



# UT-Design celebration

One of the most successful design stories in the history of commercial shipbuilding reached a major milestone this autumn – with the placing of the 500th order for a Rolls-Royce UT vessel.

The UT-Design concept has been around for over 30 years with the very first ship of the class still in service, operating in West African waters. The latest version will be a new deep water anchor handling vessel (AHTS) of the type UT 787 CD. Aker Yards will build the vessel for the Norwegian shipowner Island Offshore.

UT-Design is an important part of the Rolls-Royce marine business that also designs and manufactures the engines, propellers, thrusters, winches, bulk handling systems, automation and other equipment which make the UT concept the world leader in offshore service vessels.

"The people behind the UT concept have the ability to continuously develop new and better solutions, also the design and equipment work perfectly together as one integrated unit. That is why most of our fleet consists of vessels of UT-Design," says Håvard Ulstein, managing director of Island Offshore.

The UT concept of outstanding vessel designs and

matching equipment and systems provides the owner and charterer with a reliable vessel and simplifies the supply chain for the shipyard.

One result has been that UT-Design offshore vessels have been built for an international spectrum of owners by yards in 22 countries around the globe, with large numbers constructed in some countries, for example 265 in Norway, 37 in India, 30 in Brazil, 28 in Korea and 23 in Singapore.

Jørn Heltne, Director of Ship Technology – Offshore, said: "The 500th order for the UT-Design is a unique event for us in Rolls-Royce. No one else is even close to having developed 500 offshore vessels. The UT concept has a unique position in our business. If anyone mentions UT, everyone in the offshore industry knows what it is."

## Helping Exploration & Production

High oil and gas prices and other factors have stimulated offshore exploration and production, leading to high rig utilisation and a willingness to invest in new drilling rigs. Rig building gives marine equipment suppliers a chance to contribute with both proven systems and new ideas.

One example where Rolls-Royce is heavily involved is the large deepwater semisub being built by Samsung in Korea for Eastern Drilling. This 6th-generation rig will have a dual derrick and an advanced dynamic positioning system. It will be capable of operating in 3,000m of water, and on completion towards the end of 2007 will be employed by Smedvig Drilling in harsh environments including the far north.