

15 May 2009

**A SKILLED Group business enters into an agreement with Chevron to provide marine support services to the Gorgon Project**

SKILLED Group Limited ("SKILLED") (ASX: SKE) today announced that Offshore Marine Services Australia ("OMS"), its oil and gas manning business had entered into a joint venture, Offshore Marine Services Alliance Pty Ltd ("OMSA") which has secured an agreement with Chevron Australia Pty Ltd ("Chevron") to supply marine vessels and labour to support the Gorgon Project.

Valued at around \$A350 million, the joint venture contract is for a minimum three year period and will commence in Q3 of the 2009 calendar year.

OMSA is a joint venture company between OMS, Ezion Holdings Limited ("Ezion"), a Singapore listed company (5ME.SI) and PBSea-Tow, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pacific Basin Shipping, a Hong Kong listed company (HK: 2343) and is structured equally with each company owning one third of the joint venture project.

The Gorgon Project is a joint venture between the Australian subsidiaries of Chevron (Operator), ExxonMobil and Shell, to develop the Greater Gorgon gas field, located between 130km and 200km off the north-west coast of Western Australia. The Greater Gorgon gas fields contain resources of about 40 trillion cubic feet of gas, Australia's largest-known undeveloped gas resource.<sup>1</sup>

Greg Hargrave, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SKILLED said that securing the contract was an important achievement and further strengthened OMS's relationship with Chevron.

"Since SKILLED acquired OMS in 2007 the business has continued to go from strength to strength. This is a significant contract for OMS and reinforces their position as a leading player in the Australian offshore oil and gas industry. We are delighted to be working with Chevron and our joint venture partners on this monumental project."

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**About SKILLED Group**

SKILLED Group Limited is Australia and New Zealand's leading provider of labour hire and staffing services. SKILLED Group has over 160 offices across Australasia with annualised revenues around \$2 billion. SKILLED partners with clients to improve their workforce efficiency and increase their productivity levels and provides staffing services to the industrial, call centre and healthcare sectors. SKILLED is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX: SKE) and has approximately 6,200 shareholders, predominantly in Australia.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Gorgon Project website

#### About Offshore Marine Services Australia

Established in 2004, Offshore Marine Services Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of SKILLED Group since 2007, is a leading provider of drilling, marine and catering personnel to the offshore oil and gas industry. OMS provides rig positioning, marine consultancy services and offshore catering services to a range of blue chip and secondary service businesses.

#### **About Ezion Holdings Limited**

Ezion Holdings Limited ("Ezion"), a company listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange has two main business divisions that specialise in the development, ownership and chartering of offshore assets and provision of offshore marine logistics and support services to the offshore oil and gas industries.

#### **About PBSea-Tow**

PB Sea-Tow is a subsidiary of Pacific Basin Shipping Limited ("Pacific Basin"), one of the world's leading commercial dry bulk shipping companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 2004. PB Sea-Tow is Pacific Basin's business arm dedicated to project and offshore towage servicing the energy and construction industries throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the South Pacific.