



## **PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **ASL Marine 1HFY07 Net Profit up 36% on strong revenue growth**

- 1HFY07 net profit rose 36% to S\$16.8 million on the back of a 48.7% growth in revenue
- Higher revenue and profitability recorded by all three segments of shipbuilding, shiprepair and shipchartering operations
- New shipyard in Guangdong, China to commence operations in 1Q2007

**Singapore, 7 February 2007** – ASL Marine Holdings Ltd. (“ASL Marine” or the “Group”), an integrated marine company offering comprehensive services in shipbuilding, shiprepair and shipchartering; and owning shipyards in Singapore, Batam (Indonesia) and Guangdong (China), achieved strong growth in revenue and profit for 1HFY07.

The Group recorded a 48.7% rise in revenue to \$156.4 million and a 36% increase in net profit to \$16.8 million in 1HFY07. The increase in net profit was due to strong performance in all three business segments.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

<b>S\$'000</b>	<b>1HFY07</b>	<b>1HFY06</b>	<b>Growth %</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	156,356	105,165	48.7
<b>Gross Profit</b>	24,318	14,591	66.7
<b>Gross Profit Margin</b>	15.6 %	13.9 %	12.2
<b>Net Profit Attributable to Equity Holders</b>	16,766	12,332	36.0

## **OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

Revenue from shipbuilding operations increased 46.0% from \$68.9 million to \$100.5 million in 1HFY07. Shipbuilding gross profit margin increased from 5.6% in 1HFY06 to 6.1% in 1HFY07. The increase was mainly attributed to the progressive recognition of revenue from the construction of increased number of vessels with higher contract values.

Revenue from shiprepair operations increased significantly by 77.5% from \$12.0 million to \$21.3 million in 1HFY07. This is comparable to the shiprepair revenue of \$23.3 million for the whole of FY2006. Shiprepair operations recorded gross profit margin of 27.3% for 1HFY07. The strong performance in this segment was primarily due to more and bigger shiprepair and ship conversion jobs undertaken at the Batam graving dry dock which commenced operation in 1HFY07.

Revenue from the shipchartering and rental operations increased 42.1% from \$24.3 million to \$34.5 million in 1HFY07. Gross profit margin for this segment increased from 28.5% in 1HFY06 to 35.9% in 1HFY07. The growth was supported by an increase in fleet size from 115 as at 31 December 2005 to 146 vessels as at 31 December 2006, changes in revenue mix with higher proportion of time charter, as well as a general increase in charter rates.

Mr Ang Kok Tian, the Chairman and Managing Director commented on the Group's operations in 1HFY07, "Following the expanded facilities at our Batam shipyard, we have strengthened our shiprepair capacity and capabilities. This has allowed us to grow our shiprepair segment which we believe is a key engine of the Group's growth prospect."

## **SHIPREPAIR PROSPECTS**

Following the completion of a 150,000 dwt graving dry dock in Batam in August 2006, ASL Marine is currently one of the few shipyards in the region capable of repairing Capesize class vessels. The operation of the graving dry dock has enhanced the Group's shiprepair capabilities. This has allowed the Group to provide ship owners a fuller range of repair services, increasing its prospects of taking on more and bigger shiprepair & conversion jobs. The Batam shipyard's new 220m finger pier, when completed in July 2007, will further enhance berthing capacity and allow the Group to take on more shiprepair businesses.

## **PROSPECTS & OUTLOOK**

The marine industry is expected to remain with its positive outlook owing to the buoyant offshore oil & gas exploration and production activities, International Maritime Organization's regulation to phase out all single hull tankers by 2010, booming infrastructure development in the Middle-East, growing demand for tugs and barges generated by increased numbers of domestic infrastructure construction projects, as well as new demand and renewal of ageing offshore support vessels (AHT, AHTS, PSV etc) by offshore operators.

ASL Marine's shipyard in Guangdong, focusing mainly on shipbuilding activities, is expected to commence operations in 1Q2007.

As at 31 December 2006, the Group has an outstanding shipbuilding order book of \$382 million with approximately 33% of these projects expected to be recognised by June 2007. The Group also has outstanding order book for shiprepair and ship conversion of \$16 million and shipchartering long term contracts (duration more than one year) of approximately \$29 million.

Mr Ang concluded, "We are encouraged by the Group's 1HFY07 results which showed growth in all our three business segments. We will continue to work hard to generate value for our shareholders. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Group is optimistic of achieving our 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive record profit in FY2007."

>>>>>> The End.

### **About ASL Marine Holdings Ltd.**

*ASL Marine Holdings Ltd. ("ASL Marine") is a fast-growing and dynamic marine company. ASL Marine is principally engaged in shipbuilding, shiprepair, shipchartering and other marine related services, catering to customers from Asia Pacific, South Asia, the Middle East and Europe. ASL Marine owns and operates shipyards in Singapore, Batam (Indonesia) and Guangdong (China), providing a comprehensive range of marine engineering services spanning myriad sectors/industries. The Group's new 150,000dwt graving dry dock in Batam is one of the few shipyards in the region capable of repairing Capesize vessels. It has a young fleet of more than 140 vessels comprising tugs and barges for its shipchartering operation.*

For more information, please refer to the corporate website [www.aslmarine.com](http://www.aslmarine.com)

---

Issued for and on behalf of ASL Marine Holdings Ltd.

Mark LEE / James KOH  
Financial PR Pte Ltd  
Tel: (65) 6438 2990  
Fax: (65) 6438 0064  
E-mail: [james@financialpr.com.sg](mailto:james@financialpr.com.sg)