

## Arjan Voogt, MARIN's new man in Houston

# “We model your



Arjan Voogt (Manager) and Willemijn Pauw (Calculation Engineer) are ready to model your design in Houston.

**Last year, with Dr Johan Wichers retirement approaching, MARIN re-evaluated its services in the Houston-market and asked Arjan Voogt to take up the position of Manager MARIN USA. Report interviews Arjan to find out what made him make the move to Houston. He makes his approach clear: “We want to support our clients at an early stage and say: we want to model your design.”**

What made you decide to take up this position in the Houston office?

In the past eight years I worked as a project manager in MARIN's offshore department and gained extensive experience in model testing and simulation in the fields of Dynamic Positioning, platform response, offshore lifting and extreme wave loads. In these projects the interaction between the clients' project and our hydrodynamic research was mainly focused around the actual model tests. The position in Houston allows me to have much more direct client contact and get involved at an earlier stage of the design.

Why does MARIN need an office in Houston?

In combination with the model tank facilities in Wageningen, MARIN uses simulation software, full-scale testing and training. This strong combination is used to achieve optimised concepts with safe and efficient operations. MARIN's presence in Houston is crucial for the application of simulation software and support on full-scale measurement programs. Therefore, MARIN USA extended its services with a team of engineers who perform calculation studies with MARIN's dedicated and validated tools in the Houston office. At the same time, MARIN USA maintains

a strong link to MARIN's facilities, services and know-how in the Netherlands.

Where does the focus on numerical studies come from?

With increased computer capabilities, the role of model testing changed. Many model test programs are prepared with simulation software and followed-up by numerical work to model the physical model and to further understand the behaviour of the tested design. At the same time, full-scale data is increasingly becoming available. With an enormous increase in information, downtime analysis can be carried out with a measured time series of the environment and general design rules have made way for more detailed numerical studies.



# design”

What's the client response up until now?

Some people already know how to find us and use this opportunity to get direct personal support within the same time zone. We've been involved in a couple of numerical studies to find optimised solutions in an early phase of the design. Other studies were carried out in our Houston office to provide an independent verification. In the past nine years, MARIN USA has proved its value as a link to MARIN in the Netherlands. Model test programs, simulation studies and full-scale monitoring projects were defined in direct contact with the end-users in Houston. And for others, who are not yet aware of the integrated approach we offer from our Houston office, more information is available through [usa@marin.nl](mailto:usa@marin.nl). [MARIN](https://www.marin.nl)

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After serving MARIN USA for nine years and MARIN in the Netherlands for 25 years, Dr Johan Wichers retired from MARIN in October, last year. For many years he was one of MARIN's main faces in the offshore industry and with his expertise and enthusiasm he supported many clients. In addition, his PhD thesis on the simulation of the low frequency motions of moored structures will be a landmark for many more years to come. Fortunately, he will remain active in our fascinating industry. We thank him for all he did for MARIN and wish him and his family many happy and healthy years!



The MARIN course “Hydrodynamics of Floating Offshore Structures” was held in the US for the first time last autumn and proved a success. One participant commented: “Excellent course, good selection of topics, very relevant!”. Another: “I would definitely recommend this course to my colleagues”.

More than 20 people followed this intense and interactive MARIN course last autumn, in Galveston. With another 30 people on the regular course in Wageningen in March this year, more than 50 people have been brought up-to-date by our dedicated project managers who lecture on the courses. Both courses covered all the important aspects and gave an insight into MARIN's latest findings. A broad field was covered, ranging from Vortex Induced Vibrations (VIV) and Motions (VIM) to Dynamic Positioning and from mooring and offloading analysis, to extreme waves and their loading.

*“I would definitely recommend this course to my colleagues”*

If you have an interest in the course in the Houston area this autumn, please contact our course co-ordinator Leo Brozius: [L.H.Brozius@marin.nl](mailto:L.H.Brozius@marin.nl).

