



Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Inc.

265 S. Water Street (36603) - P.O. Box 42 - Mobile, Alabama 36601
Telephone: 251-431-8000 Fax: 251-432-2260

Mobile, AL, June 10, 2009 – Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co., Inc. learned today that a petition has been filed to put the company into involuntary bankruptcy. The petition has not yet been served on Bender, so it cannot comment on it in detail. However, the company is in contractual disputes with two of the three creditors who filed the petition, including GulfMark Offshore, Inc., a Houston-based operator of vessels that serve offshore oilfields. Such a creditor, holding a claim subject to a bona fide dispute, is not permitted by the bankruptcy laws to file an involuntary petition. Bender vigorously disputes GulfMark's claims and firmly believes that the petition is invalid and should be dismissed.

Tom Bender, the President and CEO of Bender, observes that "it is unfortunate that GulfMark has chosen to go this route, which surely is a litigation tactic to put pressure on Bender to settle the lawsuit." He continues, "I am optimistic that the involuntary petition will be dismissed quickly."