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U.S. BARGE HIRES 115TH NEW EMPLOYEE

First Year Sees Significant Growth for Start-Up Barge Fabrication Company

PORTLAND, Ore. – (July 27, 2007) During the past twelve months, U.S. Barge has added 115 skilled, family-wage jobs to the local Portland economy and plans to continue hiring to fill high production demands.

Since its founding one year ago, the company has experienced significant growth and success, winning competitive barge contracts and filling their order books through mid-2008. The resulting workload has led the company to double their initial projection of 100 new jobs. Over the next several months, the total number of U.S. Barge direct hires is predicted to grow to 200.

U.S. Barge's workforce primarily consists of skilled welders and assemblers. The company proactively encourages diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. U.S. Barge offers internal training programs for employees to help them advance in their chosen field—a majority of its workforce has demonstrated increased skillsets and added new process certifications since joining the team.

The first U.S. Barge-built barge will be launched in mid-September 2007. With bookings through the next twelve months, the company is actively soliciting customers who are interested in starting a project in 2008. The company can construct all types of barges, from bluewater to inland to specialty, and is looking at deliveries across the United States. U.S. Barge is supported by its co-owners, Vigor Industrial, LLC and Oregon Iron Works, Inc—companies which together offer nearly one hundred years of marine fabrication experience.

For more information on U.S. Barge, visit www.usbarge.com or email info@usbarge.com. Also see www.vigorindustrial.net and www.oregoniron.com.

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