

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) NEW DST MAGNETIC

Planet Ocean has announced that Star-Oddi is releasing the first new generation magnetic field strength logger, the DST magnetic. The DST magnetic measures apart from temperature and depth, tilt in three directions and magnetic field strength. The magnetic field strength is measured in three directions providing relative reading of the magnetic field strength at each point. These measurements along with the tilt measurements are converted to compass heading readings in the supporting SeaStar software. Magnetic field inclination is also calculated for each reading.

By comparing the recorded data to known hydrographic and geomagnetic field data on the globe, the researcher can gain e.g. new insight into geolocation of fish that migrate over long distances. DST magnetic was developed in co-operation with IMR of Norway. Read more about the product at the Star-Oddi website, www.star-oddi.com.

1.b) JASCO APPLIED SCIENCES OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW UK OPERATION

JASCO Applied Sciences (formerly JASCO Research) is an established Canadian company specialising in acoustic consultancy, systems manufacture and applied acoustic research. Following significant growth in contracts across the globe, JASCO has recently established a UK subsidiary to add to its existing network of overseas offices, including Brisbane and Anchorage.

JASCO's highly qualified scientific and engineering staff provide expertise in above and below water acoustic recording, recording instrument design, bulk noise data processing, analysis algorithm development for marine mammal identification and cutting-edge acoustic modelling of all anthropogenic noise sources – particularly seismic survey and impulse industrial noise sources.

Recent projects include multiple year deployments of wide-area acoustic open water recording arrays in the Chukchi and Beaufort Sea, development of the industry-leading Marine Operations Noise Model and Airgun Array Source Model for estimation of long-range acoustic footprints from seismic exploration and other marine activities, comprehensive noise impact management coordination for offshore oil and gas development off Sakhalin Island, and pre-construction ambient noise monitoring and anthropogenic noise forecasting for large renewable energy projects such as the Naikun Wind Farm off the west coast of North America.

For further information please contact Robin Burns at robin.burns@jasco.com or visit their website at www.jasco.com.

1.c) SONARDYNE TO SUPPLY SENTINEL INTRUDER DETECTION SONARS AS PART OF EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT

Sonardyne International Ltd, UK, has won a contract worth in excess of €1.5 million with an EU research consortium for the supply of multiple Sentinel Intruder Detection Sonars (IDS). The Sentinels will be integrated into a new maritime command and control network that will combine satellite, sonar, CCTV and other sensor data to protect shipping, ports and harbours and critical infrastructure. This will help guard against a wide range of waterborne threats including those from unidentified ships where the port of call is in question.

Sentinel IDS systems are operational worldwide protecting both commercial and military assets, critical energy and civilian infrastructure, VIPs and maritime borders. The system uses advanced sonar technology to provide a 360 degree, below water protection zone that can discriminate between genuine targets such as divers and swimmers and non-threats such as large fish or pleasure craft. Sentinel has been designed specifically for ease of use by security personnel and to meet the practical requirements of everyday use. The Sentinels for the new European contracts will be deployed to protect strategic shipping assets and in several European ports over the next six months to automatically detect, track and classify underwater threats at long ranges. The equipment being supplied will include Sonardyne's latest sustained immersion sonar head which has been introduced for permanent, maintenance free installation as well as portable configuration Sentinels for rapid deployment from vessels visiting foreign ports.

For further information on Sentinel please visit www.sonardyne.com.

1.d) FIRST MARINE WORK BEGINS ON SHERINGHAM SHOAL WITH HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING

The first marine work on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm will begin on the weekend when contractor Visser & Smith Marine Contracting utilises a horizontal directional drilling technique to install ducts at Weybourne in preparation for the “pull-in” of the wind farm’s two export cables.

The 22 kilometre export cables will carry the power generated by the wind farm to landfall, where they will be connected to the onshore cable, now being installed by Carillion plc. The horizontal drilling will go under the beach and have a duct length of approximately 320m, with the last section extending out to sea which means the beach will remain undisturbed throughout the cable installation. Onshore, a drilling rig and associated equipment will be set up on the planned joining pit area behind the beach while offshore, a multi-purpose vessel (MPV) will be moored to carry out the marine works. A team of divers will be used for the various underwater activities. The MPV will be around 42m in length and, for positioning during activity at the drilling exit point, will be moored with up to four anchors marked with yellow buoys. The vessel will be equipped with international navigational standard communication and lighting equipment to ensure a safe operation.

Fishermen have been advised of the operation, and a “no go” exclusion zone has been marked with buoys around the working area. The work should be completed by mid-December, depending on weather conditions.

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company Scira Offshore Energy Limited. Statoil is the operator for the project during the development phase. Scira will be the operator of the wind farm.

For more information: please contact Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm PR & Communications Manager, Sue Vincent on mobile: +44 (0)7768508742 or email: info@scira.co.uk

1.e) WOODSIDE CONTRACT FOR FUGRO GEOS

The Australian office of Fugro GEOS has been awarded a contract by Woodside Energy Ltd to undertake a year-long metocean study along the proposed pipeline route for the Browse LNG Development which will run from the gas fields to the planned Kimberley LNG Precinct at James Price Point, about 60 km north of Broome in Western Australia.

The contract covers an onshore meteorological measurement programme and a nearshore and offshore metocean measurement programme. A 30m meteorological tower will be installed onshore to measure meteorological parameters and air quality in order to establish onsite baselines. Data from all the sensors on the tower will be transmitted by Iridium links and uploaded to a secure website for retrieval by the client.

The nearshore and offshore programme calls for the deployment of approximately 20 current meter moorings installed at between 8m and 200m water depths as well as two Fugro OCEANOR Wavescan buoys (with dual met masts and loggers), three directional waveriders (DWR's), long period wave recorders, tide gauges and surface current drifters. A number of the current meter moorings will include thermistor measurements to support the detection of solitons (internal waves).

Fugro GEOS (Perth, Australia) is at: Hydrographic House, 4 Ledger Road, Balcatta WA 6021, Australia. Tel: +61 8 6477 4400 and E-mail: perth@geos.com. Further information on the work of Fugro GEOS around the world is available at www.geos.com.

1.f) NAUTRONIX JOIN KEY INDUSTRY PLAYERS AS A MEMBER OF THE NSRI

Marine Technology Solutions providers Nautronix have joined key industry players by becoming the latest members of the National Subsea Research Institute (NSRI).

Set up to develop and maintain the UK’s position as a centre of excellence for subsea technology the NSRI combines the UK subsea industry and the University sector to develop and push forward a co-ordinated research strategy and programme for the subsea sector.

Existing subsea industry members include Acergy, BP, Chevron, Fugro, Lloyd's Registrars, Nexen, Petrofac, Shell, Subsea 7, Talisman, Technip, Total and Wood Group.

Nautronix, who have invested around £14 million over the last 9 years into their own research and development say their alliance with the NSRI is an important partnership for the company and a good opportunity to contribute to the development of the UK subsea sector.

For more information please contact Laura Cruickshank, PR & Marketing Manager at Email: laura.cruickshank@nautronix.co.uk or Tel: +44 (0)1224 775700.

1.g) MARPORT WINS 2009 TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AWARD

Marport Canada Inc., a leading subsea acoustics technology company, have recently announced that the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters in partnership with National Research Council Canada has named Marport as Winner of the 2009 Award for Innovative Excellence in New Technology for the Atlantic / Nunavut Region.

The award recognises innovation excellence in the development and application of new technologies. Marport was selected as a result of its underwater robotics technology – particularly its Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) program.

In five regions across Canada, one award winner and two finalists are selected and recognized for their outstanding achievements. One of the five Regional Award recipients will also be selected to receive the prestigious 2009/2010 CME National Innovation Award for New Technology, which will be presented at the CME Awards Gala Ceremony in Ottawa, Ontario in February 2010.

The Canadian Innovation Awards honour the achievements of Canadian companies whose innovative ideas have made a difference in today's competitive marketplace, and who have demonstrated innovative excellence and success in new technologies; new product design & commercialization and export market diversification. The Awards program was designed to recognize and promote best practices as a means to encourage innovation and improve the competitiveness of Canadian businesses in manufacturing and exporting.

For more information, visit www.marport.com.

1.h) RAS FOR THERMOCLINE NUTRIENT PUMP STUDY

Ocean Instruments Ltd have supplied two McLane Research Laboratories RAS time series water samplers Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Liverpool (POL). One is a 500ml, and the other is a 100ml sampling unit.

These two instruments will be used for a project called "A Thermocline Nutrient Pump", funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council. POL plan to deploy the samplers in the Celtic Sea, to detect nutrients being mixed from the deep water into the warmer surface layer. Normally in summer the surface layer has very low nutrient concentrations, which limits the biological productivity. POL are interested in how short wind events might cause deep nutrients to be mixed upward, perhaps temporarily alleviating the nutrient limitation of plankton growth. The samplers are ideal for this as they can collect regular nutrient and plankton samples on a mooring; the mooring will also have meteorological sensors on the surface buoy.

Further information from Ocean Instruments Ltd Email: kelso.riddell@oceaninstruments.co.uk.

1.i) DOF SUBSEA CANADA COMPLETES WELLSITE GEOPHYSICAL CLEARANCE SURVEY

DOF Subsea Canada has completed survey services in the Laurentian Basin south of Newfoundland, Canada. DOF Subsea Canada utilized the Company's vessel Geosounder which is now en route to Norway.

The scope of work included a wellsite clearance survey utilizing ROV mounted multibeam bathymetry and magnetometer equipment.

The DOF Subsea Group is a specialist subsea service business that provides subsea construction and engineering, IRM, ROV and survey services to the world's major subsea markets. The Company owns state of the art equipment including 30 offshore construction, diving and ROV support vessels, 41 ROVs, 1 AUV and 11 diving spreads enabling it to offer differentiated positions with its clients and work in long term relationships, which enhance service delivery and reduce overall risk.

For further information please visit www.dofsubsea.com.

2. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2.a) APPLIED ACOUSTICS JOINS CODAOCOTOPUS AT NEW TECHNOLOGY FORUM, ABERDEEN, UK – 9TH DECEMBER 2009

This year's New Technology Forum takes place at the AECC in Aberdeen, UK on 9th December, 2009. Jointly hosted by Applied Acoustic Engineering and CodaOctopus, the event is free to attend and the full day's topics will be of interest to those involved in geophysical survey, underwater construction, oceanography or port and harbour security.

Committed to providing effective and innovative solutions, Applied Acoustics and CodaOctopus are leading suppliers of ocean technology. Attendees at the New Technology Forum will have access to the latest products and developments from both companies along with impressive data examples and details of recent case studies.

Further information is available by phone or e-mail from Karine Buckwell at CodaOctopus: karine.buckwell@codaoctopus.com or telephone +44 (0)131 561 1504.

2.b) CONFERENCE AIMS TO ADDRESS ENGINEERING CHALLENGES OF DELIVERING OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY – 10TH & 11TH FEBRUARY 2010, BATH, UK

The annual conference of the Society of Maritime Industries takes a look at the emerging offshore renewable energy market which will see a huge investment with an expected capital spend of £70 billion for offshore wind farms alone. Entitled "Investing in UK Maritime Renewable Energy - Engineering Challenges & Business Opportunities", it will be held in the historic Assembly Rooms, Bath on Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 February 2010.

Papers will be presented by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, The Crown Estate, European Environment Agency, UKTI Energy, Scottish Power Renewables, BP Alternative Energy as well as key players from the industrial and academic renewable energy community.

Registration is now open and details can be found at www.maritimeindustries.org or by emailing Clementina Upton at events@maritimeindustries.org.

2.c) CARIS PING-TO-CHART WORKSHOP A SUCCESS IN SWEDEN

Fifteen representatives of academia, hydrographic offices and private survey companies from across Northern Europe joined CARIS and the University of Stockholm at the University on 12-16 October 2009 to learn about the CARIS Ping-to-Chart workflow.

Through the five-day workshop, participants gained hands-on experience using CARIS technology across all the workflow stages involved in taking acquired hydrographic survey data, "Ping", through to final product, "Chart".

Among the topics covered were multibeam processing techniques including 3D visualization and on-the-fly editing as well as the new side scan sonar processing techniques using Geocoder for intelligent seafloor classification.

The workshop continued on to cover bathymetric compilation combining third-party source information and data management, database-driven product creation including Electronic Navigational Charts. Finally, the week concluded with discussions on Internet data distribution and the integration of marine and hydrographic data in a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

The next CARIS Ping-to-Chart Workshop will be hosted in the United Kingdom at the University of Southampton on 18-22 January 2010. Please visit www.caris.com/worldtour or email jolanda.van.duijnhoven@caris.nl for more information today.