

# oceanbuzz

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

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## INDEX

### 1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

- a) IXSEA delivers 1000<sup>th</sup> OCTANS to Fugro Singapore
- b) C & C Technologies do Brasil Awarded Major Contracts
- c) Updated IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving Published
- d) Major Award For The Engineering Business
- e) ROV Helps Clean Harbors
- f) IMarEST Supporting The Investigating The Oceans Report
- g) Innovatum UK Introduce Smartrak 6

### 2. EVENT NEWS

- a) Charity thanks Ocean Business donors
- b) Early bird rate deadline for the International LiDAR Mapping Forum 15<sup>th</sup> December 2007, Book Now!
- c) Seaguard on tour
- d) Special issue of Geomatica to be devoted to Marine Geomatics, call for papers deadline 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008

## **1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS**

### **1.a) IXSEA DELIVERS 1000<sup>th</sup> OCTANS TO FUGRO SINGAPORE**

Fugro Singapore took delivery of OCTANS Serial Number 1000, part of an order of eight OCTANS for their FCV 3000 Work Class ROV Systems, in November 2007.

The FCV 3000 is a 150HP Deep Water Work Class ROV. Designed and built in-house by Fugro, it boasts state of the art positioning, construction support, inspection and survey technologies. It is capable of undertaking a range of complex underwater intervention and support tasks at water depths up to 3,000 msw below sea level.

"It's a matter of selecting the best sensors on the market and Fugro is very satisfied with the ease of use and performance of OCTANS," said Jim Mann, Fugro's Global ROV Manager. "Fugro will be completing the eighth FCV 3000 shortly and the company plans to produce eight more FCV Systems in 2008."

"The sale of the 1000th OCTANS shows its high performance and quality," said Wilbert de Groot, Managing Director, IXSEA Pte Ltd. "This IMO certified survey grade gyrocompass and complete motion sensor, which is based on IXSEA's FOG technology, outputs true heading, roll, pitch, surge, sway, heave, speed, acceleration and rate of turn." For further information contact Anne Berg on [anne.berg@ixsea.com](mailto:anne.berg@ixsea.com)

### **1.b) C & C TECHNOLOGIES DO BRASIL AWARDED MAJOR CONTRACTS**

C & C Technologies do Brasil, a subsidiary of C & C Technologies, Inc., was recently awarded contracts from Petrobras to charter the R.V. Emma McCall and to support oceanographic data acquisition along the coast of Brazil. Services include the collection of oceanographic data to support the design and installation of offshore structures and pipelines. The duration of each contract is two years with an extension option for an additional two years.

Tasks involve the installation and support of moored ocean observation systems at different locations along the coast of Brazil. The Emma McCall is expected to begin operations by mid February 2008 and the Woods Hole Group (East Falmouth, Massachusetts) is contributing oceanographic expertise. As stated by Donizeti de Jesus Carneiro, General Manager of C & C do Brasil, "Our company is committed to ensuring that Petrobras is provided this critical data in a professional and timely manner and to support their position as a key player in the world energy market". For more information, please contact Donizeti Carneiro at 55-21-2408-6006, visit C & C's website at <http://www.cctechnol.com>, or send email to [info@cctechnol.com](mailto:info@cctechnol.com)

In May 2008, RS Aqua's oceanographer David Goldsmith will be cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats raising funds for Epilepsy Bereaved. Any wishing to read Becky's Story can click on the following link [www.rsaqua.co.uk/becky-scrivens-epilepsy-bereaved.asp](http://www.rsaqua.co.uk/becky-scrivens-epilepsy-bereaved.asp)

### **1.c) UPDATED IMCA INTERNATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFSHORE DIVING PUBLISHED**

A reviewed and updated edition of the 'IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving' that includes reference to new and updated IMCA guidance published since the code was originally produced in 1998, has been published by The International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA). It reflects developments over the past nine years in good practice and technology. "The offshore commercial diving industry, while providing services to the oil and gas industry and alternative energy resources, can be the subject of various regulations, standards, codes and guidelines imposed by national governments of a particular area, the clients who wish the work to be carried out, the insurers of the diving contractor or other outside organisations, societies, advisory committees and associations," explains IMCA's chief executive, Hugh Williams. "While offshore diving in some areas is heavily regulated, there are other areas where there may be little or no outside control of diving activities. In such areas the diving contractors themselves are left to establish their own internal controls by means of their company manuals and procedures. In the

absence of local regulations there can be instances where some clients attempt to impose the regulatory standards of another area. This can cause confusion as many national regulations are based on local environmental and social conditions which simply may not apply in other parts of the world "The much-used 'IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving' provides a 'level playing field' for diving contractors by laying down good practice guidelines to which all IMCA members world-wide should comply," adds Hugh Williams. "Increasingly clients around the world are selecting IMCA member companies in the knowledge that they follow the Code of Practice. This new edition incorporates much valuable feedback provided by members when the draft was out for consultation. It's very much a publication produced by the industry for the industry with safe and efficient operations lying at the heart of all diving operations." An aid to all involved The 'IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving', is intended to assist personnel involved in diving operations; clients' staff involved in the preparation of bid documents and contracts; client and diving contractor representatives; vessel owners and marine crews involved with diving operations; installation and rig managers using divers; all personnel involved in operational management; and all personnel involved in quality assurance and health, safety and environment issues. IMCA has included recommendations in areas where there is a difficult balance between commercial considerations and safety implications. It is recognised, however that safety must never be compromised for any reason. In particular, explains Hugh Williams: "There is a need for clients and contractors to recognise and accept the importance of providing sufficient and appropriately qualified and competent personnel to conduct operations safely at all times; safe, fit-for-purpose and properly maintained equipment; and adequate time for routine preventative maintenance. We can never stress these points enough, they lie at the heart of successful and safe diving operations." Ordering copies Members of IMCA can download the revised Code (IMCA D 014 Rev.1) free of charge from the members-only website, and can order printed copies at £15 (£30 for non-members) plus 20% delivery fee outside Europe, online at [www.imca-int.com/publications/diving](http://www.imca-int.com/publications/diving); or from IMCA at 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR, UK. Tel: 020 7824 5520; Fax: +44 (0)20 7824 5521; Email: [publications@imca-int.com](mailto:publications@imca-int.com)

#### **1.d) MAJOR AWARD FOR THE ENGINEERING BUSINESS**

A major accolade has been awarded to The Engineering Business (EB) when they were presented with the NOF Company of the Year Award at the NOF Energy Annual Dinner at historic Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield, in North East England.

"This has been a quite exceptional year for our company, and this recognition by our peers is truly the icing on the cake," says Dr Tony Trapp the managing director of the Riding Mill, Northumberland-based company. "This is an award won by every one of our 150-strong team. Their dedication, talent and enthusiasm is the very lifeblood of our company.

EB is currently designing and constructing four major systems that will in due course see them delivering some 4,500 tonnes of new equipment - a considerable achievement for a company that was set up by Dr Tony Trapp and three colleagues ten years ago and just five years ago employed around 30 people. Further information on EB, and its work in designing, building and supplying, elegant engineering solutions for the offshore oil and gas, submarine telecom, defence and offshore renewables industries, is available at [www.engb.com](http://www.engb.com) and from [team@engb.com](mailto:team@engb.com)

#### **1.e) ROV HELPS CLEAN HARBORS**

Environmental services company Clean Harbors has successfully completed two more inspection projects using their SeaOtter ROV. At the Mystic Power Station in Boston the ROV "swam" into intake lines in a holding pond to verify the line was clear of obstructions. The ROV was used because the pond could not be safely locked out, which meant it would be extremely dangerous for divers to enter. While on site the ROV also inspected seawater coolant intakes for debris buildup to help in planning a revised cleaning schedule. On another job in Connecticut, a hole was cut through 6 inches of ice covering a retention pond. The SeaOtter was deployed through the hole and inspected the freshwater feed and recirculation lines for sediment build-up. Both clients were very pleased with the performance of the ROV and the service provided, reports Marine Operation director Scott Metzger.

After purchasing the SeaOtter, Mr. Metzger travelled from Clean Harbors corporate headquarters in Norwell, Massachusetts to JW Fishers factory in East Taunton for some basic training in ROV operation. With a couple hours of instruction and a little pool time, he was ready to fly solo. Before performing their first open water inspection, Clean Harbors decided to take the ROV to the Mass Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay and demonstrate the ROV's capabilities for the media and public officials. The exercise was designed to highlight new services the company would be offering, which included port security. One of the primary reasons the maritime academy was selected was because of the a long standing relationship between the company and the school. For more information on Fishers complete line of underwater camera systems go to [www.jwfishers.com](http://www.jwfishers.com). For more information on Clean Harbors go to [www.cleanharbors.com](http://www.cleanharbors.com).

#### **1.f) IMAREST SUPPORTING THE INVESTIGATING THE OCEANS REPORT**

The House of Commons Select Committee for Science and Technology recently published a report entitled 'Investigating the Oceans'. This important report lays out far reaching recommendations for the organisation and funding of UK marine science and technology including a call for the creation of a new marine science agency to oversee a national marine science strategy and a new overarching plan for the oceans.

MPs on the Select Committee say it is vital that efforts to understand the oceans are pursued with clarity, co-ordination and purpose. This is not being achieved with the current complexity of organisations involved in coordinating and funding research in this area. They are highly critical of the level of Government investment, saying that funding for marine science and technology research has fallen in real terms since 1995/96. The Committee says a substantial increase in funding is necessary if marine science is to meet the challenges before it.

The report also dismisses the current arrangements for co-ordination as wholly inadequate and identifies a central role for a new marine agency, reporting to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which would bring all public sector funders of marine research together with universities and organisations benefiting from such work. The agency should also be responsible for Horizon scanning; within the marine science and technology sector; Marine monitoring; Distributing and sharing of research with the widest possible audience including policy makers; Identifying and addressing skills shortages; Overseeing a new strategy for marine science and a wider plan for the oceans.

The full report of the Committee can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmsctech/470/470i.pdf>

A formal government response to the report is expected by late December.

#### **1.g) INNOVATUM UK INTRODUCE SMARTRAK 6**

SMARTRAK 6 is the second in the new magnetic pipeline and cable tracking series from INNOVATUM International Ltd., following SMARTRAK 3, the passive magnetic tracker.

SMARTRAK 6 is the first in the series to perform AC tracking of toned cables. The system gives location and survey, including depth of burial information, of toned cables. Lightweight electronics have enabled a significant reduction in size of the SMARTRAK 6 sensors to **95mm x 25mm**: just over half the length and diameter of those used in SMARTRAK 3. This reduces drag on the operating vehicle and allows operation closer to the seabed. SMARTRAK 6 can be operated from Observation Class ROVs, towed sled or small surface vessel and in significantly shallower water than previous INNOVATUM AC cable tracking systems. The system is in the final stages of development now, and will be available in January 2008.

In February 2006 the decision was taken to refresh the INNOVATUM magnetic pipeline and cable tracking series by designing and producing a new generation of magnetic trackers, the SMARTRAK series, which would meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century underwater survey market in terms of versatility, enhanced

performance, and lower cost. Since January 2007, twelve of the first in the series, the SMARTRAK 3, the lightweight, passive magnetic tracker, have been sold. For further information go to [www.innovatum.co.uk](http://www.innovatum.co.uk)

## **2. EVENTS, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION**

### **2.a) CHARITY THANKS OCEAN BUSINESS DONORS**

All those who contributed towards the charitable collection made at this year's maiden Ocean Business Exhibition and Conference at the NOC in Southampton have been thanked in the latest edition of the newsletter issued by the charity Epilepsy Bereaved. Collections were made both at the show's Gala Dinner and Wine Trail.

Epilepsy Bereaved ([www.sudep.org](http://www.sudep.org)) is supported by Roger and Sandie Scrivens of RS Aqua Ltd, Hampshire who lost their youngest daughter Becky in 2004 when she was 3 months short of her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Becky had been diagnosed as an epilepsy sufferer only a few days before she died suddenly in her sleep. This phenomena, known as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), claims over 400 victims a year in the UK alone. As well as offering support to bereaved families, Epilepsy Bereaved seeks to promote awareness of SUDEP and to fund research projects into it's causes and prevention. The newsletter item comments "A donation of over £300 was received in the memory of Becky Scrivens following a collection made during the Gala Dinner at the Ocean Business exhibition held at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton". Total donations made to the charity in Becky's memory currently stand at slightly below £50,000.

### **2.b) EARLY BIRD RATE DEADLINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LIDAR MAPPING FORUM 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007, BOOK NOW!**

Time is running out if you want to secure the early bird discount rate for ILMF 2008 taking place in Denver Colorado from February 21-22, 2008. Book before the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2007 deadline at <https://www.smartregister.co.uk/events/lidar08>

### **2.c) SEAGUARD ON TOUR**

UK representatives, RS Aqua Ltd, report that during December and January they have a Seaguard demonstration unit available for customer viewings. The specific demo device is a Seaguard Current Meter, formed by fitting the new ZPulse™ multi-frequency Doppler Current Sensor to the acquisition platform. The demo instrument is also fitted with Conductivity, Temperature & Pressure sensors (C/T/D). Several demonstrations are already scheduled but, at present, there are still additional opportunities available. The Seaguard platform from Bergen's Aanderaa Data Instruments (AADI) is an adaptable, powerful underwater data acquisition system. Designed to operate with both the AADI range of Smart Sensors and other proprietary sensors, Seaguard can be configured to meet a host of applications in environments ranging from the deep ocean to the coastal zone. The design harnesses Aanderaa's famed instrument ruggedness and reliability features with leading edge data acquisition techniques. Product specialist David Goldsmith is keen to show this ground breaking device to all who are interested in flexible, high precision oceanographic data acquisition. RS Aqua say that this is indeed a great opportunity to view the latest from the home of the oceanographic instrument. Visit [www.rsaqua.co.uk](http://www.rsaqua.co.uk) to view their latest news item regarding Seaguard with links to specification sheets. Contact David at [d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk](mailto:d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk) to discuss a viewing.

### **2.d) SPECIAL ISSUE OF GEOMATICA TO BE DEVOTED TO MARINE GEOMATICS, CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Geomatica is the quarterly peer-review journal of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG). It is dedicated to the dissemination of information on technical advances in the field of geomatics sciences. Papers for this Special Issue on Marine Geomatics must present research results using geomatics techniques (GIS, remote sensing, geodesy, photogrammetry, ...) for the marine environment (coastal and offshore). "Marine geomatics" refers to the acquisition, processing, management and dissemination of data and data products which describe the marine environment, including the ocean bottom and sub-bottom, the water column (and the biomass which occupies this environment), and sea surface phenomena.

The papers to be published will present theoretical, technological or methodological advances in various aspects of marine geomatics. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following: Marine geodetic measurements; Seabed mapping techniques; Marine data models; Marine sensor webs; Marine cadastre and surveying; Marine sensors; Marine GIS; Marine metadata; Marine data infrastructures; Marine decision-support systems.

Papers should be submitted to Rodolphe Devillers ([rdeville@mun.ca](mailto:rdeville@mun.ca)) before the deadline in MSWord format (.doc) and follow the instructions to authors outlined in Geomatica. Each paper should not exceed 9,000 words. The special issue will include a maximum of 6-8 papers. The submission of papers deadline is February 15th 2008 with a planned publication of the end of 2008.