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Nippon Salvage gets Dynamically Positioned by Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc.

(8/8/2001) -- Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, supplied a complete Portable Dynamic Positioning System package to Nippon Salvage Co., Ltd, for a 258' cable-lay barge.

The portable DP system includes four hydraulic outboard azimuthing thrusters of 500 horsepower each for a total of 2,000 installed horsepower. The outboard thrusters are mounted on deck, one on each quarter of the vessel. Motive power for the thrusters, is supplied by four containerized diesel-hydraulic power units (HPU) also installed on the main deck of the barge. Each HPU contains a Caterpillar 3412 DITT radiator-cooled engine driving a hydrostatic pump package connected to the thruster by flexible high-pressure hoses. The diesel engine and hydraulic equipment is installed in a specially modified ISO 20 foot container suitable for ocean and air freight. Local and remote bridge manual controls were also supplied with the package.

Also supplied by Thrustmaster was a Kongsberg-Simrad SDP-11 dynamic positioning computer system configured to comply with IMO DP Class 1 notation. The SDP-11 was integrated with a complete sensor suite including dual gyrocompasses, GPS receivers, and wind sensors.

A special cable tracking software module was installed to allow complete and accurate lay and post survey positioning data.

According to Yuji Kawai, Assistant General Manager, Nippon Salvage Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, states that, "Previously we utilized large anchors for traditional mooring. Under this scenario, the operation could prove to be very difficult and at times dangerous. With the addition of Thrustmaster of Texas' Portable Dynamic Positioning System, our operations have been very successful, insuring our clients satisfaction."

The equipment was manufactured, tested and integrated at Thrustmaster's facility in Houston, Texas, and shipped to Japan for installation on the cable lay vessel. The flexibility of Thrustmaster's portable dynamic positioning system allows complete mobilization of a vessel of opportunity to DP capability in as little as one week. Installation of the system is easily accomplished dockside with no requirement for dry-docking using either shore-side or the vessel's own cranes.

Thrustmaster manufactures a wide variety of thrusters up to 3,000 horsepower including tunnel thrusters, Z-drives, retractable azimuthing thrusters, and jet thrusters for direct-diesel drive, diesel-electric or diesel-hydraulic power.