

oceanbuzz

The weekly ocean technology e'Newsletter everyone's talking about

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) APPLIED ACOUSTICS EXPANDS IN GREAT YARMOUTH

Increased sales in Applied Acoustics' underwater positioning equipment and seismic survey systems has necessitated their move into larger premises. The new facility, more than twice the size of the previous building, houses spacious production areas, test facilities and administrative offices as well as a new suite to be used as a Training Centre. In addition, the company has invested in an impressive new 6000m pressure test tank which will allow it to develop products for full ocean depth operations.

Applied Acoustics was established in 1989 and now manufactures a wide range of positioning beacons, USBL subsea tracking systems and seismic sub-bottom profiling equipment used by commercial companies and academic institutions worldwide. Their latest new product, the rack-mounted, spread spectrum Easytrak Nexus was launched recently at Ocean Business in Southampton.

The new facility was officially opened by Norfolk MP Tony Wright on April 23rd with local VIPs, customers and suppliers invited to toast the company's success.

For further information please contact Sue Meeken, smeeken@appliedacoustics.com or +44 (0) 1493 440355 or visit www.appliedacoustics.com

1.b) LATEST CYGNUS UNDERWATER THICKNESS GAUGE

Cygnus Instruments introduces the new "Cygnus Underwater" thickness gauge. The new Cygnus Underwater is IPX8 rated, which allows continuous underwater operation up to 300 m depth. The new feature of "Deep-Coat" mode facilitates measuring through even thicker coatings up to 20 mm thick. Other features include convenient calibration buttons, echo strength indication and automatic probe recognition (APR), which detects the probe type and optimises the electronics accordingly. The gauge benefits from a large, bright LED display for use in poor visibility conditions. When surface verification is required the Cygnus Underwater can be upgraded to include the topside display options and any length of umbilical cable up to 1000 m long. This upgrade is straight forward - simply plug in the topside repeater and go! The standard kit includes 2 rechargeable NiMH battery packs, which give over 60 hours' measuring time and eliminate down-time for battery charging. With the benefit of all these features, the new Cygnus Underwater is not just the lightest (950 g) and smallest (235 x 75 mm) underwater gauge available, but also the easiest to use for all typical underwater inspections: ship hulls, semi-sub structures, subsea pipelines, offshore structures, jackets, piers, pilings, etc. All Cygnus thickness gauges carry a 3 year guarantee.

For further information contact E: sales@cygnus-instruments.com T: +44 (0) 1305265533 or visit www.cygnus-instruments.com

1.c) PLANET OCEAN LAUNCH NEW RANGE OF BEACONS FROM XEOS TECHNOLOGIES

Surrey based Planet Ocean Ltd, is pleased to announce the launch of a new range of surface and sub surface mooring beacons to be known as "MICRO BEACONS". First off the line is a high intensity LED flashing beacon.

The XMBF-200 is an independently powered, self contained surface flasher that is fully submersible to 200m. This state of the art flasher is part of the micro beacon line of products and contains the latest technology available. The super-bright LED provides unparalleled visibility in even the worst conditions. The XMBF-200 is significantly smaller and lighter than other flashers meaning easier storage and deployment without any sacrifice in performance or operational visibility. User selectable flash patterns and repetition rates together with a choice of activation methods make this a very useable device for a variety of marking applications, search and rescue, ROV's AUV's etc. A 5000 m version with surface switching technology, will follow in July.

For more information visit:- <http://www.planet-ocean.co.uk/XEOS>

1.d) CONTINUED EXPANSION FOR OCEANSCAN

Oceanscan Limited, the Aberdeen based equipment rental, personnel services and specialised products manufacturer recently announced the opening of an office in the Orbis Energy Centre, Lowestoft. Ken Hunter, Managing Director said "Our Company has just celebrated twenty years of being in business and we are now entering what we believe will be an exciting new chapter in the company's development. This office will now become the centre for our Personnel Services business under the direction of our new Personnel Operations Manager, Sarah Chapman." Sarah brings many years of experience of placing offshore technical engineering personnel and will be a significant asset to the company. The Personnel division provides staff to support a variety of projects including survey, vessel, ROV, trenching and logistics support.

Denise Farr will take up the post of Personnel Co-ordinator reporting to Sarah Chapman. Denise comes from a sales background having worked most recently for North America Travel Service as a Sales Executive and was very successful in generating increased sales for the region for which she was responsible.

Oceanscan's Business Development Manager Ray Ward will also be based in the new facility; he commented "Despite the global down turn in the economy, we believe that Oceanscan, as a privately owned company, is very well placed to respond to the challenges of the Oil & Gas market by providing customers with a fast, reliable and flexible range of services."

In the Aberdeen office, Kerry Birse takes up the post of Marketing Co-ordinator. Kerry joins from Weatherford International where she was Marketing Co-ordinator for Europe & Africa. Kerry has an Honours degree in marketing and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

For further information please contact E: ray.ward@oceanscan.co.uk or Tel: +44 (0)1502 509247 or visit our website at www.oceanscan.co.uk

1.e) FUGRO SURVEY LIMITED'S VESSEL M/V FUGRO DISCOVERY IS UPGRADED

As part of Fugro's ongoing policy to modernise its fleet of seabed survey vessels, the ex-Norwegian Coastguard vessel, KV Tromsø, was acquired early in 2007. Built in 1997, it was renamed M/V Fugro Discovery and entered commercial service later that year.

It rapidly gained a reputation as being a stable survey platform, delivering excellent data with well integrated marine and survey crews ensuring extremely efficient operations.

Immediately the vessel was acquired it was converted into a geophysical survey vessel. Already designed to meet the highest standards of safety and of the environment it was fitted with Fugro's high precision DGPS satellite positioning systems, Starfix HP and Starfix Spot; HiPAP 500 USBL; EM710 Multibeam Echo Sounder; Edgetech 4200 Side Scan Sonar (3000m tow cable) and hull mounted sub-bottom pinger/profiler. It was also equipped with Fugro's FOCUS-2 Remotely Operated Towed Vehicles and used to carry out external acoustic pipeline inspection surveys in the North Sea.

The vessel proved to be very successful in this mode of operation. Since commissioning, over 15,000 kilometres of Subsea pipeline have been inspected. It will be inspecting over 4,000 kilometres of Subsea pipeline in 2009. Being fitted with automated station keeping capability it also deploys a work-ball ROV, such as a Seaeye Tiger, to carry out visual inspections of elements of the pipeline system being surveyed, selected after onboard analysis of the geophysical data.

For further information, please contact Chris Mott info@fugrosurvey.co.uk or +44 (0)1224 257500 or visit www.fugrosurvey.co.uk

1.f) NCS SUBSEA BUYS SONARDYNE SCOUT TO BOOST SURVEY POSITIONING EFFICIENCY

Marine navigation services company NCS SubSea Inc. based in Houston, has invested in Sonardyne Scout-Pro USBL (Ultra-Short BaseLine) acoustic positioning technology for a major ocean bottom seismic survey offshore Kazakhstan. The order also includes low-cost acoustic beacons, advanced Wideband Sub-Mini (WSM) tracking transponders, lightweight acoustic release transponders and Sonardyne's HydroPos navigation software.

NCS has purchased the equipment specifically to reduce the vessel time needed to position seismic cables and ground stations once they have been deployed on the seabed. Conventional techniques require a recording vessel to pass down both sides of the cable, collecting multiple acoustic ranges from transponders attached to the cable at regular intervals. Whilst this method is very accurate, the process takes time and also relies upon good geometry from the vessel to each transponder.

The NCS survey team's approach has been to use the Scout-Pro USBL systems interfaced to their own survey instruments to create a fully integrated navigation solution. With Scout, a vessel-mounted transceiver measures both the range and bearing to each cable-mounted transponder. The recording vessel is therefore able to position the cable in one overhead pass, saving vessel time and making for very efficient surveys.

Sonardyne's HydroPos navigation software remotely controls the Scout USBL system. It manages the large number of acoustic transponders deployed and creates pre-plot data for the system to follow and automatically search for the correct transponders along the cable. Position solutions are calculated in HydroPos and can be outputted in various industry standard file formats.

The Scout transceiver is small and lightweight and ideal for deploying over the side of small survey boats. An internal heading, pitch and roll sensor eliminates the need for the unit to be interfaced to external motion sensors in order to both calibrate the system and provide the necessary compensation for vessel movement all USBL systems require. After data acquisition, the deployment pole to which the transceiver is attached is lifted, enabling the recording vessel to quickly move to its next survey location.

For further information please contact Richard Binks, Tel: +44 (0)1252 872288 or visit www.sonardyne.com

1.g) FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY DRILLS FROM IMCA

A new document produced by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) is designed to assist with the ongoing competence of first aid personnel onboard vessels. 'First Aid and Other Emergency Drills' (IMCA C 013), the new publication, is not a guidance document, instead it sets out a range of first aid and other emergency drills which members can use onboard their vessels as part of on-the-job training for all personnel - not just appointed first aiders.

IMCA members can download the new publication via the members-only website with additional printed copies available at £10 for members and £20 for non-members (plus 20% for delivery outside Europe). Further information is available at www.imca-int.com and from publications@imca-int.com or from IMCA at 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5520; Fax: +44(0)20 7824 5521.

1.h) DNV AWARDS SAAB SEA EYE ISO 9001:2008 ACCREDITATION

Saab Seaeye, the electric ROV manufacturer, has been awarded the exclusive and stringent ISO 9001:2008 accreditation from Det Norske Veritas (DNV), a foundation established in 1864 to help safeguard life, property and the environment.

The enhanced DNV Risk Based Certification is awarded to only a select group of companies across the globe. It recognises that Saab Seaeye has verifiable, consistent and continually improving systems for management control, safety and quality.

To achieve certification, Det Norske Veritas say that an organisation must undergo a rigorous and comprehensive assessment to demonstrate that their processes and organisation meet defined standards of quality that instil trust and confidence in the company's customers and prospects.

For further information, please contact Dave Grant, dgrant@seaeye.com or +44 (0)1489 898000 or visit www.seaeye.com

1.i) INDIAN POSITIONING CONTRACTS FOR VERIPOS

Four of India's leading DP vessel operators in Mumbai have each commissioned Aberdeen-based Veripos to provide medium to long-term high-precision GNSS positioning products and services for their respective domestic and international offshore operations.

The companies include Greatship India who have commissioned Veripos' Standard positioning service and LID3-G1 hardware on DP vessels, *Greatship Amrita*, *Greatship Anjali*, *Greatship Dhriti*, *Greatship Disha*, and *Greatship Diya* while a further four vessels are to be supplied with similar facilities later this year. The company, which has recently had vessels operational in the Middle East, Mexico and South Africa as well as its domestic market in India, is currently engaged in a major new-build programme involving further additions to its DP fleet between now and 2011.

Great Offshore, the prominent integrated oilfield services supplier of services to upstream oil and gas producers, have likewise fitted Veripos' LID3-G1 integrated receivers for reception of its Standard GNSS augmentation services on two DP vessels now working offshore India, *FFSV Malaviya 25* and *FFSV Malaviya 27*.

Varun Shipping Co have also committed to identical equipment and services which are now operational aboard DP anchor handling tugs *AHTS Subhadra* and *AHTS Suchandra*. These are two of a number of similar vessels operated by the company and are presently working in the North Sea.

Meanwhile, Veripos has also been awarded a three-year contract to provide LD2-G2 equipment and its Standard services for TAG Offshore's new anchor handling tug ship, *TAG 4*. The company, which currently operates four offshore vessels, plans additional extensions to its fleet over the next two years.

For further information please visit www.veripos.com

1.j) KONGSBERG MARITIME LTD ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN NEW TRAINING CENTRE

Kongsberg Maritime announces it has taken a five year lease on new premises as part of its plans to open a new training centre. Once fully equipped, the Westhill based centre will represent a seven figure sum investment by the organisation which is determined that its customers receive the highest degree of operational support in today's cost conscious marketplace. It will provide Kongsberg Maritime with more than 5000 square feet of dedicated training facilities – making it the largest marine training centre of its type in Aberdeen. The centre, which is scheduled to open mid 2009, has led to the creation of 5 positions.

Courses, where applicable, will be approved by the Nautical Institute & DNV.

To find out more about the new Kongsberg training centre and its courses, & services packages contact Iain Fullerton on 01224 226564 or email iain.fullerton@kongsberg.com Log onto www.km.kongsberg.com for more general information about Kongsberg.

1.k) ACHIEVING MAXIMUM CURRENT MEASUREMENT RETURN IN DYNAMIC SEA STATES

RS Aqua Ltd, Hampshire report that the third in a series of technical papers relating to the Seaguard[®] host platform, manufactured by Aanderaa Data Instruments A/S, Norway, is now available via their website. The first paper was released in March this year and compared data returns from the Seaguard[®] RCM and the TRDI Doppler volume sampler moored on the Scotian Shelf off Nova Scotia. The second paper, released in April, highlighted the features of Aanderaa's new fast response Dissolved Oxygen Optode in trials when fitted aboard the Seaguard[®] platform.

The latest paper, just released, concentrates on Seaguard[®] RCM current meter performance in dynamic sea conditions. There are two separate deployments featured. The first spans a period of 3 weeks in December 2006 off the Norwegian coast, where the inadequacies of the mooring buoyancy resulted in high knockdown and instrument tilting. The way in which the instrument coped with these unfavourable conditions is most impressive. The second example relates to a mooring located circa 250 km off the French west coast in the Bay of Biscay where wave action introduced significant vibration and spinning which was further complicated by dynamic tidal effects causing major dragging down episodes. Both papers illustrate how the Seaguard[®] RCM coped with the conditions to provide high quality data returns. Aanderaa Data Instruments A/S thank the mooring team at LOCEAN Paris, (Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat) for making data from their Bay of Biscay deployment available and for assisting with the evaluation of the data.

Readers can download all three papers by visiting linking through to the Latest News section of RS Aqua's website at www.rsaqua.co.uk

1.l) NCS SURVEY EXPAND WITH LOW LOGISTICS AUVS

An order has recently been placed for two **Gavia AUVs** with a capital expenditure of £1.5m – one 500m-rated system and one 1,000m rated system. These systems are specifically aimed at the shallow water market and are understood to be the first Gavia AUVs to enter the Oil & Gas market as a service provided by a survey contractor. In doing so, Hafmynd, the Icelandic manufacturers, has created a new line named the Gavia Offshore Surveyor. Delivery is expected in late September this year but NCS Survey have already secured a contract, which started in May and will use the demonstration system from Hafmynd for this project.

The Offshore Surveyor has numerous improvements and upgrades from the standard Gavia vehicles that enhance the operation and usability for commercial applications. Both NCS Survey systems will have a payload of a Multi-beam Echo Sounder (MBES), Side Scan Sonar, digital camera, Doppler Velocity Log (DVL), Kearfott T24 IMU, DGPS and sound velocity meter. In addition, each system will be fitted with a Seebyte SeeTrack module to allow the system to track linear features such as pipelines and trenches. The MBES is a Geoswath Plus 500kHz which has a swath width of up to 190m. There are various SSS options for the vehicle but NCS Survey have opted for the unit that has been proved with the Seebyte module, a Marine Sonic Technology 900/1800kHz system.

For further information contact Andrew McMurtrie +44 (1224) 749499 or andrew.mcmurtrie@ncs-survey.com

1.m) L-3 COMMUNICATIONS KLEIN ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCE RECENT CHANGES TO THE L-3 KLEIN SYSTEM 3000 DEEP

The L-3 Klein System 3000 DEEP Side Scan Sonar has a 5-year history of reliability and outstanding performance. Recent technological advances have allowed the L-3 Klein System 3000 DEEP to provide even better imaging at great ocean depths. The new, upgraded Klein System 3000 DEEP has specially-designed transducers for operation at 3000 meters depth (or more). The outer housing of the L-3 Klein 3000 DEEP Towfish is fabricated from titanium for optimum pressure tolerance at maximum depths, even during extended periods of operation. The L-3 Klein 3000 DEEP is designed to transmit data to the topside using standard coaxial tow cable during normal operations. However; for extended depth operations, the L-3 Klein 3000 DEEP utilizes extended length Fiber Optic Cables. L-3 Klein offers a wide variety of proven fiber optic cables, fiber optic interface boards, and related devices to suit all required system configurations.

For further information contact +1 603-893-6131 or visit www.L-3Klein.com

1.n) AXYS' OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA ACQUISITION BUOYS CHOSEN FOR ITALIAN OCEAN MONITORING NETWORK

AXYS Technologies Inc. has been awarded a large contract from Telecom Italia (Milan, Italy) to design, build, deliver and deploy seventeen (17) data collection buoy platforms. This recent award is the extension of a previous order to AXYS for the supply of twenty five (25) directional wave monitoring buoys. AXYS was chosen once again for its ability to provide a turn key, economical and proven solution in a timely manner that met the demanding requirements of the Italian government.

In this application AXYS will provide its 1.7 metre diameter WatchKeeper™ buoy platform. This platform is powered by an eco-friendly solution that uses photovoltaic solar panels and rechargeable batteries. The main on-board sensors include a TRIAXYS™ directional wave monitoring device and a Gill Windsonic wind sensor. Near real-time data is sent via VHF radio to receiving stations located around various Italian ports. The buoy is also programmed for future expansion; modules to accept sensors such as CT (Conductivity and Temperature) and Current profiling are built-in and will allow the end user to scale up as their program needs change.

AXYS Field Service Specialists will assist with system training, commissioning and deployment in Italy over the next year.

For further information contact AXYS at: info@axys.com or visit www.axystechnologies.com .

2. EVENT, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2.a) MARINE MANUFACTURER'S BREAKFAST CLUB 22ND JULY 2009, NOCS, UK

On the 22nd July 2009 the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS) will be hosting the next in its series of Marine Manufacturer's 'Breakfast Club' meetings. For those that have attended previous Breakfast Club meetings the format has changed slightly from previous meetings. Rather than providing a look into the future requirements of the National Marine Equipment Pool, they will be providing a look back, from an Engineering and Scientific perspective, at a Physical Oceanography cruise on board James Cook operating in the Southern Indian Ocean. This will give attendees a unique opportunity to find out how the equipment provided performs. They will still include the free format networking opportunities as always, as well as a presentation from **Stephanie Waterman** (Scientific perspective) and **Paul Provost** (Engineering perspective). Breakfast will be served from 0830 with the presentations beginning at approximately 0915. The rest of the time is available for industry to meet with the scientists and engineers from the marine User Groups and National Marine Facilities Sea Systems and take part in opportunistic discussions, whilst enjoying breakfast and a coffee.

The Breakfast Club meets twice yearly, alternating with the Marine Measurement Forum, if you would like to attend this event please contact Aidan Thorn (adft@noc.soton.ac.uk) by 15th July 2009.

2.b) ALL-ENERGY '09 – THE BIGGEST AND BEST ATTENDED EVER; AND LOOKING FORWARD TO ALL-ENERGY 2010

The ninth All-Energy exhibition and conference, the UK's largest renewable energy exhibition and conference, held in Aberdeen 20-21 May, proved to be the biggest yet. In terms of space taken by 380+/- exhibitors from 14 countries (4,000m² net in two halls) and as far as attendance went, with 5,500 attending the two day show from 60 countries, an increase of 17% over the record-breaking 2008 event, All-Energy '09 continued its unbroken "growth for every show held" record.

"The interest in exhibiting at and attending All-Energy reflects the global interest in renewable energy, with countries around the world striving to reach targets, meet climate change requirements and satisfy concerns about security of supply," explains Paul Stott, Managing Director of Media Generation Events who run the show in partnership with QMDI (Qatar MICE Development Institute) in association with Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC), British Wind Energy Association (BWEA), Scottish Renewables (SRF) and Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG). Vattenfall was principal sponsor of All-Energy '09 and Aberdeen City and Shire its host sponsor.

Plans are already in hand for All-Energy 2010, which will be held at AECC 19-20 May 2010. Further information on all aspects of All-Energy '09 and soon on All-Energy 2010 are available from www.all-energy.co.uk and from info@all-energy.co.uk as well as from Media Generation Events Ltd at 11a Princes Square, Harrogate, HG1 1ND, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1423 524545. Fax: +44 (0)1423 524544.

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE

3.a) NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR ASHTEAD TECHNOLOGY

Ashtead Technology is pleased to announce that Allan Pirie has joined the Board as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Allan brings considerable experience in a wide variety of financial and commercial transactions and has significant experience of working in private equity backed businesses, with banks and undertaking corporate acquisitions - all of which will be of great value to Ashtead Technology with the progression of growth strategies.

Allan joins from Triton Group where he was CFO and involved in the development of the groups portfolio of subsea remote intervention products and services.

A graduate of The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Allan holds a first class honors degree in Business Studies and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1998 with KPMG in Aberdeen.

This appointment forms the latest addition to the Board since Ashtead Technology was acquired in June 2008 by Phoenix Equity Partners in a £95.6m MBO.

For further information, please contact **Angela Sakapaji**, +44 (0) 1224 771888 or angela.sakapaji@ashtead-technology.com

4. JOB POSTINGS

4.a) FIELD SALES ENGINEERS (2) BASED ABERDEEN, UK

MacArtney UK Ltd, part of the MacArtney Underwater Technology Group are seeking to appoint 2 new field sales engineers working from their UK headquarters in Aberdeen.

Experience in the underwater technology market and knowledge of ROV systems and operations or underwater equipment will be a definite advantage for these positions.

Applicants will be confident and capable of communicating at all levels and will be able to demonstrate past success in selling similar equipment into the underwater technology market. An ability to work with the minimum of supervision while keeping the company fully informed of day to day developments is very important.

These positions demand considerable travel in the UK and Ireland. MacArtney offer a competitive salary package that includes the normal benefits that would be expected.

Please send a copy of your current CV, indicating salary history, along with a covering letter to David Buchan, Managing Director, MacArtney UK Ltd, Howemoss Avenue, Kirkhill Industrial Estate, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 0GP.

Further information on the MacArtney Underwater Technology Group and our products can be found at www.macartney.com

4.b) HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYOR, HULL, UK

Associated British Ports is the UK's largest and leading ports group, handling about a quarter of the country's seaborne trade.

They have a vacancy for a Hydrographic Surveyor based in Kingston upon Hull.

The main duties of this role are the collection of single beam data and production of surveys in the form of fair charts for the Rivers Humber, Trent and Ouse. Other duties include the production of further related information, maintenance of an office database and sections of the Humber Estuary Services web site along with assisting with the sale and distribution of charts and data to external agencies.

In order to undertake the main duties, applicants will have a thorough knowledge of hydrographic survey techniques and equipment applicable to Ports and Estuaries. Good communication and the ability to work as part of a team are both fundamental for this role. Experience in the use of software used in hydrographic data acquisition and processing is essential along with a good understanding of C.A.D as is a relevant qualification in hydrographic surveying.

A full clean driving licence, excellent computer skills, a flexible approach to working hours and a willingness to undertake any other tasks assigned by the Hydrographer are also essential.

The successful applicant will receive a competitive rate of pay. Benefits include private medical insurance, life insurance and Company pension.

Please apply in writing enclosing your full CV to: Assistant Personnel Manager, Associated British Ports, P O Box 1, Northern Gateway, Hull HU9 5PQ, alternatively, send you CV via e-mail hfirman@abports.co.uk
Closing date for applications is: 16th July 2009