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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) THE WFS S1510 RADIO MODEM IS NOW OPERATIONAL AT QINETIQ'S OCEAN BASIN FACILITY, HASLAR

Ocean Basin is a recognised underwater test facility, located at QinetiQ, Haslar, in the south of England. Hydrodynamic trials of representative above water and underwater vehicles, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) and submarines, are undertaken there.

QinetiQ wished to undertake a major update of the data gathering and control part of the instrumentation. For operational reasons it was essential that a wireless control system be installed that would operate in the challenging environment of the relatively shallow water (5.5m) concrete basin, within an enclosed structure, complete with facilities such as rotating arm and wave making machinery.

WFS was approached as it was recognised that an electromagnetic solution would operate in an enclosed environment, immune from the presence of acoustic noise. In addition it could handle the required data rate with no systemic delay in transmission and with a high degree of reliability. It would also have the key benefit of control data seamlessly crossing the water/ air boundary in both directions. The WFS S1510 Radio Modem, optimised for the Ocean Basin application, was proposed, selected, and is currently being commissioned.

The above surface Radio Modem is now being integrated with the facility Control Desk and the control software for the model under test. The underwater Modem, with its loop antenna is being integrated into the test model submarine. The system will be used to control the Model underwater with comprehensive error correction checks. Speed and depth information will also be telemetered back to the Controller. For further information contact WFS Ltd, info@wirelessfibre.co.uk

1.b) POWERFUL NEW SUBSEA GROUP DEVELOPS GLOBAL BRAND

The Trittech Group's fast growing international commercial network is generating considerable interest and building global awareness of recently acquired Sonar Research and Development (SRD). Trittech International Ltd started trading in 1990 with the aim of producing the finest, most innovative range of subsea products for professional underwater markets.

In 2006 Trittech became part of Halma p.l.c. which also acquired SRD in 2007, now part of the Trittech Group who provides sensors and tools for ROV and AUV markets. Expectations are high and the global brand is expected to produce great results. Connecting SRD's multibeam sonar technology with the international network of distributors will generate new business for the Group. Trittech currently has agreements in place with 30 distributors around the globe, with plans to substantially increase its network over the coming year. For further information contact lisa-mann@tritech.co.uk or go to www.tritech.co.uk

1.c) SEABED ONLINE

Maps and images of seabed habitat, geology and biological data in the seas around North-West Europe can now be viewed online. This huge resource has been created by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in a five nation project called, The Development of a Framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats, or MESH.

Marine biologists, the oil and gas industry, and anyone interested in conservation, will benefit from ready access to the vast amounts of data about intertidal and seabed habitats. Important to the project was discovering more about the processes that determine the existence of certain habitats in a particular location. These habitats are defined by a combination of unique conditions such as current, depth of water, temperature and the rock structure under the seafloor. Understanding and classifying this makes it possible to predict the existence of certain habitat at a particular kind of location.

From this has come predictive mapping which will help determine the likely habitat at a location and avoid expensive field survey undertakings. Predictive mapping can also be used to evaluate large areas of seabed that would otherwise be impractical to survey.

A vital tool for the project in gathering information from hard to reach locations, has been the Saab Seaeye Tiger ROV. One such place was Stanton Bank, off the West Coast of Scotland. Here they needed to examine the habitat at the point where the rock face meets the soft seafloor. Although an acoustic survey of the area had been undertaken, they had no idea what actually lay at this difficult to access location. The answer was to send down the free-swimming, 1000 metre rated, Seaeye Tiger. They were able to manoeuvre the vehicle to the precise point of study, where its directional thrusters are powerful enough to hold the ROV steady in the currents whilst sending back high definition video film.

The ROV had been made available by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), the Northern Ireland based contributing partner to the MESH project. The AFBI were early to recognise the advantages to marine science of opting for a rugged and reliable ROV, proven in the tough oil and gas industry, for tackling the equally demanding marine science environment.

With many organisations competing for the resources offered by the seabed around Europe, the MESH project means they can now determine the impact of their decision by simply going to <http://www.searchmesh.net/webGIS> for the interactive mapping system, and zoom into the area of interest. For further information contact rovs@seaeye.com or go to www.seaeye.com

2. PRODUCT LAUNCH

2.a) AC-POWERED UNDERWATER LED FLOODLIGHT

Remote Ocean Systems is unveiling the new Q-LED underwater LED floodlight at Underwater Intervention 2008. The compact Q-LED operates on 120 or 240 volt AC power, yet fits in the same compact footprint as Remote Ocean Systems' trusted QL-3000 floodlight, which has been a mainstay of the ROV industry for more than 3 decades. Operators can now upgrade their vehicles by installing the "plug and play" dimmable Q-LED lights in place of their old halogen lights, using the same wiring. The Q-LED is depth rated to 3000 meters, and has an output equivalent to that of a 250 watt halogen light. The Q-LED's first scheduled maintenance is at the 5-year mark. Find more information at www.rosys.com.

2.b) APPLIED ACOUSTICS' EASYTRAK SUBSEA TRACKING SYSTEM DEBUT AT NEW ORLEANS

Software enhancements to Applied Acoustics' Easytrak subsea tracking system will make their debut on stand 409 at UI in New Orleans. The new sophisticated package complements the software already in the main console by providing an additional display on an external PC via Ethernet. The intuitive software also allows the user to resize or rescale the vessel graphic, utilize a measurement tool and customise the workspace.

The innovative USBL tracking system, Easytrak, is manufactured in the UK by Applied Acoustic Engineering and sold in the US by Subsea Technologies of Houston. For further information contact sue@appliedacoustics.com or go to www.appliedacoustics.com

3. EVENTS, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION

3.a) SUBSEA AWARENESS COURSE, 21-25 APRIL, 2008, KUALA LUMPUR

This four and half day Course has been designed to be suitable for contractors, engineers, operators and those new to the offshore industry, those transferring from other disciplines within the industry and those who have worked in subsea previously but would benefit from a refresher course and exposure to the latest technology.

Whilst most of the course will be presented in a 'classroom' environment, the sessions will be interactive, with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss what has been learnt. To register, contact J.Bremner@sut.org or call Tel. +61 (0) 403 185 226

3.b) THE HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND AND SUT JOINTLY PRESENT THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION – HIGH DEFINITION AND HIGH RESOLUTION (CURRENT AND FUTURE ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS), 17 JANUARY, 2008, ABERDEEN, UK

The survey and inspection industry is embracing the 'digital revolution' with improved and new innovative sensors generating higher and higher definition information, and ever greater volumes of data. The industry faces a challenge to embrace these new capabilities, and manage the data and images generated, in a manner which is rigorous and manageable, and which presents data to the operators and other users in an understandable and time comparable format.

This half day seminar provides updates on some of the new technologies and sensors, and the management and ease of use of the data, rounding off with a look at the future of this fast growing area of the industry. To register, contact michele.ross@sut.org

4.WHO'S ON THE MOVE

4.a) NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR IMAREST ANZSPAC DIVISION

Maritime expert, Greg Bondar, has been appointed Executive Director of the Australia New Zealand and South Pacific Division (ANZSPAC) of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) with responsibility for this rapidly expanding Division with its twelve branches.

Greg Bondar has been CEO of the Australian Chamber of Shipping (ACOS) and the Long Distance Road Transport Association of Australia (LDRTA), and was the senior Maritime Adviser to the Australian government's Minister for Transport and Regional Development in Canberra from 1996-1998. As the maritime adviser he was involved in port, shipping and marine issues. He also worked closely with various government agencies including Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and has been a member of numerous Australian government delegations to the IMO and APEC. Further information contact execdirector.anzspac@imarest.net; or go to www.imarest.org.

4.b) APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER J. GOLDEN TO THE FARSounder BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FarSounder, Inc. is pleased to announce that at its December 2007 board meeting, Christopher J. Golden was elected to the Board of Directors. Mr. Golden brings nearly 30 years of high technology company leadership experience with him, from publicly traded corporations to smaller enterprises where his vision and guidance led them to sustained growth and profitability. Prior to this he served with distinction as a combat officer in the US Army.

Golden currently serves on the board of several other companies (Optimum Technologies, Champion Metrics, Mackenzie Community Center and WPI Venture Forum). He has his MBA from Boston University and BA Economics from Lafayette College. For more information contact joann.aldsworth+pr@farsounder.com

5. JOB POSTINGS

5.a) PRODUCT MANAGER AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEER ROLES, AQUATEC GROUP, HAMPSHIRE, UK

Product Manager: This role will focus on the AQUAscat Multiple Frequency Acoustic Backscatter System used to measure suspended sediment concentration and particle size information. The instrument has applications in laboratories, near-bed sediment transport studies, dredge monitoring and inland water quality assessment. The position will initially involve taking the existing instrument hardware through a rigorous validation programme, working with a wide variety of users both in the UK and worldwide to optimise its use in their applications. This will include data collection and analysis, both in the laboratory and in the field, working with other potential users, which will lead to the development and testing of data processing algorithms using Matlab. Subsequent tasks for the product manager role will include working with the sales team to provide technical support to market development, and developing and implementing a strategy for the future development of the AQUAscat product line.

The position will be based at their Hampshire headquarters in rural Hartley Wintney, but will require an element of travel and field work, both in the UK and overseas. There will also be a need to prepare and present papers about the instrument at conferences. For detailed requirements, refer to <http://www.aquatecgroup.com/careers.html>

Electronics Engineer: The role will be to provide support and technical development for Aquatec's standard oceanographic products for measurement of suspended sediment and other physical parameters, as well as producing designs for custom applications when required. The ideal candidate will have 2-5 years experience in designing and fault finding digital and analogue electronics. For detailed requirements, refer to <http://www.aquatecgroup.com/careers.html>

To apply for either of these positions, please send your CV/résumé to Andy Smerdon: asmerdon@aquatecgroup.com.

5.b) APPLICATIONS ENGINEER/ SUPPORT

The successful candidate will provide a high level post sales customer support, including applications support, product maintenance, and coordination of repairs and upgrades. Major responsibilities including; Respond to customer requests for technical support via telephone, email, and in person; Identify customer support request patterns and implement procedures to proactively address common questions and product failures; Educate customers about the best way to use our products for their specific applications; Quote repair and upgrade costs to customers and schedule the repairs and upgrades; Assist in the testing of software, firmware and hardware; Assist in writing and reviewing all documentation, including manuals, technical notes and FAQ's; Traveling to customer sites for training or demonstrations when appropriate. For a full job description and for details on how to apply for this role contact mbrown@sontek.com

5.c) PROJECT MANAGER, UTEC SURVEY LTD, UK

UTEC Survey Ltd., a member of UTEC International group of companies, is a UK based marine survey company focussed primarily on Geotechnical, Geophysical and Geohazard markets. As part of a continuing programme of growth, UTEC is seeking to recruit in the following positions; Project Manager (Aberdeen), an experienced Project Manager is required to join the Project team. Responsibilities include technical and commercial evaluation of tenders along with preparation of bid documents, implementation of client work scopes; client, departmental & subcontractor liaison, responsibility for financial, contractual and administrative aspects of Projects.

Vessel Manager (Lowestoft), responsibilities include maintenance of company & marine safety standards, ensuring that the companies' fleet is operated in a safe & efficient manner, in accordance with all relevant regulatory and company policies. Compilation of annual vessel operational budgets, cost control, management and execution of vessel internal and 3rd party audits. Continuous control and review of the Safety Management System (ISM).

Assistant/Deputy Operations Manager (Lowestoft), they are looking for someone to work with the current Operations Manager who will develop their skills and be in a position to fill the role of operations manager when the current incumbent retires. The role is to assist in ensuring all operational aspects of vessel operations and survey fieldwork are conducted in the most efficient manner, including scheduling of crew changes and organisation of field staff rotas, operation of company vessels ensuring all marine shipboard safety and environmental policies are carried out in accordance with international regulations and company procedures. They will deputise for the operations manager in his absence. Candidates will need to be able to work under pressure and be able to apply a flexible approach to both work type and hours.

UTEC Survey Ltd. is able to offer a highly competitive salary and comprehensive package of benefits for all of the above positions to successful candidates. Please apply for the attention of Lee Chalmers, HR Manager, recruitment@utesurvey.com

5.d) ACCOUNT MANAGER VACANCY AT DYNAMIC POSITIONING SERVICES LTD, UK

Due to continual growth DPS has a vacancy for an Account Manager based in the Aberdeen Head Office reporting directly to the Sales Director.

The position will involve daily contact with existing customers, sales trips both in the UK and overseas, representing the company at trade exhibitions and the management of daily rental and sales projects. The ideal candidate will be capable of working within the company's sales / operations department, a motivated self starter with a desire to thrive within a dynamic growing company. A background in offshore survey / ROV would be an advantage although training would be offered on the company's products and services. In the first instance send your CV to recruitment@dynamic-positioning.co.uk

5.e) TRELLEBORG CRP, INC. USA HAS 3 VACANCIES INCLUDING HSE COORDINATOR, PROJECT MANAGER AND A SALES MANAGER

HSE Coordinator will conduct facility safety audits to assist implementation and compliance issues and daily safety inspections of company work areas and formal investigations of incidents and/or accidents. Report findings and appropriate alerts. When required, involvement in training to prevent or lessen future occurrences. Review hazards found at work locations or recurrent non-compliance practices. Review and respond to analyses of HSE statistics and trends developed monthly/quarterly and annually. Assist in the development and implementation of management training for HSE related items.

Project Manager, will manage engineering projects ensuring that the work is completed on time, within budget and in accordance with the client's requirements. To provide a service to Trelleborg CRP's clients which exceeds their expectations. To minimize the risk to Trelleborg CRP Inc. during the execution of a contract. To maximize the gross margin generated by each project. To support external sales in their client sales visits. To actively consider sales opportunities for existing and new products, liaising with external sales. To prepare tender documents in response to client enquiries liaising with internal sales.

Sales Manager, will take a key role in maintaining and expanding the sale of the Company's Products & Services into all relevant sectors of the Industry. To visit with existing customers, make contact with potential new customers and clearly document all such contacts. To receive sales enquiries and translate same into sales quotations with support as required in accordance with best practice as defined in the Sales Group Guidance Notes. Some travel required. To assist with the preparation of and attend trade exhibitions as required. Minimum of HNC in Mechanical/Civil/Structural Engineering. Degree Level education preferred! Proven track record in Sales environment. From a manufacturing industry background. Experience of relationship and transactional selling. Must be proficient in MS Excel. Managing office based staff.

To apply for any of these jobs send your CV to crpjobs.us@trelleborg.com or for further information contact chris.hanner@trelleborg.com or visit their website <http://www.trelleborg.com/offshore>