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For Immediate Release

GPA and Bourbon Leading Modern Offshore Market – *Bourbon Liberty* Class Vessels Consistently Delivered in China

Seattle, WA – By the end of 2008, Naval Architectural and Marine Engineering Firm Guido Perla & Associates, Inc., headquartered in Seattle, WA, expects “Bourbon Liberty 112”, the twelfth of the 22-vessel GPA 654M Liberty Class PSV series and “Bourbon Liberty 201”, the first of the 54-vessel GPA 254L AHTS series to be delivered at Dayang Shipyard in China. The designation of these vessels as the Liberty Class was inspired by the Liberty Ships of World War II. Like Bourbon’s Liberty Class vessels, the Liberty Ships were of a completely standardized design, built in record time, facilitating the construction of 2,710 Liberties within four years.

To meet the increasing demand for oil worldwide, the rapid building of vessels, capable of deepwater offshore operations, is required to replace existing, obsolete offshore vessels. Responding to this global need by investing in large numbers of next-generation vessels, Bourbon will be operating the most up-to-date fleet worldwide and is the leader in modern offshore operations with a multi-purpose fleet, primarily consisting of GPA-designed vessels, such as the Bourbon Liberty 100 (PSV) and Bourbon Liberty 200 (AHTS) series, which are focused on safety, maneuverability, environmental protection and productivity.

Bourbon currently has under construction and in operation more than 100 GPA designed vessels, including PSVs, AHTS vessels, IMR vessels, and ROV-capable vessels. The grounds for proceeding with GPA designs in such large quantities are comprehensive. GPA’s offshore designs have proven successful not only in operations but also during construction. Simplified construction methods, including proven single-curvature hull forms and additional advantageous structural arrangements, enable shipyards to build more vessels in less time in a cost-efficient manner. Furthermore, the utilization of a Modular Electrical System by EPD, Inc. creates greater flexibility and timesaving during the construction process as the entire system can be installed as the vessel nears completion.

Additionally, all GPA offshore designs, including the 58-meter GPA 654M PSV, outperform similar sized vessels in terms of space optimization. As a result of locating the engine room above main deck, a concept pioneered by GPA several years ago, and made possible by the use of diesel-electric propulsion, cargo space is 30% greater. The GPA 654M PSV is capable of carrying 170m³ dry bulk, 648m³ liquid mud, 537m³ fuel oil, 410m³ drill water and 386m³ fresh water. The oval tank design for liquid products, coupled with a faster and automated cleaning system, enables optimized loading and transfer operations. Further benefits of the diesel-electric propulsion system common to these vessels include better fuel consumption and a reduction in CO₂ emissions by as much as 30%, offering operators exceptional efficiency and environmentally friendly operations.

At-sea operations are also optimized by exceptional maneuverability and the capability to maintain precise position alongside rigs and platforms. With the use of three main generators with a total power of 3,081 kW, three stern thrusters and two bow thrusters that, in combination with a DP System Class 2, the GPA 654M PSV facilitates tremendous station-keeping capabilities to carry out operations safely, even in adverse weather conditions. Redundant propulsion equipment even allows for full operation with one generator out of service.

With a fleet that will consist of 54 GPA 254L AHTS, 22 GPA 654M PSV, ten GPA 696 IMR, ten GPA 670 PSV, four GPA 670MKII Special Products PSV and four GPA 670MKII ROV vessels intended for deepwater and continental offshore operations and bringing the best value for the money invested industry-wide, GPA and Bourbon continue to expand their positions as major key players in the offshore arena.

Guido Perla and Associates, Inc. was founded in 1979 and is recognized as a world leader in naval architecture and marine engineering.

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