

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## 1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

### 1.a) UNDERWATER ROBOTS MAP THE CORAL REEF ENVIRONMENT AROUND BONAIRE

A team of scientists, engineers, and technical divers have been mapping the coral reefs around the Caribbean island of Bonaire using Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs). Support for one of the AUV mission teams has been provided by Tom Hiller and James Baxter of GeoAcoustics, running a compact GeoSwath wide swath bathymetric sonar (GeoAcoustics Ltd, UK) mounted on a man-portable Gavia AUV (Hafmynd Ehf., Iceland).

The Bonaire mission has been funded by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The aim is to use novel technology to enhance knowledge of the coral reef environment, and to motivate people to take action to sustain the reefs. This has an especially high profile in 2008, which is the International Year of the Reef (see [www.IYOR.org](http://www.IYOR.org)). At the time of writing, the Gavia and GeoSwath have already proven their usefulness in Bonaire, with multiple missions from shoreline to 200m depth from various beaches and jetties around the island.

The Bonaire expedition is being led by Mark Patterson of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), along with co-Principal Investigators Arthur Trembanis (University of Delaware), Jim Leichter and Dale Stokes (Scripps Institution of Oceanography). Dr. Trembanis has recently placed an order for a GeoSwath-equipped Gavia for the Coastal Sediments, Hydrodynamics, and Engineering Laboratory (CSHEL) at the University of Delaware.

More background on the Bonaire 2008 mission, progress reports, and teaching material can be found on NOAA's Ocean Explorer website: <http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>.

### 1.b) THE SPANISH RESEARCH COUNCIL PURCHASES NEW SEASOAR SYSTEM FOR THE RV SARMIENTO DE GAMBOA

Chelsea Technologies Group (CTG) is pleased to announce delivery of a new SeaSoar Towed Undulating system to the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas), Barcelona for their new vessel, *RV Sarmiento de Gamboa*. This SeaSoar has been fitted with a Seabird Electronics SBE911 CTD, with dual CT heads fitted externally on either side of the SeaSoar body.

The SeaSoar will provide the CSIC with the capability to gather oceanographic data from near surface to depths of 500 metres whilst underway at speeds up to 12 knots.

The sale was secured by CTG's representatives in Spain, EMS S.L., who will themselves be adding further instrumentation within the vehicle including a Brooke Ocean Technologies LOPC, illustrating the versatility of the SeaSoar payload area within the vehicle. The new vessel was launched during the summer 2007 and the first mission is to begin in 2008.

This sale follows an increased interest in the SeaSoar, with recent sales of two systems to EPSHOM in France and a major SeaSoar upgrade for Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

SeaSoar is a highly versatile towed undulating vehicle used to deploy a wide range of oceanographic monitoring equipment. It is capable of undulating from the surface to 500 metres at tow speeds of up to 12 knots following a controlled and adjustable undulating path through the ocean. The PC based SeaSoar Deck Control Unit onboard the ship enables the operator to have real-time computer control over the vehicle's flight profile together with the storage and display of the flight parameters. Data obtained from sensors mounted in SeaSoar, are transmitted to the towing vessel for processing, display and storage via a multi-core tow cable. The high data rate and versatility of sensor and sampling packages make SeaSoar an effective and productive platform for large scale data collection. For more details contact: Ellen Keegan, [ekeegan@chelsea.co.uk](mailto:ekeegan@chelsea.co.uk).

### **1.c) HYDRO INTERNATIONAL RELEASES FIRST RESTYLED ISSUE**

Hydro International, the global magazine for hydrography published by Reed Business Geo, unveiled its exciting new design today, with its January/February 2008 issue. The design features a fresh new logo, a cover with brighter colours and more attractive layouts.

“The new design makes *Hydro International's* pages fresh and dynamic, and improves the appearance and readability of the articles,” said Durk Haarsma, Publisher of *Hydro International*. “The original design served us for more than 10 years. We believe that the new layout better suits the vibrant content of today.”

“Although the layout has been changed and we’ve added clear and appealing images, the magazine has kept its renowned in-depth focus on developments in hydrography,” added Joost Boers, Managing Editor of *Hydro International*. “The restyled magazine will be appealing to the younger generation of hydrographers as well.”

Hydro International is an independent international magazine published 12 times a year. It informs a worldwide professional, industrial and governmental readership of the latest news and developments in the fields of hydrographic surveying, marine cartographic and geomatics. For more information contact Joost Boers, managing editor [joost.boers@reedbusiness.nl](mailto:joost.boers@reedbusiness.nl) or Marjan de Vries, account manager [marjan.de.vries@reedbusiness.nl](mailto:marjan.de.vries@reedbusiness.nl)

### **1.d) MANAGEMENT BUYOUT AT INNOVATUM**

INNOVATUM Ltd., a company wholly owned by Terry Slater and Rob Nunn, is pleased to announce it has completed the purchase of the assets of Innovatum International Ltd. The company was previously owned by Montana & Dakota Utilities of Bismarck, North Dakota, USA.

Innovatum manufactures magnetic tools for the location, tracking and survey of submarine pipelines and cables. INNOVATUM Ltd. will continue to further develop and manufacture the very successful SMARTRAK and SMARTSEARCH units at the Bury St Edmunds UK facility, and provide a service for magnetising cables and pipelines to enhance their detection and survey. Several new products are currently in development particularly for the survey of cables in shallow water. Contact Terry Slater or Rob Nunn for further information [sales@innovatum.co.uk](mailto:sales@innovatum.co.uk)

### **1.e) ODIM ADDS NEW CUSTOMER WITH SUBSEA CONTRACT WORTH NOK 50 MILLION**

ODIM has been awarded a contract worth about NOK 50 million to supply four automated handling systems for remotely operated vehicles (ROV) for two vessels to be built at Freire Shipyard in Spain, for the Sea4 shipping company. The systems are due to be delivered in fourth quarter 2009 and first quarter 2010.

Sea4 is a new customer for ODIM. The contract embraces delivery of Launch and Recovery systems (ODIM LARS™) for two vessels under construction for the Sea4 shipping company. Both vessels will be equipped with over- side ODIM LARS™ for launch over the ship side, and one moon pool- based system designed for launch through a moon pool with a cursor system. All systems are designed to handle work-ROVs on water depths down to 4,000 meters. For further information contact Øyvind Olsen, senior vice president, communications, ODIM ASA, mobile +47 911 85 817 [oyvind.olsen@odim.com](mailto:oyvind.olsen@odim.com) or Lidvard Liaset, Vice President, Subsea, mobile +47 905 91 930 or go to [www.odim.com](http://www.odim.com)

### **1.f) CUTTING THE RISKS IN SHALLOW MARINE OPERATIONS**

The BBC Shipping Forecast is a great and respected service, but optimising nearshore marine engineering operations requires much more detail about winds and sea conditions. Site specific, accurate and reliable real-time predictions are needed to manage construction and maintenance schedules during marginal sea conditions in amongst shallow banks and strong currents.

HR Wallingford and the UK Met Office have combined their respective skills and modelling capabilities to

develop a forecasting service that has been used by LNG terminals, Network Rail and the Royal Navy. This service has now been applied to the UK renewable energy industry during the construction of the Lynn and Inner Dowsing offshore wind farms off the Lincolnshire coast.

The Centrica owned wind farms will generate renewable power for the company's British Gas customers and subject to weather conditions during construction should both be fully commissioned and operational by the end of the year. They should be capable of meeting the annual demand of more than 130,000 households, almost half the number of homes in Lincolnshire.

Offshore construction operations started last year with shipment of monopiles from Belgium to the construction site. The 54 foundations, consisting of piles and transition pieces, were installed from the jack-up vessel MV Resolution by December. Cable laying within the wind farm is underway; work is being carried out from the barge UR101. Turbine tower, nacelle and blade installation is planned from March this year. "Each of the construction phases is sensitive to the weather and restricted by specific safe operating conditions" explains HR Wallingford's Nigel Tozer. "Working with the Met Office we provide the construction team with site forecasts of the prevailing winds, waves, currents and water levels. These forecasts help them to make planning decisions that maximise cost efficiency and minimise HSE risks."

The wind farm and cable sites are partially sheltered from severe North Sea waves by a series of shallow banks to the north and west, particularly over low tide. Local winds and currents also influence conditions at the site. Waves at the site are therefore not simply or directly related to the predicted offshore conditions available from free or low cost sources.

Forecast model runs are carried out twice daily, providing five day forecasts displayed on a secure website, supplemented by emailed warnings when predicted conditions exceed defined safe operating thresholds. Near real-time measurements are published on the web site alongside the forecasts, providing immediate visual confirmation of the accuracy of the predictions. The forecasts are available to all members of the construction team allowing decisions to be made and monitored using a consistent data source. For further information contact Jackie Harrop [j.harrop@hrwallingford.co.uk](mailto:j.harrop@hrwallingford.co.uk) or [n.tozer@hrwallingford.co.uk](mailto:n.tozer@hrwallingford.co.uk) or go to [www.hrwallingford.co.uk](http://www.hrwallingford.co.uk)

## **2. EVENT, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS**

### **2.a) INTERNATIONAL LIDAR MAPPING FORUM, DENVER, USA 21-22 FEBRUARY, ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY!**

ILMF 2008, the newly acquired show by Intelligent Exhibitions, the organisers of Ocean Business in the UK, is in the final planning stages of the event that is creating waves amongst the industry.

Previously owned by industry experts, the show was bought by professional Exhibition and Conference organisers Intelligent Exhibitions in 2007, adding to their growing portfolio. With expert marketing and sales input the show has received massive interest and 2008 looks set to welcome more delegates than ever before! To view the bustling program including a two track conference, an exhibition, Basics to LiDAR Workshop Series and a social program bursting with networking opportunities go to <http://www.lidarmap.org/>

There is still time to sign up, to the premier event for the LIDAR industry. So if you want to meet with industry leaders, pioneers, experts from government, academia and professionals from industries looking to invest in and benefit from LIDAR technology and services then register now online at <https://www.smartregister.co.uk/events/lidar08/> .

### 3. JOB POSTINGS

#### **3.a) HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS, LAND SURVEYORS, OCEANOGRAPHERS, SURVEY ENGINEERS, MARINE BIOLOGISTS AND OCEANOGRAPHERS WANTED BY TITAN ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS, UK**

Titan Environmental Surveys is a coastal survey organisation in the U.K, which became part of the Gardline group of companies in April 2005. Due to continued expansion they are now seeking to recruit personnel to fill several posts. Posts will be based at their offices in Bridgend with occasional site work undertaken throughout the U.K. and overseas.

Requirements include; must be a good communicator and team player; a flexible and committed approach to working including the willingness to work away from our offices during fieldwork; willingness to expand knowledge outside of your own knowledge base; experience of small boat handling would be an advantage; a full clean driving license is essential.

The ideal candidate will have background in one or more of the advertised posts with applications from new graduates and personnel with experience considered. Titan offers a competitive employment package, including additional payments for work away from home. Please apply by email, enclosing your CV to Carol Davies [carol.davies@titansurveys.co.uk](mailto:carol.davies@titansurveys.co.uk)

#### **3.b) NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE, SOUTHAMPTON SEEKS UK – HEAD OF DEEP PLATFORMS**

UK - Head of Deep Platforms, National Marine Facilities – Sea Systems Division, National Oceanography Centre Southampton. Your role will be to manage the repair, maintenance and operation regime of all Deep Platforms Group scientific equipment facilities. This is a permanent position and the salary is in the range of £29,360 to £34,630 per annum. You can download an application pack at: <http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/vacancies/> or alternatively contact Lorraine Gray, Tel: +44 023 8059 6604 or e-mail: [loraya@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:loraya@noc.soton.ac.uk). The closing date for completed application forms is 1 March 2008. Please quote reference number NOCS 24/08 on all correspondence.

#### **3.c) ENGINEERING MANAGER, OCEAN INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEER AND AUV SOFTWARE TEST ENGINEERS REQUIRED BY FUGRO SEAFLOOR SURVEYS INC, USA.**

Seafloor are currently seeking applicants to fill a number of engineering positions including an Engineering Manager, an Ocean Instrumentation Engineer, and AUV Software Test Engineers. They place value on a can-do attitude, honesty and integrity, engaged employees, technical expertise and positive long-term customer relations. Our people are above average in cognitive ability and do their work in a spirit of exploration and technical innovation.

Based out of Seattle, they are a group of multinational employees who are motivated by delivering the impossible to our client. Aside from rewarding work, FSSI offers a competitive compensation package.

If you are a proven leader with a results oriented perspective; if you tend toward a positive, flexible demeanor, even under the tightest deadlines; if you like a challenge; they have a place for you. For specific position details, see [www.seafloor.com](http://www.seafloor.com) or contact us at [hr@seafloor.com](mailto:hr@seafloor.com).