

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) LIDAR FORUM OPENS IN DENVER, USA

The International LiDAR (**Light Detection And Ranging**) Mapping Forum opens its doors on Wednesday March 3, 2010 in Denver, USA for its 10th Anniversary Event.

The Mile High City plays host to this established exhibition and conference organised by the people that bring you Oceanbuzz, Intelligent Exhibitions and the team are looking forward to welcoming a record number of exhibitors and a stream of visitors from all spectrums of the globe.

You can still **register on arrival** at the event that is taking place at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center (for directions please go to <http://www.lidarmap.org/accommodation>) from Wednesday to Friday this week.

There is so much to take advantage of whilst you are there including:

A Technical Conference featuring work-in progress reports on all aspects of **Airborne, Bathymetry LiDAR and Mobile Mapping** - a new topic that will feature strongly in the 2010 event. <http://www.lidarmap.org/conference/> There are also a couple of papers detailing how **LiDAR is being used in Haiti** following the recent earthquake - <http://www.lidarmap.org/press/lidarinhaiti.aspx>

An Exhibition Featuring Leading suppliers and manufacturers of LiDAR technology from all over the world - <http://www.lidarmap.org/exhibitors/>

The opportunity to Learn about LiDAR at **Entry-Level Workshops** - <http://www.lidarmap.org/basics/>

A session dedicated to **ASPRS** (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) **Hot Topics** - <http://www.lidarmap.org/conference/hottopics/>

Ample **Networking Opportunities** - <http://www.lidarmap.org/social/>

For more information on the event, go to www.lidarmap.org

1.b) OMM TEAM HELPS LIGHTHOUSE R&D ENTERPRISE INC. ADD DEPTH TO DEEPWATER WITH INSTALLATION OF NEW SEABED OBSERVATORY

A team of 16 marine specialists provided by marine solutions company, Offshore Marine Management (OMM) has helped Houston based Lighthouse R&D Enterprises Inc. to take their deepwater systems to an even deeper level with the installation of a new fibre-optic cable system near Cape Ras Al Hadd, Oman.

The new deepwater, cabled seabed observatory will undertake real-time characterisation of the marine environment around Cape Ras Al Hadd in 3000 meters of water.

A fibre-optic cable offering virtually unlimited bandwidth for the return of sensor data acts as the backbone to the system, which went live the beginning of January 2010.

The OMM team included deck supervisors, riggers, electrical technicians and cable engine drivers and David Selby, Operations Manager for Lighthouse R & D Enterprises, who praised them for their level of expertise, knowledge and professional hands-on approach.

The installation of this system marked the culmination of three years of effort by Lighthouse and its vendors to design, build, test and install this most advanced 4000 meter rated monitoring system for marine research.

For more information: contact Martine Rondeel on M +44 7515 502055 or email: Martine@offshoremm.com or visit the website: www.offshoremm.com

1.c) FLOWQUEST 2000 ACOUSTIC CURRENT PROFILER

LinkQuest Inc., San Diego, California, recently extended its popular FlowQuest acoustic current profiler line to include the small and lightweight FlowQuest 2000 system.

The FlowQuest 2000 system operates at 2 MHz with a blank distance as short as 10 cm. The system is about 12.6 cm in diameter, 21.0 cm in length and weighs less than 1.4 kgs in water. The FlowQuest 2000 system is capable of reaching up to 20 meters in range with an accuracy of up to 0.25% +/- 2.5 mm/s. The standard depth rating of the system is 800 meters with options for 100, 1500, 3000 and 6000 meters. This system also has an optional discharge measurement function.

The FlowQuest 2000 acoustic current profiler is ideal for measuring discharge, currents and flows in shallow waters or for short range applications. It is particularly useful when a minimum blank distance is desirable.

For more information, please visit www.link-quest.com or contact the company at sales@link-quest.com

1.d) YSI TO DISPLAY DREDGING BUOY AND UNDERWAY SAMPLING SYSTEM

YSI, SonTek, and YSI Hydrodata will be exhibiting at Oi. The new EMM68 buoy will be on display in the stand. The buoy's small size and affordable price make it ideal for dredging projects, small monitoring programs, and harbor and bay deployments. The system supports any YSI sonde and the solar panels provide unlimited power to the sonde and telemetry for real-time data communications.

YSI will discuss the new SeaKeeper 1000 underway sampling system, an autonomous sampling system fitted to cruise ships, freight liners, and other ships of opportunity. The YSI Services office in Florida, USA, is now the exclusive sales, service, installation, and maintenance provider for the SeaKeeper system. The patented system is under license from the International SeaKeepers Society, and is currently operating on more than 50 platforms around the world.

YSI Hydrodata will demonstrate the performance of the Ecomapper AUV during the show. The vehicle's new DVL provides accurate location information for precise navigation in challenging environments. These demos will be performed by request and should be scheduled with Nick Martin in advance of the show. Please contact him at 0044 7962 622191 or nmartin@ysi.com.

For more information please visit www.ysi.com/Buoys-Floating-Platforms www.ysi.com/Underway-Sampling-System www.ysi.com/Ecomapper

1.e) TWO SALINOMETERS A MONTH

OSIL have recently been busy supplying Guildline salinometers to customers around the world. At a rate of 2 units per month, OSIL have sold Autosals and Portasals to clients in Brazil, Germany, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the USA. Examples of uses include installation on new research ships for the German Navy and University of Cape Town, fisheries research in Kushira and CTD calibration in USA and Far East.

The Guildline Autosal remains the instrument of choice for the highest precision measurement of Practical Salinity with the Portasal providing similar accuracy in a more portable form.

OSIL Seawater Chemist, Nigel Higgs said 'To get the highest quality salinity data requires a precision salinometer, regularly maintained and operated by an experienced user. OSIL deliver on all three counts with the Autosal/Portasal 'industry standard' salinometers, accredited service/calibration laboratory and hands-on training courses '.

For more information about OSIL's extensive range of products and services, please visit the OSIL website at www.osil.co.uk or call 023 9248 8240.

1.f) SONARDYNE INTERNATIONAL LTD LAUNCH THE 6G MATRIX & PRESENTING SOLSTICE

Sonardyne International launch the sixth and most advanced generation of subsea acoustic technology at Oi. This is will be a significant conference explaining the introduction of advanced new technology that has arisen from an extensive development programme. The 6G Matrix will change the industry's expectations about the performance of subsea acoustic systems.

Sonardyne International Ltd will be also be presenting Solstice, its first side-scan sonar. Sonardyne's expertise in acoustic technology has now enabled it to develop a completely new high performance side-scan sonar. Solstice is free from the constraints of any existing product legacy and it has been specifically tailored to meet the needs of civil or military operators of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). Sonardyne is already known as a leading manufacturer of acoustic positioning and inertial navigation systems and this move into a new market will be seen as significant by its customers and by its competitors alike.

This briefing will be a notable event in the growth of Sonardyne as a company and it will also herald its arrival as an important new player in the side-scan sonar industry.

For more information about Sonardyne International Ltd visit www.sonardyne.com

1.g) TURO TO LAUNCH ETHERNET XBT RECORDER

Turo Technology will be launching its latest product, the Quoll XBT recorder, at Oi.

Following on from the success of the Turo Devil XBT recorder system the Turo Quoll has been developed to enhance user flexibility. The Quoll XBT has the same advanced features as the Devil XBT such as climatology, QC, global coastline atlas, USB and satellite telemetry, while offering users the option of connecting to shipboard networks via Ethernet. The Quoll XBT can be powered by USB, Power over Ethernet (PoE) or by external DC.

The Quoll XBT, like the Devil XBT, has been designed for use with Lockheed Martin Sippican launchers and expendable probes to record ocean temperature profiles. The Quoll XBT software is very simple and intuitive to use. Selecting a probe type and commencing a launch is straightforward and quick. Also, the user interface is able to be configured for the needs of different types of users such as navies, volunteer ships and researchers. A number of data formats are available including netCDF and ascii text (for export to spreadsheets). In addition to the temperature and depth data being recorded, detailed metadata are collected. Although simple to use, the software includes advanced features such as GPS input, on-screen global charts marking current and previous drop locations, climatology overlay on profile plots, quality control processing shown using colour codes on plots of profiles and telemetry using Argos or Iridium satellites.

For more information about Turo's range of products and services, please visit the Turo website at www.turo.com.au or call +61 3 6236 9511.

1.h) RS AQUA TO DISPLAY OCEAN GOODIES

Hampshire based RS Aqua Ltd will have several new products, along with existing favourites, on display at Oi.

Included amongst the new items will be three from California based Turner Designs Inc. These are the C3 three channel fluorometer with optional wiper, a Cyclops7 single channel fluorometer with optics for Refined Oils detection and their new hand held data display/logger "Databank". Fiobuoy, the seabed asset marker and recovery system from Fiomarine, Tasmania will be making its first Oi series appearance since its successful launch last year. This device enables covert marking of seabed assets (landers, tools, moorings, targets, etc) with subsequent "on demand" recovery via acoustic command.

The latest version of the multi-faceted Seaguard range from Aanderaa Data Instruments (AADI) will also be featured. Is it a current meter, a CTD, a wave recorder or a multi-parameter data acquirer? Actually, its all of those and whatever you want it to be. Seaguard has already found favour with many research and monitoring organisations including NOC, Marine Scotland, OceanLab, AWI, SAMS and Ifremer.

Last year saw an enormous increase in sales of Vitrovex glass housings and buoyancy modules from Nautilus Marine (Germany). It seems as if the quality of the glass product, offering strength, clarity, precision engineering and economic sense, struck home with a host of users. Several fascinating applications for Vitrovex glass are expected to be highlighted on other exhibitor booths at Oi10.

From Contros GmbH (Germany) comes a CO² addition to their HydroC range. This, along with a Methane version, will be displayed on the RS Aqua booth.

Location beacons may come and go but the “Novatech” range from Cobham T&L continues to retain its extraordinary popularity based on solid mechanical engineering, fast deliveries and “works every time” reliability.

Latest offerings from Rosemount (WaveRadar), Datawell (Waverider), SAIV (SD-204 salinometer) and JFE Alec (miniature single sensors) will complete the display.

Visit www.rsaqua.co.uk for more information.

1.i) B&D EXTENDS FAMILY WITH DEDICATED FOAM FACILITY

B&D is now able to offer greater levels of foam capability following the creation of B&D Foams Ltd a sister business to B&D. Increasing demand for custom foam cushioning and the desire to further improve speed of response has lead B&D to consolidate its foam conversion in a new dedicated facility in Southampton.

From concept to reality, Barum and Dewar’s technical team can support your requirements with competitive prices whilst maintaining the highest quality bespoke and custom foam solutions. Whether your requirement is for standard foam converting or more complex processes such as grinding, CAD and CNC our experienced product engineers can evaluate your requirements and deliver a bespoke design. A wide range of colours and foam facings are available as well as labelling to deliver a professional and fit for purpose finished product.

All B&D packaging solutions enquiries should continue to be directed to B&D sales team on 01271 375197 or email sales@barumanddewar.com or visit www.barumanddewar.com

1.j) GEMS CHOOSE OSIL MINIBAT FOR RAPID SV SURVEY

The Geotechnical Engineering and Marine Surveys (GEMS) Group have purchased an OSIL MiniBAT system to carry out sound velocity (SV) measurements at a 50 km² site in Asia.

Time was of the essence in acquiring real-time SV data and the towed system provided continuous measurement without the need to stop the vessel.

The MiniBAT was fitted with the AML Minos SVP which directly measures the ‘time-of-flight’ of an acoustic ping. Its compact size is ideally suited to the highly portable MiniBAT frame. The OSIL MiniBAT FC60 is a lightweight remotely controlled instrument platform designed for use with a range of sensors.

For more information about OSIL’s extensive range of products and services, please contact sales@osil.co.uk visit www.osil.co.uk or call 023 9248 8240.

1.k) SWATHE SERVICES (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD SIGNS DISTRIBUTOR AGREEMENT WITH VALEPORT

Valeport is recognised as one of the UK’s leading manufacturers of hydrographic and oceanographic instrumentation. Swathe Services is recognised as a leading hydrographic survey company working with and supporting marine engineers, contractors and surveyors worldwide.

The two companies have now combined forces with the announcement of a new distributor agreement with Swathe Services Australia. “Swathe Services is known for providing specialist support to the marine industry with our highly skilled team of marine surveyors and an extensive pool of survey equipment” commented James Williams, Managing Director of Swathe Services. “This new distributor agreement with Valeport will enhance our services and allow us to supply the high quality oceanographic equipment our clients are looking for . Our highly qualified team are able to support the products and provide training on all the systems to make sure our customers achieve the best results”

Swathe Services will now provide the full range of Valeport systems including echo sounders, bathymetry packages, tide gauges, wave recorders and sound velocity meters.

Neil Hewitt, Operations Director of Swathe Services Australia said of the new agreement “ I feel Swathe Services is well placed, as a user of the equipment, to offer a complete service from the initial consultation through to installation and set to work , and follow up support. We are delighted to be working with such a reputable company that is so well known throughout the industry”

To find out more about Swathe Services and its range of services and products please visit www.swathe-services.com

1.l) SCARLET KNIGHT RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Dr. Richard Spinrad, of NOAA, challenged Rutgers University to achieve the first-ever trip across the Atlantic by an autonomous underwater vehicle with a Slocum Glider and in so doing, inspire a new generation of students to engage in oceanographic research using advanced science and technology. The tale of what happened will be revealed in a special lecture of the first day of Oi.

The glider, dubbed Scarlet Knight, was navigated by students from the Rutgers University Coastal Ocean Observation Lab (RUCOOL) and traveled more than 7,000 km during its 7 month voyage. Launched on April 27, 2009, Scarlet Knight made over 20,000 undulating cycles, collected tens of thousands of measurements of ocean water salinity and temperature, transmitting, and the transmitted data via satellite to the lab at Rutgers. After 201 days in the water, Scarlet Knight was recovered off the coast of Spain on December 4 by a combined team from Rutgers University, Teledyne Webb Research, and Puertos del Estado and brought to the historic port of Baiona, Spain.

Delivering a special lecture "Scarlet Knight - First Ever Oceanic Crossing by an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle" at the end of the Awards Ceremony at Oi, Clayton Jones, Senior Director, Teledyne Webb Research, will review the trials and successes of this event measured in terms of rising to a technical challenge, driving a scientific pursuit, and the tremendous educational and international outreach that this collaborative effort has spawned. A brief video compellation of the crossing will be aired.

1.m) HEAR ALL ABOUT FUGRO

Many of Fugro's recent advances in terms of both technology and specialist services will be on display at Oi. To complement their exhibits, there will be a series of on-stand presentations in the specially built presentation area where expert staff will present some of the new technologies.

Each presentation is repeated so if you miss one, you have the opportunity to see it on a different day. Changes to the schedule will be published on the stand, and can be obtained from the Fugro Welcome Desk.

Visit www.fugrosurvey.co.uk for more information

1.n) VERIPOS TO FEATURE MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Veripos, an acknowledged leader for provision of precise GNSS positioning solutions to the global offshore oil and gas industries, will feature two major new developments at this year's Oi.

The Aberdeen-based company, which also has regional operational bases in Houston, Rio das Ostras (Brazil) and Singapore supported by a strategic network of specialist agencies, will unveil its new independent Veripos Apex global high-accuracy positioning service providing decimetre-level accuracies. The service, which complements Veripos' existing Ultra positioning facility providing similar levels of precision, uses Precise Point Positioning (PPP) techniques for correction or modelling of all GNSS error sources.

Delivery of the Apex service is via Veripos' own orbit and clock determination system (OCDS) which derives real-time corrections for all GPS satellite constellation data; the OCDS in turn uses data from Veripos' worldwide network of reference stations with multiple and redundant systems running in parallel with the company's Network Control Centres in Aberdeen and Singapore.

A new hardware exhibit being shown in public for the first time is LD6, an advanced integrated mobile unit configured with single or dual-frequency GNSS receivers as well as optional reception modules for accepting corrections from Veripos HF service, MF beacon service and UHF correction sources. Designed for a wide range of applications extending from hydrographic and offshore surveying to dredging, offshore construction, seismic surveying and dynamic positioning, the system also provides configurable data outputs for processing by external equipment and software. The LD6 also features an internal processor capable of running a number of proprietary Veripos software packages.

VERIPOS is at www.veripos.com

1.o) SYSTEA SPA LAUNCH THE NEW MODULAR WIZBUOY

SYSTEA SpA recently launched the new modular WIZbuoy, a small and compact floating buoy to be suitably coupled with the WIZ "in-situ" probe for lakes, large rivers, lagoon and bays water quality monitoring installations. The main features are the following: modular design, allowing an easy transportation by a common car and the field mounting by a single technician, easy handling and deployment on site, self power supply by a battery and a set of photovoltaic panels & data remote communication to Internet by the WIZlog device.

The WIZlog is a device specifically designed to be coupled with the WIZ in-situ nutrients probe, to allow an easy remote field management. The WIZlog device operates using a combined GSM / SMS and GPRS technology, featuring the following combined data functions: data delivery by SMS or e-mail to a PC or to Internet, direct GPRS data communication to ZCED Web server, allowing remote data visualization and management, WIZprobe's parameters configuration through SMS messages, direct control of the probe through GSM remote connection. WIZlog is integrated in a submergible PVC compartment, perfectly compatible in size with the WIZprobe.

For more information E-mail: luca.sanfilippo@systea.it WWW: <http://www.systea.it>

1.p) NAUTRONIX INTRODUCE AN IDEAL COMPLIMENTARY INPUT TO DGPS - NASNET® DPR

Marine Technology Solution providers Nautronix have announced that they will be introducing their latest development, NASNet® DPR (Dynamic Positioning Reference) at Oi.

NASNet® DPR is a new acoustic reference for dynamic positioning input using the field proven positioning system NASNet®. This new application software module allows DP vessels to take advantage of NASNet®'s high update rates, robust signalling and true multi-user capability. To take advantage of NASNet® DPR a vessel can deploy its own mini NASNet® array or if located in field with a pre-installed NASNet® array it will be able to gain positioning data 'for free' with the appropriate topside equipment installed.

The use of subsea acoustic systems as a back up to the primary DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) is not new. However current systems available on the market have slower update rates than DGPS which operates every second. As a result, should the DGPS become inaccurate the vessel can be left with a period of instability as the desk receives slower inputs.

Visit www.nautronix.com for more information

2. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2.a) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY UK, 10TH MARCH, LONDON

The 6th Annual General Meeting of The Hydrographic Society UK will take place on Wednesday 10th March 2010. This meeting will take place during Oi where the Society will once again be exhibiting its products and services. All fully paid-up Individual and Corporate Members are invited to attend. Non-members, with an interest in the activities of THS UK, are also welcome to attend as observers.

For further details please visit www.ths.org.uk/event_details.asp?v0=190

2.b) INTERNATIONAL LIDAR MAPPING FORUM, MARCH 3-5, DENVER, USA

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