

# Barco press release

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For immediate release

Contact:  
Koen Helsen  
Marketing Communications Manager  
Tel: +32 56 233 579  
E-mail: koen.helsen@barco.com

## Barco, Fabricom GTI and Tein Telecom celebrate inauguration of Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Center in Ostend, Belgium

**KORTRIJK, Belgium, 12 July 2006 – Barco, Fabricom GTI and Tein Telecom are proud to announce that the new Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Center (MRCC) in Ostend has officially been inaugurated. The MRCC, which is now fully operational, is the first registration point for accidents at sea along the Belgian coast. The center was commissioned by the Shipping Assistance Division of the Flemish Government and was realized within budget and forecasted planning by a multi-disciplinary consortium of the three above-mentioned companies. The official opening ceremony was attended by Kris Peeters, Flemish Minister for Public Works, Energy, the Environment and Nature, and Renaat Landuyt, Federal Minister of Transport and the North Sea.**

“The start-up of the new MRCC in Ostend is a joyful event,” said Antoine Descamps, Head of the Shipping Assistance Division. “Thanks to the state-of-the-art technology that is supporting the traffic monitoring department, the North Sea will become a lot safer. The way that the consortium worked together with the Flemish Shipping Division to complete the MRCC project has shown to be a true model of collaboration.”

The MRCC project was realized in 16 months and the center came to live operations on 1 June 2006. The consortium of Barco, Fabricom GTI and Tein Telecom carried out the entire 4.2 million Euro project, including program management, design, implementation, installation, training, support and maintenance. The consortium was led by Barco, which delivered the integrated operational applications as well as the visualization part, including a display wall for the MRCC’s crisis room. Fabricom GTI was responsible for the installation works of the Vessel Traffic System, including a stylish mast on top of the MRCC building, as well as for the hydro-meteo system and the automated signalization for the port management control. Tein Telecom installed the complete IT network and realized the voice communication platform, which allows the MRCC operators to communicate with the vessels at sea and with internal and external partners for incident monitoring.

Barco nv, President Kennedypark 35,  
B-8500 Kortrijk, Belgium



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## Advanced technology for a safer North Sea

The MRCC Ostend features a Vessel Traffic Monitoring application integrated with an Incident Management system and Search and Rescue functionalities to ensure safety and to coordinate rescue actions at sea. The MRCC in Ostend is the central check point for incidents at sea, including persons and vessels in need, accidents and oil pollution. The new center, equipped with the latest monitoring and communication technology, will play a very important role in maintaining the safety and environmental friendliness of Belgium's coastal waters and in providing the best possible response and accommodation in case of an incident.

The MRCC is equipped with a complete operator room with five custom-made consoles and a chart table. This operator room is manned 24/7 by at least two operators. Apart from the operator room, a high-end crisis room with an additional console and large-screen display has been set up. This crisis room enables collaborative decision-making by a team of participants without disturbing the work of the operators in the adjacent room. Finally, all equipment, including PCs and displays, is driven and administered from a state-of-the-art server room with redundant installations.

## The MRCC in an international context

The MRCC acts as information and communication hub. As such, it is collecting information from different input sources, such as radar, Automatic Identification System (AIS) tracks and hydro-meteo information. This data is again being dispatched to various clients, including SafeSeaNet, a European Platform for Maritime Data Exchange.

In the framework of the European Safety@Sea project, which aims at improving maritime safety in the North Sea region, the MRCC Ostend system architecture will be used internationally as a platform for the demonstration of new methodologies and technologies. For example, it will be able to demonstrate the exchange of AIS information between all countries of the North Sea and the use of decision-making tools for the organization of rescue actions in the vicinity of a windfarm area.

### *About Shipping Assistance Division*

*Shipping Assistance is a division of the Agency of Maritime Services and Coast of Department Mobility and Public Works of the Flemish Government. The increase of maritime movements, the safety of the population and the environment in the estuary of the Scheldt and the Belgian part of the North Sea have resulted in the necessity of assistance of shipping. The task of the Division consists in procuring that the shipping movements pass off smoothly and safely and in sharing the obtained information with its customers. The most appropriate means for this purpose is the organizing and providing of Vessel Traffic Services by the Scheldt radar chain, which is operated by the Flemish and Dutch Governments. At the Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Centre the Shipping Assistance Division serves as a unique mailbox and the first contact point for different divisions. 130 people work at the Shipping Assistance Division, in Ostend, Zeebrugge, Zelzate, Zandvliet, Kallo and Flushing.*

Barco nv, President Kennedypark 35,  
B-8500 Kortrijk, Belgium

Registered office: Barco nv, President Kennedypark 35, 8500 Kortrijk, VAT BE 0473.191.041, RPR Kortrijk

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## *About Fabricom GTI*

*Fabricom GTI is the Belgian reference in terms of innovative technical installations and services for the industrial and infrastructure markets, both in Belgium and internationally. Our expertise covers a wide and varied range of technical disciplines, including Electrical, Instrumentation, Mechanical, Piping, Automation, and Maintenance, as well as associated specialist applications. Thanks to our network of regional offices in Belgium, on the one hand, and our affiliated companies in Europe, on the other hand, we are able to offer our customers tailor-made solutions, ranging from local, mono-disciplinary to multi-site, multi-disciplinary projects. In addition to this we are highly experienced in the management of large-scale and/or complex projects, both at regional and international level.*

*Fabricom GTI employs more than 7,000 people and achieved a turnover of MEUR 975 in 2005. Fabricom GTI is part of SUEZ Energy Services.*

## *About Tein Telecom*

*Tein Telecom is a Belgian company acting as a leading architect and supplier of innovative and integrated network-based Voice, Data and Video solutions. With a technical staff of 85 people working in both Belgium and The Netherlands, the company has reached a high level of expertise in multimedia integration. Success within complex projects with advanced and customized applications did help the company to invest in people and technologies. Following a strong R&D investment strategy, Tein Telecom has recently developed a unique software package offering highly intuitive management of an entire surveillance infrastructure.*

## *About Barco*

*Barco, a global technology company headquartered in Kortrijk, Belgium, designs and develops visualization products for a variety of professional markets. Barco has its own facilities for Sales & Marketing, Customer Support, R&D and Manufacturing in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.*

*For fiscal year 2005, Barco posted net sales of euro 712.0 million.*

*Barco's ordinary shares are listed on the Brussels/Euronext stock exchange. Barco is a BEL 20 and a Next 150 company. Share information may be accessed on Bloomberg under the symbol BAR BB and on Reuters under BARbt.BR.*

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