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Oceanbuzz Issue No. 140 – 9th March 2010

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1.GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

NEW European LiDAR and Mobile Mapping Conference

The European LiDAR Mapping Forum [ELMF10], to be held in The Hague from November 30 – December 1, 2010 is a two-day technical conference focussing on the use of airborne, bathymetric and terrestrial LiDAR with a particular focus on mobile mapping to support transport, urban modelling and asset management and GIS applications.

Alongside there is an associated international exhibition for system and component manufacturers, operators and service companies.

Building on 10 years of experience with the annual International LiDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF) in the USA, the organisers are bringing this unique event to Europe. With its focus on LiDAR technology and applications, ELMF 10 recognises the technology advances spearheaded in Europe, and the particular challenges and opportunities which face operators in applying LiDAR to new developments in the European market.

The ELMF10 theme is “LiDAR Across The Market Spectrum”, and the conference programme will feature technical presentations by the industry leaders and opinion formers. With three conference tracks, technical papers will report on actual projects in: airborne use of LiDAR for urban and rural mapping, transport and rail asset management; bathymetric mapping along the coastal zone, and a whole session devoted to technologies and operations in the fast-emerging market sector of mobile mapping.

Mobile mapping and surveying is the driving force behind the next major step-change in the global LiDAR market. With its benefits of increased speed of data acquisition and onsite processing, Mobile Mapping is enabling a whole range of applications and business opportunities for the LiDAR community. This exciting addition to the LiDAR conference programme makes ELMF 10 an essential industry event for both data users and service providers.

The conference Advisory Board is seeking papers in the following areas of interest:

- Advances in LiDAR technology, including systems development, data acquisition, data visualization and interfacing with GIS systems
- Recent examples of actual projects in Europe where LiDAR systems have been used (airborne, terrestrial, bathymetric and mobile mapping/surveying)
- Political, government and commercial issues relating to the LiDAR market

Authors wishing to submit a paper for the conference are requested to supply an abstract of no more than 250 words online at www.lidarmap.org which will close on 1st July 2010.

The extensive exhibition held with ELMF10 is expected to attract over 30 of the international leaders in LiDAR technology development, service providers and specialists in data management /GIS. A number of dedicated vehicles used in mobile mapping will also be present and performing demonstrations. Exhibition stands are limited. For more information email jo.trippett@intelligentexhibitions.com

The international city of The Hague is located between the major Dutch cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The Hague has a lively downtown area with trendy restaurants, culture and entertainment. In addition, The Hague serves as the seat of the Dutch national government and the royal residence. Without some of the edginess of Amsterdam, The Hague is the perfect blend of urban sophistication mixed with tradition and history. The Hague also offers great transport links with a 30 minute direct train from Amsterdam Schiphol International Airport, one of the major European transport hubs that handles over 40 million passengers per year. Over 100 airlines fly to Schiphol, including twenty budget airlines offering cheap flights from many European countries.

For further information contact Intelligent Exhibitions Ltd, info@lidarmap.net or call +44 (0)1453 836363 or go to www.lidarmap.org

b) PLANET OCEAN ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF FLUID IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES SUBMERSIBLE FLOWCAM®

Surrey based Planet Ocean Ltd, on behalf of Fluid Imaging Technologies of Yarmouth Maine USA, (www.fluidimaging.com) are pleased to announce the release of the new Submersible FlowCAM® particle and cell imaging and analysis system which enables scientists and water quality professionals to automatically acquire biological and particle images and data in real-time from remote sensing platforms for continuous, unattended, in-situ monitoring.

Deployed on buoys and moorings, aboard autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) or tethered behind research vessels and sampling boats, the automated Submersible FlowCAM takes hi-resolution digital images of individual, waterborne particles and microscopic organisms, measures each one based on dozens of measurement parameters and saves the images and data for identification, analysis and collaborative review.

Developed in partnership with Battelle, Columbus, Ohio, the Submersible FlowCAM features patented FlowCAM technology that has been proven in operation by the U.S. Naval Research Labs, U.S. EPA, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, PML, NOCS, Universities of Swansea and Newcastle, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and in hundreds of installations worldwide for the study of coastal and marine environments, drinking water quality, invasive mussel expansion and a myriad of other marine and freshwater applications.

Please visit Planet Ocean at OI this week for further information on Submersible FlowCAM® or email carole@planet-ocean.co.uk

c) FALMOUTH SCIENTIFIC, INC. (FSI) ACQUIRES HEGG MARINE SOLUTIONS (HMS) SPECIALIZING IN GEOPHYSICAL AND MARINE SURVEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Falmouth Scientific, Inc. (FSI), a Massachusetts corporation specializing in design, manufacture, and integration of underwater acoustic instrumentation, recently announced the acquisition of Hegg Marine Solutions (HMS). HMS will become a division of FSI specializing in products and services for the geophysical and marine survey markets. HMS, founded by Fred Hegg in 2008, provides a full range of services, including hydro-acoustic system integration, training, and site support. The combined capabilities of the two companies will enable FSI and the new HMS division to provide more complete product and service offerings for coastal and deep-water underwater applications.

For more information on FSI and HMS products and capabilities, visit www.falmouth.com, or to discuss a specific project, contact Joanna Phillips at 508-564-7640 x112 or jphillips@falmouth.com

d) ANOTHER HYDRO-WIPER

Ocean Instruments Ltd will be launching a new Zebra-Tech Hydro-Wiper unit at Oi, which has been designed for use with Seapoint Sensors range of Fluorometers, and has been successfully tested in New Zealand. Another model has been developed for the Wetlabs C-Star transmissometer. There are now more than a dozen models of Hydro-Wiper available for all kinds of underwater optical sensors and camera housings to keep them clear of fouling.

As agents for McLane Research Laboratories, Ocean Instruments will also be available to discuss applications for time series instruments including Sediment Traps, Remote Access Samplers, ZooPlankton Samplers and the latest Submersible Incubation Device (SID) and the Incubating Productivity Sampler (IPS) which have recently been developed for marine biologists. McLane's glass and steel flotation will also feature on the booth.

Further information from Ocean Instruments Ltd (www.oceaninstruments.co.uk)

e) ASHTEAD TECHNOLOGY SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SEANIC OCEAN SYSTEMS

Despite the current economic conditions, Ashtead Technology is continuing to prove its going commitment to the subsea market with an ongoing capital expenditure program and the introduction of ROV Tooling to its rental fleet.

Ashtead has partnered with leading ROV tooling specialist Seanic Ocean Systems to offer customers a range of tooling solutions. To be launched at Oi, the offering of Seanic Tools now available to rent from Ashtead Technology includes the API 17D Class 1-4 TT (Torque Tool) with Test jig, Flying Lead Orientation Tool (FLOT), Super Grinder AX/VX, and Hub Cleaning Tools.

The Partnership Agreement between Seanic and Ashtead Technology covers the exclusive rental of Seanic tools in the North Sea, Africa, Mediterranean and Singapore (including Australia and SE Asia) territories.

For further information, please contact Angela Sakapaji, angela.sakapaji@ashtead-technology.com

f) TRITECH LAUNCHES SEAKING HAMMERHEAD DST SONAR

Tritech International has launched its new addition to the SeaKing family of imaging scanning sonar products – the Hammerhead scanning sonar. The unit can create higher resolution imagery than comparative mechanical scanning imaging sonars by utilising a large transducer aperture, very fine mechanical step size and proven Digital Sonar Technology.

As standard the SeaKing Hammerhead sonar has two frequencies of operation: a high chirped 935 kHz frequency to enable high resolution imagery, and a second chirped frequency, 675 kHz, to allow for long range capability. The wide transducer allows for a very narrow horizontal beam to be created on both frequencies, to increase image resolution.

The Hammerhead has a built-in attitude sensor, which makes the unit ideal for tripod deployment, giving the user a clear indication of the position of the unit relative to the seabed. In addition to the attitude sensor, the unit also has an integrated three axis compass, to allow the sonar image bearing to be continually displayed and updated. The Hammerhead unit can easily be networked with existing SeaKing equipment; or if operated on its own, the unit will automatically establish communications with little input required from the user.

For further information please go to www.tritech.co.uk

g) ITIC WARNS PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS OF RISING CLAIMS EXPOSURE

THE International Transport Intermediaries Club (ITIC) says it has seen an increase in the number of professional indemnity claims made against the professional service providers who are its members. And it warns that the increase is likely to continue as a result of the trend towards privatisation in what have traditionally been public sector-dominated disciplines such as hydrography.

In the latest issue of its newsletter, *The Wire*, ITIC notes that, over the course of the last few years, the trend has been for former governmental hydrographic organisations to be privatised, joining the existing privately owned companies in the oil & gas and ports & harbours sectors. And it says that, as this trend continues, it is increasingly likely that third parties and contractual partners will attempt to hold such hydrographic service providers liable for losses they may have suffered whilst relying on the services they provide.

Claims can be extensive, and extremely expensive. ITIC refers to the 1983 Swedish Supreme Court decision in the *Tsesis*, in which a Russian tanker of that name ran aground after striking a rock in Swedish territorial waters which was incorrectly marked on the chart. The court held that the Swedish Hydrographic Office was liable for the consequences, including the damage to the ship. The court also held that, because the chart was defective, this was a defence for the owner to any claim for the clean-up costs of the spillage and any pollution claims.

ITIC is managed by Thomas Miller. More details about the club and the services it offers can be found on ITIC's website at www.itic-insure.com.

h) INTRODUCING SONARWIZ 5 – THE NEXT GENERATION OF SEAFLOOR SURVEY SOFTWARE

Chesapeake Technology Inc. (CTI) recently introduced the newest version of their revolutionary SonarWiz software. SonarWiz 5 is a complete data acquisition and survey management system that provides surveyors powerful yet easy to use tools for planning, executing and processing sonar surveys. SonarWiz 5

provides users at all levels with more intuitive features, total control over desktop layout, new reports and new Mosaic export formats.

SonarWiz 5 has a large array of new, advanced and interactive mission and survey planning tools. With an interface designed specifically to follow surveyor workflow, it is easy to master the planning tools which leads to efficient and cost effective survey time on the water.

For more information call CTI at 650-967-2045 or visit their website at www.chesapeakeotech.com

i) THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY UTILIZES REMUS AUVS IN SEARCH FOR SUNKEN FERRY, PRINCESS ASHIKA

Hydroid, Inc. announced recently announced that in August 2009, the Royal New Zealand Navy's Operational Diving Team and a specialist Remote Search Team were flown to Tonga, in an RNZAF Hercules, at short notice to assist with the search for the sunken ferry, PRINCESS ASHIKA.

Their REMUS 100 systems were the primary assets used in the search. The search operations using the REMUS AUVs were successful and the RNZN located the ferry, intact and sitting in an upright position at a depth of 110 meters. The operations validate the belief that the REMUS systems could be mobilized quickly and conduct AUV operations in very remote locations with little logistical support.

For further information contact Kevin McCarthy, Vice President Marketing at Hydroid at Tel 508-563-6565, e-mail kmccarthy@hydroid.com. To learn more about Hydroid, Inc. visit www.hydroid.com.

j) RESON LAUNCHES NEW LOW COST EXPEDITION-READY MULTIBEAM SYSTEM

Expedition-Ready is all that counts for near-shore surveyors! RESON has demonstrated its ability to fine-tune its product range in both price and features, by introducing a new cost-efficient sonar which bridges the gap between singlebeam echosounders and high resolution multibeam sonar systems. HydroBat™ is an entry-level multibeam system operating at 160kHz and covers a swath of 120°.

Being expedition-ready demands not only high quality equipment but also highly qualified technical support service, fast-response field support, a comprehensive inventory of spare parts and quick-start training – RESON is uniquely positioned to meet these demands.

HydroBat will be demonstrated during Oi.

For further information contact Rich Lear, RESON Tel: +44 787 944 6134 or E-mail: Rich.Lear@reson.com

k) L-3 KLEIN ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF THE NEW HYDROCHART 5000 SIDE SCAN AND BATHYMETRIC SONAR SYSTEM

L-3 Communications (NYSE: LLL) recently announced that its Klein Associates, Inc. division (L-3 Klein) released the revolutionary new HydroChart 5000 Side Scan Bathymetric Sonar System at Oi. The HydroChart 5000 represents the latest technology for the acquisition; display and processing of highly accurate bathymetry data integrated with high resolution side scan imagery, meeting IHO SP-44 Special Order Standards. The HydroChart 5000 utilizes a phase difference measurement technique and Linear FM (Chirp) processing, to produce the highest quality data sets for the hydrographic industry.

The HydroChart 5000 reduces survey times in half compared to conventional surveys using Multi-beam echo sounder systems. The HydroChart 5000 may be hull mounted or pole mounted and is easily integrated with commercial positioning and motion sensing systems.

Customers have already benefited from this technology as towed systems developed at L-3 Klein use this same technology to map the ocean's bottom. The HydroChart 5000 is a true hydrographic tool to effectively and precisely measure depths with a swath of up to 12 times the water depth.

To learn more about L-3 Communications Klein Associates, Inc., please visit the company's web site at www.L-3Klein.com and to learn more about L-3, please visit the company's Web site at www.L-3com.com.

I) NCS SURVEY AWARDED CONTRACT WITH SAIPEM FOR NORD STREAM PIPELINE PROJECT

NCS Survey, of Aberdeen, has been awarded a major survey contract by Saipem S.p.A. for pipelay support during the inshore phase of the Nord Stream Pipeline Project, two gas pipelines linking Russia with the European Union via the Baltic Sea. The contract is valued at €2m to €3m and will commence in the middle of the year.

Andy Gray, NCS Survey Chief Executive, stated “We are delighted that Saipem has embraced this innovative technology, which gives them a high accuracy solution at an economic price. NCS Survey was selected due to our experienced project management team coupled to our innovative real-time sonar Touchdown Monitoring (TDM) system. The TDM system has gained rapid acceptance in the industry as it eliminates the need for a DP2 class ROV Support Vessel on pipe and cable lay projects in water depths less than 50m. The sonar actively tracks the pipe catenary during lay operations using the unique beam steering capability embedded in our TDM software. It enables the contractor to know exactly where the pipe is laid in real-time and thereby minimises the risk when laying near any subsea structures or other live pipelines even when there is zero visibility.”

“In deeper water, TDM transducers can be mounted on an ROV giving it the capability of monitoring touchdown in poor visibility or from 50m away, which keeps it out of the high risk area.”

For further details contact andy.gray@ncs-survey.com

2. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

a) THE INTERNATIONAL LIDAR MAPPING FORUM – RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT, DENVER USA, MARCH 3-5, 2010

The ILMF held in Denver, Colorado, USA from March 3-5 2010 attracted well over 600 registered professionals from all over the world and proved yet again why it is the premier event for the LiDAR industry. Given the current economic constraints affecting much of the world, the record attendance is a reflection of how important LIDAR and the ILMF conference are in today's market place.

A record number of over 60 leading suppliers and manufacturers of LiDAR technology from the USA, Canada, Germany, Sweden, UK, Netherlands; Spain, India, China, Israel, Finland, Norway and Korea exhibited making for a lively and buzzing exhibition. More buyers and end-users than ever before attended, keeping the exhibitors working hard during the day, and writing proposals at night!

Over three days, the highly popular technical conference focused on work-in progress reports on all aspects of airborne and bathymetry LiDAR and new for 2010 Mobile Mapping with a particular emphasis on papers that addressed the key commercial and technical issues facing the industry. The US Geological Survey presented the first public airing of their proposed LiDAR data acquisition and processing base specification, and a paper was presented by the US Department of the Interior on the deployment of LiDAR following the recent Haiti and Chile earthquakes, showing how LiDAR was used to identify the extent of the damage caused and possible areas at risk of aftershocks.

Reflecting the rapid advances in technology, a special session was devoted to Mobile Mapping – the science of rapid data acquisition and processing which is already driving a major step change in the urban mapping industry. Special mobile mapping vehicles were on display at the ILMF and these took part in active demonstrations throughout the event.

For those new to the LiDAR business, an entry-level workshop series was available, aimed at educating potential new customers and end-users on the applications and benefits of LiDAR technology. These sessions were at standing room only and proved once more to be a real draw for visitors, all keen to find out about the capabilities and benefits of the exciting LiDAR technology.

The traditional foundation of the ILMF conference series is to ensure that ample time is provided to continue discussions with fellow operators, manufacturers and service providers in more informal settings. This was achieved again at the ILMF10 event with the opening night reception in the busy Exhibition Hall and the following night at a welcome return to the Wynkoop Brewery.

ASPRS (American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) once again continued its support for the event and incorporated a special, and packed out, LiDAR 'hot topics' session that tackled the challenge of developing standards and best practices for the industry.

With LiDAR now becoming a global technology of choice from rapid, highly detailed survey and mapping, the ILMF team announced the first European LiDAR Mapping Forum [ELMF] to be held in The Hague from November 30 – December 1, 2010. This move into Europe has been welcomed by the industry and much interest has been shown already with companies keen to sign up for exhibit booths and submit abstracts for the conference.

For more information contact info@lidarmap.org and visit www.lidarmap.org

b)ROV UMBILICAL AND HANDLING SYSTEMS WORKSHOP, LONDON, UK, WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH

As marine operations move into ever greater water depths and harsher environments around the globe Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) grow in importance and utilisation. The challenges and solutions for ROV umbilical and handling systems will be highlighted during the workshop being held by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) at Oi.

Aimed at both onshore and offshore ROV managers and technical personnel the free-to-attend afternoon-long session combines formal presentations and workshops at which delegates will be tasked with getting down to the real 'nitty gritty' and discussing, and perhaps even devising, solutions to challenges faced by the industry.

Further information on all aspects of IMCA's work for, and on behalf of, members is available at www.imca-int.com