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**James Fisher and Sons plc
James Fisher Defence Acquires UK Submarine Rescue System**

James Fisher Defence Limited, who operate the Royal Navy's submarine rescue service, has signed an agreement with the Government's Defence Sales Agency to acquire the operating assets of the UK submarine rescue service, for an undisclosed amount, in order to provide submarine rescue services to other nations. The company is working closely with the Defence Export Services Organisation to market its submarine rescue services worldwide.

James Fisher Defence Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of James Fisher and Sons plc (FSJ.L), the UK's leading provider of marine services. Through its subsidiary, James Fisher Rumic Ltd, the company currently operates and maintains the LR5 manned rescue submersible, the Scorpio ROV and ancillary equipment under a contract to the Royal Navy and has played a key role in the development of the UK's world-leading submarine rescue capability.

The team, based in Renfrew, Scotland, was mobilised to the Kursk disaster in 2000 and in August 2005 rescued seven Russian submariners trapped in the mini-sub Priz at a depth of 625 feet off Russia's far eastern Kamchatka peninsula.

Commenting on the agreement, Roger Chapman, Vice Chairman of James Fisher Defence, said:

"This marks a significant step in the development and future plans for our submarine rescue capability."

He added: *"I would like to commend the professionalism of our team, which works hand in glove with the Royal Navy and the other naval authorities as demonstrated in the dramatic rescue last year. The submarine rescue assets are on 24-hour standby to save the lives of crews of stricken submarines. We are pleased that we are now able to offer this service, using one of the only such systems in the world, to other nations' navies."*

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Contacts

James Fisher Defence	Simon Harris	Managing Director	01229 615 460
James Fisher & Sons plc www.james-fisher.co.uk	Nick Henry	Chief Executive Officer	020 7338 5800
James Fisher & Sons plc	Michael Shields	Group Finance Director	01229 615 400
Adventis Financial PR Ltd	Peter Binns		020 7034 4760

Editor's Notes:

The UK Submarine Rescue Service

The UK Submarine Rescue Service is a 24-hour standby service managed and operated by James Fisher Rumic. The assets which are being acquired by James Fisher Rumic consist of the following.

1. The Scorpio 45 remotely operated vehicle
2. The LR5 manned rescue submersible
3. The DISSUB Depressurisation System (DSDS)
4. INTO – Integrated Navigation Tracking Outfit
5. TUP – Transfer Under Pressure System
6. PHS – Portable Handling System

The LR5 is a free-swimming manned submersible capable of rescuing up to 16 submariners at a time from a stricken submarine. The original LR5 was built as a diver lock-out submersible for offshore operations and has been progressively developed for submarine rescue operations. The present vehicle was built by James Fisher Rumic in two phases and is fully certified for a further 20 years.

The Scorpio 45 is a dedicated submarine rescue ROV capable of operating at depths as low as 3,000 feet and is fitted with specialised manipulators and toolset.

The vehicle's primary role is to assist in locating a distressed submarine (DISSUB), survey the damage, and the transfer the life support stores in special containers via the submarine's escape hatch. The stores necessary to maintain a safe breathable atmosphere for the survivors over the duration of the rescue period include oxygen candles, and carbon dioxide absorbent to keep the air breathable for longer, and medical supplies, if required.

James Fisher Defence Ltd

James Fisher Defence was established in January 2005, bringing together the defence sector activities of James Fisher and Sons plc including those of James Fisher Rumic which was formed in 1984 and was acquired by James Fisher and Sons in 2002. In recent years the company has increased the scope of its activities and is actively marketing submarine rescue hardware and services to overseas navies globally.

Last year, the rescue of the seven Russian submariners drew on the support from the RAF, the US Navy and local Russians to fly the team and equipment from its Renfrew base, transport it to a waiting ship, secure it to the vessel and reach the offshore location within 36 hours. It took about 5 hours to cut the discarded fishing nets which had trapped the submersible. This was achieved amid estimates that the Russian submariners had less than 10 hours of air left.

James Fisher & Sons

James Fisher & Sons plc, the parent company to James Fisher Defence, is a leading provider of marine services with its business divided into these sectors. The group is a market leader in the provision of technical engineering solutions in the marine environment.

James Fisher has four divisions: Offshore Oil Services, Marine Oil Services, Specialist Technical Services and Defence.