**Additional commentary – Archirodon Presentation to 4th Arab-Hellenic Economic Forum**

Archirodon, a large diversified international contracting organization, was established in **1959** in the form of a J.V. of the Greek firms **Archimidis**, Greece’s foremost marine contractor at the time and Odon & Odostromaton, **a road construction specialist group**.

Guided by two of Greece’s most prominent construction pioneers, Theodore Constantopoulos and Constantinos Karpidas, the Joint Venture started its professional life by building the **ports of Benghazi in Libya** (1961) and subsequently the **port of Beirut in Lebanon** (1962).

At that time, Archirodon has found that significant business opportunities were available in the Arab world where the local Engineering and Construction industry was virtually non-existent. Hence, leveraging the resources and expertise available in Greece along with high risk appetite, entrepreneurship and endurance to hardship, Archirodon ventured into Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Among its early projects had been the construction of the multi-million dollar seaports of Jeddah and Dammam and other major ports in Saudi Arabia, main ports in the United Arab Emirates, and numerous other important infrastructure works.

In the 1980s Archirodon, while still upholding its reputation as one of the top marine contractors internationally, further developed into a general contracting group, diversifying into other fields including roads, bridges, railroads and industrial facilities.

Since the mid-90’s, Archirodon has started giving emphasis to the market sectors of Oil & Gas, as well as, Power & Desalination, recently completing a number of large scale projects. Among them, is the Shoaiba I Combined Cycle Power Plant (14x370MW) and the Ras Al Khair Desalination Plant (1mil m3 daily output), the largest in the world.

By choice, it has abandoned general civil engineering works (e.g. roads, buildings, land bridges, etc) since the local market has started maturing and developed relevant expertise. It is to be noted that, through the years, Archirodon, similar to other international companies, has exported to the Arab world technical knowledge and construction expertise and has played an instrumental role in providing opportunities to local contractors. It is no surprise, that some of Archirodon’s early subcontractors have grown to become large general contracting groups.

Archirodon has since expanded its operations to Kazakhstan, Morocco, Iraq, Algeria and other MENA countries and is ready to further expand into turnkey solutions in the Oil & Gas and Power sectors.

Today, the local market developed its Engineering and Construction sectors and has become structured and highly demanding. Its mega projects, some of them complex, attracted competition from all over the world.

Currently, the Arab world, with its structured and highly demanding market, is still providing great opportunities. It demands, however, companies with strong commitment, attention to quality, emphasis on cost (to be competitive) and innovation (to make the difference from the competition).

Archirodon continued providing opportunities to Greek technological companies. A recent example is the joint establishment of an O&G modules fabrication and logistics facility in the UAE to serve the increasing needs of the Gulf Offshore O&G market.