

Hope



To kick off 2012 on a high note: Research has shown that Dutch shipbuilders and their main suppliers and subcontractors have some of the fastest growing companies in the Dutch manufacturing industry amongst their ranks. The research was conducted exclusively for Dutch industrial magazine PT Industrial Management by BlueMind Corporate Finance. Companies, headquartered in the Netherlands and not listed, were rated according to their total revenue compound annual growth rate percentage covering the years 2007 - 2009. The shipbuilders and suppliers aren't merely present in the first BlueMind Fabulous 40 – Industrial Markets, shipyard De Hoop and propulsion supplier Veth Propulsion are actually the respective leader and runner-up.

Further shipbuilding companies featured in the Fabulous 40 are VekA Group at no. 10, IHC Merwede ranking no. 13, De Kooiman Groep at no. 15 and HeesenYachts taking the no. 30 spot. Well-known electro technical company and systems supplier, Bakker Sliedrecht features at no. 8 in the Fabulous 40.

Heerema Fabrication Group is the highest ranking offshore company at no. 7. Suppliers relating to the offshore industry include crane manufacturer Kenz-Figee at number 12. Offshore crane and construction equipment supplier Huisman Equipment is present at no. 20 – with one of their suppliers, steel construction company Hillebrand, even taking the no. 4 spot. 'Bringing up the rear' is offshore company SAS.

The full listing can be found at www.bluemind.nl/review. I sincerely hope all of the manufacturing companies will keep on manufacturing. I hope they continue to grow – from shop floor to engineering level and everything in between. I hope they will be keen on hiring new people. Without discriminating any age group – I hope they will hire the young in particular. Why?

According to the International Labour Organization's Global Employment Trends 2012: Preventing a deeper jobs crisis-report 74.8 million youth aged 15 - 24 were unemployed in 2011, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007. Globally, young people are nearly three times as likely as adults to be unemployed. In addition, an estimated 6.4 million young people have given up hope of finding a job and have dropped out of the labour market altogether.

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Editor-in-chief

Ship Building i n d u s t r y

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Front cover and background picture contents page: Gibdock's growing reputation as one of the leading cruise ship repair and refurbishment centres in the Mediterranean has been enhanced by the docking of the 42,255GT, 1992-built Pullmantur Zenith. More on page 10.

