerd Stensen AS from Norway for a tug of type Damen Stan 1606.** | The tug will be delivered as a completed vessel from stock. Contact: Damen Shipyards Group, Head Office, Industrierrein, Avelingen West 20 4202 MS Gorinchem, The Netherlands. Tel. ++31 183 63 99 11. Fax ++31 183 63 21 89. Email [info@damen.com](mailto:info@damen.com) Web [www.damen.com](http://www.damen.com)

**Meanwhile, Damen Shipyards said EMAR Offshore Services, a Netherlands-based maritime service company, has placed an order for a tug of type Damen ASD 2811.** | The vessel, also to be delivered from completed stock, will be named E-TWO and delivered to the client in the first quarter of 2019. An additional fire fighting system and aft winch will be installed. Contact: see above

#### RUSSIA

**Russian shipping company Sovcomflot has signed a final order for three product carriers of 51,000dwt which use liquefied natural gas (LNG) as main fuel for propulsion with Russia's Zvezda Shipbuilding Complex.** | Sovcomflot said in a statement the order was placed on December 28, 2018. The ships will transport petroleum products and gas condensate under long-term time charter agreements with Novatek, one of the largest independent natural gas producers in Russia. Contact: Zvezda Shipbuilding Complex, 1 Lebedeva Street, Bolshoy Kamen, Primorsky Kray, 692809, Russia. Tel. ++7 42 335 411 74 and ++7 423 35 5 13 05. Fax ++7 42 335 42 585. Email [zvezda@mail.fes-zvezda.ru](mailto:zvezda@mail.fes-zvezda.ru) Web [www.fes-zvezda.ru](http://www.fes-zvezda.ru)

#### SPAIN

**Spanish state-owned shipbuilder Navantia has won a contract for the construction of a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electrical substation for the Johan Sverdrup offshore oil field off Norway.** | The Johan Sverdrup field is operated by Norwegian energy company Equinor. The contract was awarded by Norwegian oil and gas company Aibel. The substation will be built in Navantia's shipyard in Puerto Real, Cadiz, starting in August 2019, and will generate an average of 350 jobs. The project will be carried out during a period of between 17 and 25 months, depending on the different contract options which will be decided in the coming weeks. Contact: Navantia, Velázquez 132, 28006 Madrid, Spain. Tel. ++34 913 358 400. Fax ++34 913 358 652. Email [navantia@navantia.es](mailto:navantia@navantia.es) Web portal for suppliers [www.navantia.es/perfil-contratante.php?tipo=1](http://www.navantia.es/perfil-contratante.php?tipo=1)

**Gondan shipyard in Spain has an order for one 70m-long stern trawler from Norwegian customer Engenes fiskeriselskap AS, based in Troms.** | Rolls-Royce has signed a contract to deliver ship design and an extensive range of equipment for the vessel. It will be of type NVC 370 with a low-resistant hull design, which aims to meet increased demands for fuel efficiency combined with good sea keeping. The vessel will be delivered in the first quarter of 2021. Contact: Mr Gervasio Rodriguez, The Purchasing Manager, Gondan Shipbuilders, Puerto de Figueras, s/n 33794 Castropol Asturias, Spain. Tel. ++34 985 63 62 50. Fax ++34 985 63 62 98. Email [apr@gondan.com](mailto:apr@gondan.com) Web [www.gondan.com](http://www.gondan.com)

#### UNITED KINGDOM

**Scottish yard Ferguson Marine Engineering (FMEL) announced it has won two new contracts to build fish farm support vessels for British customer Inverlussa Marine Services.** | Designed by Scottish marine architects MacDuff Ship Design, the vessels will be based in Scotland and will work for the Scottish salmon farming industry, the yard said. The first vessel will be 21m in length, over 100 tonnes in weight and is due to be completed in May 2019. The second 26m-long vessel will weigh approximately 450 tonnes. Its design features two decks, offering greater flexibility and higher utilisation for future clients. The vessel is due to be completed by late 2019 and will go on a long-term charter for one of Scotland's leading salmon farmers. FMEL had announced in late 2018 that work has also started on one of the world's first self-propelled air cushion barge. Contact: Ferguson Marine, Newark Works, Castle Road, Port Glasgow, Scotland, PA14 5NG, United

Kingdom. Tel. ++44 14 75 74 23 00. Email [procurement@fergusonmarine.com](mailto:procurement@fergusonmarine.com) and [enquiries@fergusonmarine.com](mailto:enquiries@fergusonmarine.com) Web procurement portal [www.fergusonmarine.com/industry-partners](http://www.fergusonmarine.com/industry-partners)

**British maritime company James Fisher and Sons announced that its subsidiary JFD has been awarded a 30 million pound (US\$38 million) contract by South Korean yard Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering for the design, construction and delivery of a 3rd-generation deep search and rescue vehicle for the Korean navy.** | The vessel will be delivered in 2021. JFD delivered the first deep search and rescue system to the Korean navy in 2009. The vessel now ordered is a variation of the two third-generation rescue vessels recently delivered to the Indian navy. Contact: JFD Global (UK), Enterprise Drive, Westhill, Aberdeen AB32 6TQ Scotland, United Kingdom. Tel. ++ 44 12 24 740 145. Fax. ++ 44 12 24 740 172. Email [enquiries@jfdglobal.com](mailto:enquiries@jfdglobal.com) Web [www.jfdglobal.com](http://www.jfdglobal.com)

## ASIA

### CHINA

**Taiwanese shipping group Evergreen confirms it has placed an order for four 2,500-TEU container ships with China's CSSC Jiangnan Shipyard in Evergreen's its first ever newbuilding contract in China.** | They will be delivered in 2020. They will be classed by NK and will be fitted with exhaust gas scrubbers. It had been earlier expected that up to 14 vessels would be ordered by Evergreen from Jiangnan Shipyard (See also Japan). Contact: CSSC Jiangnan Shipyard, Web <http://jnshipyard.cssc.net.cn>

**China's Taizhou Kouan Shipbuilding has signed contracts for two 56,000dwt bulk carriers with Chinese customer Shanghai Ganglu Shipping.** | They will be delivered in 2020. The dry bulk carriers will be classified by China Classification Society (CCS). Contact: Taizhou Kouan Shipbuilding Co Ltd, 1 Chuanchang Lu Kouanzhen Gaogang Qu Taizhou Jiangsu, 225321 China. Tel. ++86 523 86 96 37 11. Fax ++86 523 86 91 15 08. Email [KASC@cnkasc.com](mailto:KASC@cnkasc.com) Web [www.cnkasc.com/siteen](http://www.cnkasc.com/siteen)

**Brokers say Chinese yard Avic Dingheng Shipbuilding has an order for two 7,000dwt chemical tankers from a German customer.** | The contract includes options for two repeat vessels. The first vessel will be delivered in 2021. Contact: Avic Dingheng Shipbuilding Co. Ltd, No.1 Zhonghang Road, Shipbuilding Industry Area, EDZ, Jiangdu District, Yangzhou 225217, China. Tel. ++86 514 86 46 99 17. Fax ++86 514 86 46 99 18. Web [www.avicdh.com/en/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=lists&catid=118](http://www.avicdh.com/en/index.php?m=content&c=index&a=lists&catid=118)

**Brokers say Chinese yard Jiangdong Shipyard of Sinotrans & CSC has an order for four bulk carriers of 12,500dwt from Chinese group Anhui Conch.** | They will be delivered in 2020. They will be used for transport of construction materials for building projects on land. Contact: Jiangdong Shipyard of Sinotrans & CSC SBICO, No.9, Jiangdong Road, Wuhu, Anhui, 241001 China. Tel. ++86 553 39 38 578. Email [JDBIZ@jdshipyard.com](mailto:JDBIZ@jdshipyard.com) Web [jdshipyard.sinotrans-csc.com](http://jdshipyard.sinotrans-csc.com)

### INDONESIA

**The Indonesian Navy has proposed ordering two hydrographic survey vessels that can be quickly converted into submarine rescue ships.** | The vessels are being requested because of the large increase in the number of submarines in the Asia-Pacific region. The request has been submitted for inclusion under the third and final phase of Indonesia's Minimum Essential Force (MEF) plan, which runs from 2020 to 2024. MEF is a three-phase armed forces modernisation programme which began in 2010. Contact: Indonesian Defence Ministry, Web [www.kemhan.go.id](http://www.kemhan.go.id)

### JAPAN

**Brokers say Japan's Imabari Shipbuilding has an order from Greek shipowner Navios for four VLCC tankers of 310,000dwt.** | They will be delivered in 2020. Contact: Imabari Shipbuilding Co., 1-4-52 Koura-cho, Imabari, Ehime 799-2195, Japan. Web [www.imazo.co.jp](http://www.imazo.co.jp)

**Meanwhile, Imabari Shipbuilding has also confirmed a previously reported order for 12 container ships of 11,000 TEU for Taiwanese shipping group Evergreen.** | A letter of intent for the order had been signed in January 2018 (New Ships 4/2018). They will be about 334m long, about 48.4m wide and have a service speed of 23 knots. Contact: see above

### SOUTH KOREA

**Monaco-based shipping company GasLog said it has ordered two liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers from South Korea's Samsung Heavy Industries shipyard.** | They will be delivered in late 2020. They will

be used to operate newly agreed charter deals with U.S. energy company Cheniere. Cheniere said separately it has chartered two 174,000cu.m LNG carriers with low-pressure two-stroke propulsion which are the ships in the new order for Samsung. Contact: Samsung Heavy Industries, Web [www.samsungshi.com/Eng/etc/contact.aspx](http://www.samsungshi.com/Eng/etc/contact.aspx)

**Meanwhile, Samsung Heavy Industries said on December 31 that it has won another order worth US\$189 million to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier.** | The contract, with an unnamed European shipping company, calls for Samsung Heavy to deliver the vessel by March 2021, the yard said in a statement. Contact: see above

**South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, the world's second-biggest ship-builder by sales, said on December 27 it has won a US\$230 million order to build one liquefied natural gas (LNG) ship.** | Under the deal with an unidentified customer in the Oceania region, Daewoo Shipbuilding will deliver the 174,000cu.m vessel by the end of 2021. In December 2018 alone, Daewoo Shipbuilding won orders to build six LNG ships. Contact: Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering, 125, Namdaemun-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea. Tel. ++82 2 21 29 01 14. Web [www.dsme.co.kr](http://www.dsme.co.kr)

**Japanese shipping group NYK confirms it has placed an order for one 49,000dwt newbuild chemical tanker to be powered by methanol fuel at South Korean yard Hyundai Mipo Dockyard.** | It will be delivered in 2019. NYK said it has received an US\$18 million loan from Taiyo Life Insurance Company to exclusively finance construction of the environmentally friendly vessel. "Its methanol-fuelled main engine will reduce sulphur oxides (SOx) by approximately 99% compared with the use of heavy oil," NYK said. "In fact, the vessel's entire SOx emissions, including the electrical generator, will fall by about 75% compared with using oils that comply with low-sulphur oil regulations." Using methanol as a marine fuel helps meet the International Maritime Organization's new regulations that cap sulphur content in marine fuels coming into effect in 2020, NYK added. Contact: Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co Ltd, 100, Bangeojinsunhwandoro, Dong-gu, Ulsan, South Korea. Tel. ++82 52 250 30 38. Fax ++82 52 250 30 56. Email [webmaster@hmd.co.kr](mailto:webmaster@hmd.co.kr) Web [www.hmd.co.kr](http://www.hmd.co.kr)

**Meanwhile, Hyundai Mipo said separately it has won orders for six petrochemical carriers of 25,000dwt from unnamed interests.** | They will be delivered by early 2021. The order is worth about US\$185 million. Contact: see above

**Brokers say South Korean yard Samkang M&T has an order for an oil/chemical tanker of about 4,000dwt from Korean customer Hyodong Shipping.** | No more details are available. Contact: Samkang M&T, Goseong yard, 51-1, Naesan 3-gil, Donghae-myeon, Goseong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do, 638-842, South Korea Tel. ++82 55 673 70 14. Fax ++82 55 673 70 55. Web [www.sam-kang.com/kr2\\_en/index.php](http://www.sam-kang.com/kr2_en/index.php)

## SINGAPORE

**Singapore yard group Keppel Offshore & Marine said it has won orders worth about S\$300 million (US\$219 million) for the design and construction of an ice-classed LNG bunker vessel, refurbishment of a floating production storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) and 65 exhaust gas scrubber fitting projects.** | Keppel Singmarine has an order from Russia's Shturman Koshelev for the design and construction of one ice classed LNG bunker vessel. When completed in the fourth quarter of 2020, the vessel will be chartered to Russia's Gazpromneft Marine Bunker Ltd for operations in the Baltic Sea. The contract complies with applicable U.S. sanctions on Russia. It will be built to the MTD 5800V LNG design from Keppel's ship design and development arm, Marine Technology Development. The vessel will have ice class Arc 4 notation and a cargo capacity of 5,800cu.m. Keppel Shipyard has a separate contract from an unnamed global operator of floating production vessels for the fabrication of a new aft hull section for an FPSO. Keppel Shipyard will be responsible for the design of the aft hull, procurement of equipment, as well as fabrication, outfitting, integration and commissioning work on board the existing FPSO. The installation will also include a new accommodation block which can accommodate up to 140 personnel. Work on the FPSO, which has already arrived in the shipyard in preparation for the upgrade, is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2019. Delivery of the FPSO is expected by the end of 2020. Separately, Keppel Shipyard has recently won a total of 65 contracts from a variety of customers for exhaust gas scrubber retrofit projects involving project management, integration design engineering, installation and retrofitting, as well as testing and commissioning works. It completed its first scrubber retrofit installation on a very large crude carrier (VLCC) in July 2018, delivering the project in under 30 days. Contact: Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd, 50 Gul Road, Singapore 629351. Tel. ++65 68 63 72 00. Fax ++65 62 61 77 19 Web [www.keppelom.com](http://www.keppelom.com)

## MIDDLE EAST

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) Dubai-based offshore fabrication yard Lamprell said it has received a letter of intent from Saudi Arabia to build two rigs.** | The deal is from International Maritime Industries Company (IMI), the Saudi Arabian maritime joint venture in which Lamprell is a partner, confirming the intent to award Lamprell the contract for the construction and delivery of two jack-up drilling rigs. There are continuing discussions between the unnamed end client, IMI, and Lamprell to conclude the specifications and contract terms. Once the terms have been agreed this will result in final contract signing for the rigs. They will be built according to the Schedule G requirements for operations in Saudi Arabian waters. Lamprell will undertake most of the fabrication work for both jack-up rigs at its Hamriyah yard in the United Arab Emirates while maximising work in Saudi Arabia to approximately 15% of the scope of work. Contact: Lamprell Energy Ltd, Jebel Ali Free Zone, PO Box 33455, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Tel. ++971 4 80 39 308. Fax ++971 4 88 73 734. Web [www.lamprell.com/site-services/suppliers-and-vendors.aspx](http://www.lamprell.com/site-services/suppliers-and-vendors.aspx)

## AMERICAS

### CANADA

**Canadian ferry operator BC Ferries is spending nearly C\$60 million (US\$44.1 million) to repair, service and modernise 17 vessels in the coming months.** | Canadian yards including Esquimalt Drydock, Esquimalt Graving Dock and Point Hope Shipyard have been contracted to complete upgrades to the fleet. Other shipyards selected to perform the work include Vancouver Drydock, Allied Shipbuilders and BC Ferries' own Fleet Maintenance Unit. "We are serious about driving the BC marine economy, and the investment we make in the province for marine services, repair and maintenance is quite substantial," BC Ferries President and chief executive officer Mr Mark Collins said in a statement. The company operates 36 vessels in total, which means nearly half will require maintenance between now and spring 2019. Contact: BC Ferries, Mr Gordon Ng, The Manager, Purchasing, Tel. ++1 604 204 22 29. Email [supplychain@bcferries.com](mailto:supplychain@bcferries.com) Web [www.bcferries.com/about/Business\\_Opportunities/purchasing\\_contacts.html](http://www.bcferries.com/about/Business_Opportunities/purchasing_contacts.html)

### UNITED STATES

**The U.S. Navy has awarded U.S. yard General Dynamics Bath Iron Works a contract worth up to a possible US\$922 million to build one more destroyer of type DDG 51.** | Bath Iron won an order for four of the ships in 2018 and a fifth has now been ordered. The Navy held a separate competition for the fifth ship as part of its commitment to keeping shipbuilding costs down. The Arleigh Burke class destroyer will be funded in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The latest contract includes options for the shipbuilder to carry out design budgeting requirements, engineering change proposals and post-delivery work. Work for the contract will occur at various locations across the U.S. to up May 2026. The contract price could reach US\$922 million if additional options are confirmed. Contact: General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, 700 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530, United States. Purchasing main Tel. ++1 207 442 45 09. Fax ++1 207 442 11 56. Online supplier registration [www.gdbiw.com/Purchasing.html](http://www.gdbiw.com/Purchasing.html)

**The U.S. Navy has also awarded General Dynamics Bath Iron Works a US\$26 million contract for continuing work on the Zumwalt class of stealth destroyers.** | The contract is for planning yard services such as design, logistics, planning and execution of ship maintenance and modernisation. The contract value could rise to US\$86.7 million by the end of 2023 if additional options are confirmed. Two Zumwalt-class destroyers have been commissioned into the fleet and a third, the Lyndon B. Johnson, is under construction by Bath Iron. Contact: see above

**Huntington Ingalls Industries Ingalls Shipbuilding division has won orders from the U.S. Coast Guard to build two additional National Security Cutters (patrol vessels).** | The contract values for these tenth and eleventh ships in the construction programme are US\$468.75 million for the vessel NSC 10 and US\$462.13 million for NSC 11. The NSC ships are 140m long and 18m wide and displace 4,500 tonnes with a full load. They have a top speed of 28 knots, a range of 12,000 miles, an endurance of 60 days and a crew of 120. Ingalls has delivered seven NSCs, the flagships of the Coast Guard's cutter fleet, designed to replace the 12 Hamilton-class high-endurance cutters that entered service in the 1960s. Contact: Huntington Ingalls/Newport News Shipbuilding. Email for prospective suppliers [NNSProspectiveSupplier@hii-nns.com](mailto:NNSProspectiveSupplier@hii-nns.com) Supplier Web site <http://supplier.huntingtoningalls.com/sourcing/index.html>

**U.S. yard Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding has been awarded two increases to U.S. Navy contracts worth together a total of nearly US\$240 million.** | The largest is a US\$228.8 million contract increase to cover the purchase of additional long-lead time material in support of construction of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Enterprise (CVN 80). The second modification, worth about US\$11 million is for the

advance planning of the refuelling complex overhaul of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and covers supplemental material identified as required subsequent to contract award. The USS Enterprise is the Gerald R. Ford class' third aircraft carrier. Currently, advanced fabrication of CVN 80 is underway. The USS Enterprise will be capable of operating more than 75 aircraft of varied kinds, including fixed-wing and helicopters. Contact: Huntington Ingalls/Newport News Shipbuilding, Email for prospective suppliers [NNSProspectiveSupplier@hii-nns.com](mailto:NNSProspectiveSupplier@hii-nns.com) Supplier Web site <http://supplier.huntingtoningalls.com/sourcing/index.html>

**The U.S. Navy has informed Congress of its intent to place a double order for two Ford-class aircraft carriers, said U.S. Senator Tim Kaine.** | Ordering two vessels at the same time is a plan which officials have said could save billions of dollars as the Trump administration tries to expand the size of the U.S. fleet. The decision comes nine months after the Navy expressed interest in a double order and asked U.S. shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries for detailed pricing on the cost of two aircraft carriers as it considered doubling its order for the most expensive ship in the U.S. fleet in a bid to save money. The Navy commissioned the first Ford-class aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, in July 2017, three years behind schedule and billions of dollars over budget. The Ford cost about US\$13 billion. The Navy has said it would spend about US\$43 billion in total to build the first three ships in the Ford class. Huntington Ingalls Chief Executive Mr Mike Petters has said multi-ship purchases are the best way to reduce construction costs. Senator Kaine, of Virginia and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said a double order, called a block buy, would save billions and provide more stability to the Hampton Roads shipbuilding community in Virginia. "This smart move will save taxpayer dollars and help ensure the shipyards can maintain a skilled workforce to get the job done," he said in a statement. The Navy released a force structure goal in 2016 that calls for a 355-ship fleet. Previously it had a goal of 308 ships, and the actual size of the Navy had generally been between 270 and 290 ships, according to the Congressional Research Service. A 355-ship fleet would include 12 aircraft carriers, one more than the previous goal. The United States currently operates 11 aircraft carriers. Contact: Huntington Ingalls, Supplier Web site <http://supplier.huntingtoningalls.com/sourcing/index.html>

**The yard BAE Systems has received a US\$78.8 million contract from the U.S. Navy for the maintenance and modernisation of USS Shoup (DDG 86), an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer.** | The value of the competitively awarded contract could reach US\$87.6 million if all options are exercised. Under the depot maintenance availability contract awarded, BAE Systems will dry-dock the ship, perform underwater hull preservation work, upgrade the ship's Aegis combat system and its command and control equipment, and rehabilitate crew accommodation. The work is expected to begin in March 2019 and be completed in May 2020. Contact: BAE Systems, Web supplier portal for Europe [www.baesystems.com/en-uk/what-we-do/suppliers](http://www.baesystems.com/en-uk/what-we-do/suppliers)

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## INSIDE REPORT

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**South Korean shipbuilders are expected to continue to win more orders for liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers in 2019, a new forecast says.** | In 2019, the world's overall LNG carrier orders are likely to reach 69 vessels, rising from 65 in 2018 and 17 in 2017, according to London-based Clarkson Research. Rising demand for LNG ships is partly due to China's policy to encourage businesses to use LNG as an environmentally-friendly fuel. Helped by robust LNG carrier orders, South Korea's three biggest shipbuilders, Hyundai Heavy Industries, Samsung Heavy Industries and Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering, have achieved or almost achieved their order targets for 2018. In contrast, an increase in offshore oilfield rig and platform orders is unlikely this year as global oil companies remain cautious about investing in oil exploring ships due to declining oil prices, observers said.

**South Korea has completed the preliminary design of a new type of 3,000-tonne submarine that features capabilities for longer-duration and faster underwater sailing, the South Korean government said.** | Since July 2016, South Korean yard Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering took the lead in designing the Changbogo III-class Batch-II submarine, whose construction is set to begin in the second half of 2019, said the Korean defence purchasing agency Defence Acquisition

Programme Administration (DAPA). The next generation submarine is to be equipped with a Korean-developed lithium battery, which will allow longer underwater operations, and advanced sonar and combat tools that will enhance its target detection capabilities and overall survivability. "It is expected that by possessing the strategic weapons system designed based on local cutting-edge technologies, the country will be able to further strengthen the Navy's independent defence capabilities," the DAPA said. The DAPA said that 80% of the submarine's component parts were made in Korea. In September, South Korea launched the Changbogo III-class Batch-I submarine, named Dosan Ahn Chang-ho, with its operational deployment scheduled for January 2022. 76% of the Batch-I submarine's components were produced by Korean firms.

**The South Korean government has approved a plan for development of a new class of destroyers.** | The Korea Destroyer Next Generation (KDDX) project aims to develop the destroyers for service in the South Korean navy by the late 2020s. The programme will have a budget of around US\$1.6 billion. Korea plans to order six of these ships by the mid or late 2030s, the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA) announced on December 26. "The KDDX is a project to procure destroyers for the purpose of safeguarding maritime interests and responding to potential disputes at sea," said the DAPA in a statement following a meeting by the Defence Project Promotion Committee presided over by Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo. The vessels are expected to feature significant air-defence, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities. One observer said the vessels are expected to measure 155m in length and 18.8m in beam, and have a standard displacement of about 8,000 tonnes.

**South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering said that it plans to deliver two offshore drilling ships to the Angolan state oil company Sonangol early in 2019, ending a dispute lasting several years over a delay in the delivery of the ships.** | Daewoo Shipbuilding said it has reached agreement with Sonangol on the delivery of the two ships by March 2019 for 900 billion won (US\$799 million). In 2013, the Korean shipyard clinched a deal to build two drill ships for Sonangol, and the delivery had been originally scheduled for 2016. Daewoo Shipbuilding said it has already fully reflected the losses from the delayed ship delivery on its balance sheet.

**The Croatian government expects binding offers for the purchase of troubled Croatian yards Uljanik and 3. Maj to be submitted in late January 2019.** | So said Croatian Assistant Economy Minister Mr Zvonimir Novak after a meeting with trade union leaders representing workers at the yards. Novak said several potential buyers are checking the yards' financial data. After Uljanik's management decided that the Kermas Energija company is no longer a potential strategic partner, the search for a new partner has begun, Novak said. He said several reputable European and world shipyards had contacted the Croatian yards and were satisfied with the docks' technical equipment and workers' knowledge, but they wanted to assess their financial situation before possibly making a binding offer. Novak said the buyers were mainly interested in Rijeka's 3. Maj and some for the whole Uljanik Group, of which 3. Maj is part. "The data room will remain open until January 18 and in the week after that we expect that binding offers will arrive in Uljanik d.d.," Novak said.

**The Russian ministries of defence, industry and trade are working on a project to build a shipyard in the Syrian port of Tartus.** | Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Mr Timur Ivanov said an agreement to expand and modernise Russia's naval facility in the Syrian port allows Russia to deploy up to 11 warships at one time. Tartus is Russia's only base in the Mediterranean Sea. Russia has supported the regime of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad providing ground and air forces to regain control of areas his forces had lost. Since its direct military involvement in the Syrian civil war in 2015, Russia has changed the realities on the ground and help Al-Assad recapture most of the country.