



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

Issued by Corporate Communications Department  
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# **L&T Crosses Shipbuilding Milestone – lays keel for first ship**

**Mumbai, January 27, 2007:** Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) laid the keel for the first ship within 17 weeks of commencing operations at its shipbuilding yard in Hazira, near Surat. A 180-tonne keel block – the heaviest ever by an Indian shipyard – was ceremonially placed on the erection bay at L&T Hazira Shipyard. The customary keel block lowering was done by Mr. Meindert Van Genderen, Director, Rolldock, Netherlands, in the presence of Mr. A. M. Naik, Chairman & Managing Director, Mr. M. V. Kotwal, Sr. Executive Vice President (Heavy Engineering) & Member of the Board, other L&T officials and business associates. Mr. Genderen in his speech reiterated their trust and confidence in L&T's capabilities and commitment to the project.

Mr. Naik said that shipbuilding represented a major thrust area for L&T, with the Hazira shipyard marking the beginning of the strategic initiative. Detailed expansion plans for the Hazira Shipyard involve expanding capacity to construct 8 vessels up to 20,000 dwt per annum. The Company also plans to set up large shipyards of international standards in India.

Keel laying – an important milestone in shipbuilding – represents the joining of the modular components of the ship and signals the commencement of assembling the hull.

L&T had marked its entry into this field in April 2006 by securing an order from the Netherlands-based Rolldock (earlier Zadeko Ship Management) for four heavy lift semi-submersible cargo ships, technically described as RORO/LOLO Semi Submersible vessels. Till date, over 900 tonnes of steel fabrication have been completed, in a fast track schedule.



*Mr. A. M. Naik, Chairman & Managing Director, Larsen & Toubro Limited, and Mr. Meindert van Genderen, Director, Rolldock, the Netherlands, press a pushbutton to signify completion of the keel laying ceremony. Also seen are: Mr. M. V. Kotwal (extreme left), Sr. Executive Vice President (Heavy Engineering) and Member of the Board, L&T, Mr. Rik Hofst, Director, Rolldock, Mr. S. N. Roy, Vice President, Corporate Initiatives, and Mr. S. Sreekumar, General Manager (Shipbuilding).*

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