

## Press Information

### **“Diamonds for development in Africa” airship agreement signed by De Beers and Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik, for diamond projects in Africa**

**Friedrichshafen, 11.Juli 2005 – Due to the unique performance capabilities of ZLT’s Zeppelin NT “New Technology” airship, the leading diamond company De Beers and ZLT have agreed to deploy a Zeppelin airship in southern Africa commencing early September 2005.**

De Beers and Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik (ZLT) are pleased to announce that they have signed a two-year agreement to operate the ZLT airship for De Beers in the southern African region performing a range of services for the De Beers Group. The Zeppelin NT-07 airship has been designed and built using the latest technology making it highly manoeuvrable, quiet and safe. The craft to be used by De Beers is almost as big as a football pitch and will be used by the De Beers Group of Companies for a research and development project in its southern African operations. It is anticipated that the application of this leading-edge technology will provide De Beers with a clear competitive advantage.

This partnership between a 118-year-old south African diamond company and a 107-year-old German airship company, bringing this unique technology to Africa in an innovative application, is further evidence of the De Beers Group’s commitment to economic development in the region, through its consistent investment in new technologies and associated supporting infrastructure. Appropriately, De Beers, together with its partners in mining, Debswana in Botswana and Namdeb in Namibia, will be taking advantage of the historic arrival of the Zeppelin airship in southern Africa to use it to promote the initiative “Diamonds for Development in Africa “.

Nicky Oppenheimer, chairman of the De Beers Group, congratulated the scientists and engineers of De Beers and Zeppelin involved in this project. From Johannesburg he commented enthusiastically, "There is always a fascination in diamonds and one would have to go far to combine a more romantic association than Zeppelin airships and De Beers diamonds. I am immensely proud that people from the De Beers Group of companies have been involved in such innovative and lateral thinking."

He concluded by saying; "As said by a wiser man long ago, there is 'always something new out of Africa' and today again Africa surprises and delights. I have a particular regard of all things to do with flying and so this announcement makes me particularly pleased to be associated with the great Zeppelin airship company."

Thomas Brandt, CEO of ZLT stated: „ It is the first time that an airship will be used for test phase in an industrial operation, in this case with an outstanding partner such as De Beers. We are proud to have been selected for his so far unique project, which will be a challenge for both companies. ZLT will only be able to realise this mission due to the commitment of our professional and determined team.“

De Beers and its partners in mining and in technology will issue a further statement when the airship is offloaded in Southern Africa. The airship is flying at the end of July from Friedrichshafen to Amsterdam in the Netherlands via Antwerp in Belgium – Europe's leading diamond trading centre. The "Diamonds for Development in Africa " airship will then be transported by sea to Africa.

Contact:

Marion Berg – Deutsche Zeppelin Reederei  
Head of Marketing and Corporate Communication  
Fon: +49 7541 5900 467  
Fax: +49 7541 5900 500  
Mail: [mberg@zeppelin-nt.de](mailto:mberg@zeppelin-nt.de)