

**LARS comes home 🚚**  
**Newfoundland company builds ROV launch systems for offshore**

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Thirty tonnes of steel and hydraulics made in Newfoundland took a circuitous trip to the province's oilpatch this summer.

Orphan Industries Ltd., which makes launch and recovery systems (LARS) for the offshore industry, ships these units to Oceaneering International Ltd. in Louisiana.

One came back and will be used on the Grand Banks.

Known as LARS for short, the mechanical arm launches and recovers remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

Those underwater ROVs are used in the offshore oil and gas industry to install, maintain and repair equipment on the seabed.

Orphan, a subsidiary of D.F. Barnes, started making the LARS for Oceaneering 1 1/2 years ago.

"We are competitive anywhere in the world right now," said Art Garland, president of Orphan Industries.

"Oceaneering is the largest ROV manufacturer in the world, so it's quite an accomplishment."

Orphan's markets are worldwide.

The company isn't targeting the Newfoundland offshore market, but Garland says it's nice to see the LARS used here.

Garland hadn't seen one in operation until it was installed a few days ago aboard the Atlantic Kingfisher, an offshore supply ship operating in the Terra Nova oilfield.

"This is great," he said.

"We don't really build for the Newfoundland offshore market, per se."



“We build these units and ship them around the world for Oceaneering, and to see one come back into our own marketplace right now is truly amazing and a very proud moment for us.”

Garland didn't disclose the exact price of each unit, but said their fabrication in the province is worth several million dollars.

“It's done all in St. John's here. We've got sub-contractors involved, as well. So, the whole industry in St. John's is involved with this.”

Orphan employs 40 people at its fabrication shop and Garland estimates about the same number are employed via sub-contractors.

“Our capacity is used up,” he said.

The company plans to expand and is designing a new building.

So far, Orphan has shipped 25 LARS that measure 30 feet high when the arm is deployed, and 12 feet wide.

Orphan has also started making aluminum “garages” - essentially a pipe-framed cage that houses the ROVS.

The first two were shipped to Oceaneering.