

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) DSPL PRESSURE TEST VITROVEX GLASS SPHERES TO 8750M FOR SCRIPPS

RS Aqua Ltd, UK representatives for Nautilus Marine Service (NMS), the source of Vitrovex glass products for buoyancy and housing applications, report on interesting tests conducted at the San Diego base of DeepSea Power & Light (DSPL).

A team of deep ocean biologists from Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UCSD, directed by Dr. Douglas Bartlett, recently tested a 17-inch Vitrovex 9km-rated sphere with multiple feedthroughs in DSPL's 20-inch pressure chamber.

The sphere, which was being qualified for operation in the Puerto Rico Trench, where depths can reach 8400m, was successfully taken to 12,750-psi, equivalent to 8750m. The sphere is part of a free vehicle that gathers 60 litre water samples from the benthic boundary layer 2m above the trench floor. "The test was particularly useful in confirming the integrity of the sphere which experienced some minor spalling during its deployment to 8400m last year," said the researchers.

The full article can be read within the latest edition of DSPL's newsletter which can be accessed at <http://www.deepsea.com/enews/July2009.htm>

NMS is the only glass manufacturer offering 9,000m and 12,000m rated 17" housings. A couple of years ago, scientists at Aberdeen University's "OceanLab" successfully took Vitrovex spheres down to 10,500m during their HADEEP project.

For further details on the Vitrovex range of glass products, visit www.rsagua.co.uk or contact product specialist Roger Scrivens at r.scrivens@rsagua.co.uk for a quotation.

1.b) AXYS SELECTED AS LONG TERM PARTNER FOR NOAA CHESAPEAKE BAY NETWORK

AXYS Technologies, Inc. have recently announced that it has received a 4-year, USD \$2.5 million contract from National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the ongoing supply of data buoys and associated components. Deliverables from this contract will help expand NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS, <http://www.buoybay.org/site/public/>), led by Doug Wilson of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.

This interactive buoy network uses AXYS' 1.7 metre diameter WatchKeeper™ buoys and associated sensors from suppliers such as RM Young, WetLabs, AXYS, and Nortek, to monitor oceanographic and meteorological conditions in Chesapeake Bay. Local users of the Chesapeake, such as mariners and kayakers, can call the buoys via cell phone to get real time data which aid them in making appropriate boating decisions. Schoolchildren can view data from these buoys in their classroom to gain a better understanding of their local marine environment.

The first task order has been received by AXYS. Delivery of the first system is expected in October 2009, while a second task order is imminent.

AXYS' Marine Systems Manager, Don Bryan, commented: "We want to thank NOAA for putting their faith in us for the continued supply of world-leading environmental monitoring equipment. Through these kinds of partnerships we can help drive innovation throughout our industry, by experimenting with new technologies and equipment. We look forward to continuing this trend with NOAA in the future."

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

National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration's mission is to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet economic, social, and environmental needs. For further details see www.noaa.org.

1.c) QINETIQ NORTH AMERICA WINS NAVOCEANO CONTRACT TO SUPPORT NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA DIVISION

QinetiQ North America have been awarded a multi-year custom software maintenance and support contract for the Oceanographic Data Division of the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO). The total five-year contract value is \$5.2 million covering a base and four one-year options.

The contract is a competitive award evaluated on a best value basis and will be executed by the company's Technology Solutions Group subsidiary, Planning Systems Incorporated. It covers a specified range of products and services related to remote sensing of oceanographic data in support of the NAVOCEANO mission – identifying ocean features and predicting the effects of the ocean environment on naval exercises and operations.

Tasks will include processing sea surface temperature and ocean features from satellites, implementing new algorithms and incorporating new environmental data into the model of satellite-measured oceanographic information, data from other remote sensing platforms such as seagoing collectors and ocean buoys, quantification of ocean features such as currents and visibility, and transfer of the multi-source information to NAVOCEANO's ocean prediction models.

The award extends the existing contract of processing remotely sensed oceanographic data and will be performed by QinetiQ North America's Ocean Science and Technology division based at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

"We are very pleased that the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office, which is a global leader in ocean data collection and interpretation, recognizes that our ocean science and satellite data interpretation specialists deliver world-class service," said Dr. William Ribich, President of QinetiQ North America's Technology Solutions Group. "Working together, such expertise is integral today in understanding the ocean's impact on the global climate."

For further information please visit www.QinetiQ-NA.com or Tel: +1 703 788 7700.

1.d) SUBCONN®'S NEW COMBINED POWER AND ETHERNET CABLE MAKES DATA TRANSMISSION FASTER AND LESS EXPENSIVE

In response to growing needs in the ROV industry, SubConn® has developed and manufactured a new combined power and data cable. ROVs and other underwater equipment can now be powered through the same cable used for data transfer.

Until now, the internal wiring for Ethernet sensors on ROVs required 2 cables – one for powering instruments and one for transferring data. In response to the need for a combination cable, leading manufacturer, SubConn®, has developed and introduced a combined Power/Ethernet Cable to its Ethernet range. Both functions are now performed by a specially designed 13 contact connector that is capable of up to 1 Gbit/s data transmission over 100 metres of specialised underwater cable.

Reducing from 2 cables to 1 represents savings both in terms of space, as the connector has the same dimensions as the existing single function version, and in terms of economy. The combined cable is less expensive than purchasing the two single function cables.

Increased data transfer speed compared to standard cable also means that it can pay to replace existing ROV cabling.

The first orders for the full ocean depth rated combined Ethernet cable have already been received from ROV manufacturers.

The combined cable can be ordered from stock and is available in several lengths of ready cable harnesses. Matable bulkhead connectors are also stock items for day-to-day shipment.

The combined cable is the latest addition to the successful Ethernet range introduced approximately a year and a half ago and is based on cable specially made for the SubConn® Ethernet programme.

1.e) STARFISH INTERFACES WITH HYPACK 2009

StarFish 450-Series side scan systems can now be interfaced directly to HYPACK 2009. The interface is available within the HYPACK 2009a/2009 Service Pack 1 releases.

Tritech's low cost, high performance StarFish 450 sonars coupled with the extended features offered within the HYPACK software package provide professional StarFish users with the power they crave.

Laurie Smith, Managing Director of Del Norte Technology Ltd has championed the interface. Laurie quickly recognised the power of combining both products using his wealth of knowledge as a leading StarFish distributor and HYPACK's European Distributor of the year. Laurie commented:

“StarFish SSS enhances everything that Del Norte Technology Ltd (DNLT) does with the in-shore and harbour hydrographic survey industry. Now that DNLT have interfaced Starfish into HYPACK software for control, data collection and processing, the enhancement becomes even more versatile to provide the complete shallow water side scan survey package.

“It's used for wreck search, debris location, dock wall inspection and accident search and recovery in near shore, docks, lakes and other waterways, with geodesy and position controlled by HYPACK. The Starfish data can then be imported into S57/S63 Arcs and Google Earth after mosaicing within HYPACK. The team at DNLT are very excited about the future for this very cost effective survey solution.”

The Starfish interface will be available in all HYPACK software packages, however, the two recommended packages for StarFish users are HYPACK SURVEY (for survey planning, navigation & positioning, real-time data collection, display and targeting) and HYPACK MAX (complete navigation & positioning, data collection and data processing including side scan mosaicing). Customers who purchase HYPACK SURVEY can upgrade to HYPACK MAX at any time.

Existing HYPACK users who have subscribed to the HYPACK Maintenance Plan will receive the HYPACK 2009 Service Pack 1 program update and any future updates.

For more information about HYPACK products please visit www.hypack.com or contact Lourdes Evans at lourdes@hypack.com

1.f) NEW IRIDIUM TIDE GAUGE NOW AVAILABLE

Ageotec announces release of brand new Tide Gauge ITG-9601 based on compensated pressure sensor and data transmission through Iridium Satellite Constellation.

This new success comes as a result of ability of R&D and production teams to transform research and technology into innovative and improved products.

The new ITG-9601, fully battery powered for 1 year continuous operation in unattended areas, is also completely waterproof, easy to program, to install and to configure and is provided with a memory card for back up data collection. All the data is transmitted in near real time and displayed in a web based application. Very accurate clock due to daily correction with GPS time stamp. Internal temperature and humidity and position are checked.

For further information please contact Ageotec at +39 051 6133382 or email r.galletti@ageotec.com.

1.g) IMCA PUBLISHES GUIDELINES ON DGNSS-BASED POSITIONING SYSTEMS

The latest document about DGNSS (differential global navigation satellite systems) from the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) shows the strength of different sectors of the industry working together.

“Guidelines on installation and maintenance of DGNSS-based positioning systems' has been produced jointly by the committees of two of our four technical divisions – Marine and Offshore Survey,” explains the Association's Chief Executive, Hugh Williams. “The new document (IMCA M 199 / S 012) offers broad guidelines on the installation of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), including GPS and other satellite systems available such as the GLONASS system. Users of this equipment need to be aware of many technical, procedural and contractual issues before, during and after installation.”

The 21-page document covers the basic components of a satellite system and highlights some of the consequences of a poor installation, before going into some detail on the phases of installation. Checklists for pre-installation work are offered, including such matters as antenna location and cable routing.

The installation phase is covered in some detail, particularly the matter of proper siting and fitting of antennae and cabling and the possible issues affecting reception of satellite signals, such as multi-path, obscured satellites and interference from other radio sources. There is also information on the below-decks equipment required for GNSS systems and a section on the operational phase, including configuration and calibration of equipment, validation of data and ongoing maintenance.

The guidelines are available for downloading via the IMCA members-only website, with additional printed copies available priced at £2.50 each for members and £5.00 each for non-members (plus 20% for delivery outside Europe.)

Further information on IMCA and its publications is available from the IMCA website at www.imca-int.com and from the association at 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5520; Fax: +44 (0)20 7824 5521. Email: publications@imca-int.com.

2. JOB POSTINGS

2.a) IXSEA SEEK UK SALES MANAGER - BASED UK SOUTH COAST

You will be a part of a dynamic international team whose aim is to deliver products and solutions which add value to our customers operations globally. You will manage sales activity in UK and a number of other key markets within EMEA.

The Candidate will be an articulate communicator with strong sales skills and a strong technical background. With 5 years experience and a proven track record in European Product Sales in related field of survey / navigation, inertial sensors, scientific or geophysical technologies. Have experience in management of distributor network, and in managing a small sales team. French or other European languages would be an advantage

Please send a full resume to hr@ixsea.com or contact David Cunningham, david.cunningham@ixsea.com for further details of the role. www.ixsea.com