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## GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

### 1.a) NAVSEA EXERCISES EXPANDED OPTIONS IN CONTRACT FOR BLUEFIN

Bluefin Robotics, an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) manufacturer, has announced that the Naval Sea Systems Command, Indian Head Division has exercised an option in a previously awarded contract for the Bluefin-9 series AUV. With a potential value of \$29 million, the contract outlines procurement of AUV systems, support equipment, engineering support, and other services.

The vehicles are designed to perform Very Shallow Water Mine Countermeasures and will play a significant role in Port Security and Harbor Protection, as well as providing an expeditionary capability for force projection and protection. The Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community will be the beneficiary of this capability. The Bluefin-9, in the *SeaLion* configuration, will aid EOD personnel in their duties to detect, localize and classify mines, and Undersea Improvised Explosive Devices. Equipped with a dual frequency side scan sonar and a sophisticated software suite, the vehicle will autonomously scan the seafloor for mine-like or other suspicious objects. Bluefin's lithium-ion polymer rechargeable battery technology provides the vehicle with over 12 hours of dependable endurance and the ability to rapidly swap battery modules between missions. For more information, please visit [www.bluefinrobotics.com](http://www.bluefinrobotics.com) or contact [dabraham@bluefinrobotics.com](mailto:dabraham@bluefinrobotics.com)

### 1.b) ULTRA DEEPWATER TRACKLINK USBL SYSTEMS SOLD TO NOAA AND NOC

TrackLink USBL tracking systems are the world's best selling USBL positioning systems. The deepwater models, TrackLink 5000 and 10000 systems, have gained acceptance from more highly regarded clients worldwide. NOAA has recently taken delivery of a TrackLink 10000 system to be installed on its newly converted research vessel Okeano Explorer. This TrackLink system, capable of reaching a range of 11 km, will be used to track an ultra-deepwater ROV and its TMS system.

National Oceanography Centre (NOCS), Southampton, UK, has recently ordered a TrackLink 10000 system which will be used for AUV tracking and communication. This system has an integrated acoustic modem function that can be used to send commands to and receive data from the AUV. This integrated acoustic communication and positioning approach eliminates the acoustic interference typically existing between an acoustic communication and a positioning system, and increases the overall system reliability and usability. This is the second TrackLink 10000 ultra-deepwater USBL tracking system purchased by NOC. The first system, installed on the Autosub 6000 AUV, performed well in the system trials. Recently, the University of Hawaii also purchased a second TrackLink 5000HA system for tracking deepwater towed systems. The first system has been used to track deepwater manned submersibles, Pisces V and Pisces IV, accurately and reliably in the past three years.

Based on the advanced Broadband Acoustic Spread Spectrum Technology and modern DSP technology, the TrackLink systems offer highly accurate, robust and cost-effective integrated USBL tracking and communication solutions to meet worldwide demand. For more information, please visit [www.link-quest.com](http://www.link-quest.com) or contact the company at [sales@link-quest.com](mailto:sales@link-quest.com)

### 1.c) VERIPOS EXPANDS HOUSTON BASE

Veripos, a leading supplier of global high-precision GNSS positioning services primarily for offshore applications, has extended its regional Americas base in Houston with a move to enlarged premises comprising increased workshop and storage facilities in addition to a dedicated training centre and improved support amenities.

The development, says Steve Browne, Veripos' Regional Manager for the Americas, is in response to rapid growth in demand for the Company's worldwide positioning services which provide comprehensive coverage of North, South and Central America offshore sectors on behalf of leading operators of 3D

seismic, survey, DP construction and pipelay vessels. Moreover, he added, it significantly enhances both technical and training support capabilities required by a growing number of clients and their vessels.

Utilising multiple satellite and localised terrestrial platforms for delivery of augmentation data, the services provided by Veripos' Houston-based Americas region are in widespread use by leading offshore organisations which include, among others, CGGVeritas, Cotemar, Petrobras, UTEC Survey and WesternGeco.

For more information, please visit [www.veripos.com](http://www.veripos.com)

#### **1.d) MSI AWARDED TWO-YEAR CALL OUT CONTRACT FOR WESTERNGECO THROUGHOUT ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

Metocean Services International (MSI) is pleased to announce the award of a two-year call out contract to provide current and tide measurement services to Orogenic GeoExpro Sdn Bhd of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This contract forms part of a much larger contract awarded to only two companies, one being Orogenic GeoExpro, by WesternGeco for the provision of call out services to support their seismic programs within the region.

“Similar to our previous collaboration with MSI, we are looking forward to having another successful working relationship with MSI in terms of the provision of Metocean Services to WesternGeco under this contract. With the presence of MSI, we are confident that the oceanographic part of the work can be timely and efficiently done” said Mohamed Zulkifli Abdul Aziz, Managing Director of Orogenic GeoExpro.

As well as providing oceanographic and meteorological measurements internationally, MSI is also the Australian agent for RBR Ltd, the Canadian global leader in the oceanographic instrumentation industry, providing innovative products to scientists, government agencies, military, universities, and individuals. For more details on the company please visit [www.metoceanservices.com](http://www.metoceanservices.com) or email [info@metoceanservices.com](mailto:info@metoceanservices.com)

#### **1.e) C & C TECHNOLOGIES C-NAV WINS NPCC DGPS POSITIONING CONTRACT**

The National Petroleum Construction Company (NPCC) of Abu Dhabi, UAE has awarded C & C Technologies (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, a long-term contract for their C-Nav Globally Corrected GPS (GcGPS) positioning services. This is the fifth consecutive year that C & C Technologies, with its world leading C-Nav positioning service, has been awarded this prestigious contract.

“The contract was won in the face of fierce competition”, stated Rick Shannon, Managing Director of C & C Technologies (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, adding, “We are delighted to have again won this contract. Our customers appreciate the superior capabilities of C-Nav, particularly when coupled with our track record for reliability, accuracy, and a first-rate friendly service.”

The contract also marked the beginning of a new partnership, as this will be the first collaborative effort with the recently appointed sub-distributor, Technical Equipment Service ME (TESME) in Abu Dhabi. NPCC will utilize the wide range of positioning services provided by C-Nav to deliver high quality offshore construction, dynamic positioning, and survey support to its client base in the Arabian Gulf and India. For more information please visit C-Nav's website at [www.cnavgps.com](http://www.cnavgps.com) or email [cnav@cctechnol.com](mailto:cnav@cctechnol.com).

#### **1.f) 2007 WAS A BOOMING YEAR FOR KNUDSEN ENGINEERING**

“The introduction of the company's next generation of products - the Sounder Series and Chirp Series -has kept the company running on all cylinders” announced Judith Knudsen, V.P. Sales/Operations.

“We are excited that the significant development effort on these two new product lines is starting to show results and the marketplace is responding” reported Judith. “With the introduction of a new higher speed

processor and USB system connectivity, customers will be investing in modern technology tools for the years ahead.”

Noteworthy volume sales to repeat customers have included delivery of nine Sounder 1600 systems - including six quad-channel units - to the Canadian Hydrographic Service. Upgrade to the new Chirp 3260 deep water unit - which replaces the 320BR - has also been put in place with delivery of 9 units to UNOLS Research Vessel Organization and 2 further systems to NOAA for installation on Ships Nancy Foster and Okeanos Explorer. For more information, please visit [www.knudsenengineering.com](http://www.knudsenengineering.com)

### **1.g) IMAREST’S ROLE WITHIN THE UN’S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

The Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMarEST) has been recommended for special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council at the recent meeting of the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The 19-member Committee recommends general, special or roster status with the Council according to such criteria as the applicant’s mandate, governance and financial regime. Organizations enjoying general and special consultative status can attend meetings of the Council and circulate statements. Angola, Burundi, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Guinea, India, Israel, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States are all members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

“We are delighted that the Committee has made this recommendation,” says Keith Read CBE, chief executive of IMarEST. “The Institute has significant links with many organisations that benefit members and their wide range of interests, such observer status at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, NGO status at the International Maritime Organization, and membership of the UK Maritime Forum and Society of Maritime Industries; and this latest recommendation enables us to spread far and wide information on marine engineering, science and technology all of which play a vital role in so many aspects of the world economy and well being.” For more information, please visit [www.imarest.org/](http://www.imarest.org/)

## **2. PRODUCT LAUNCHES**

### **2.a) MARPORT TO EXHIBIT NEW PRODUCTS AT OCEANOLOGY 2008**

Marport, a subsea acoustics technology company, announced today that it will exhibit its new Software Defined Sonar products at Oceanology International 2008 in London, England from March 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. These new products include:

AQUAPIX – a 3D imaging sonar system that combines side scan imagery with bathymetric data to generate ultra high-resolution 3D subsea images and digital terrain models of the seafloor. The system is available in towed, over-the-side mount, hull mount and AUV configurations.

DATASQUID – an underwater observation platform that senses and transmits subsea data from a wide variety of mechanical, thermal, optical, biological, chemical and magnetic phenomena.

CHIRP ES – a broadband echosounder that utilizes advanced frequency modulation (CHIRP FM) and digital signal processing to provide significantly improved range resolution and superior target discrimination when compared to fixed-frequency echosounders.

Marport will exhibit its new products at stand #420 on the Atlantic Canada pavilion. For more information, please visit [www.marport.com](http://www.marport.com)

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

### **3.a) HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, LONDON, UK, 12 MARCH**

The 4th Annual General Meeting of The Hydrographic Society UK will be held on Wednesday 12th March 2008 commencing at 1200hrs (local time) in Platinum Suite 5, ExCeL, Royal Victoria Dock, London, UK .This meeting will take place during Oi08 – Oceanology International. This meeting is open to all members and a complimentary light lunch will be provided. For catering purposes, please notify Helen Atkinson ([helen@ths.org.uk](mailto:helen@ths.org.uk)) or leave a message on 01752 223512, if you will be attending by 5th March 2008.

### **3.b) SIDE SCAN SONAR TRAINING COURSE, USA- ROARING SUCCESS**

The International Industries Inc. and Black Laser Learning jointly sponsored Side Scan Sonar Training Course (26-28 Feb 2008) was a roaring success with over 40 attendees. The *Not in the Manual*® course was the first taught to civilians and was patterned after Black Laser Learning's sonar training programs for the Navy. Participants from Industry and Government, received basic through advanced sonar training in an intensive 3 day session. Students from NOAA, NGA, the US Navy and EPA were joined by State Police, DOD Support Contractors, Surveyors, Hydrographers and Underwater Archeologists from as far away as Chile.

The course, conducted in Annapolis, Maryland, USA, is the first in a series of training courses on underwater technology and software. Two additional courses covering Sub-Bottom Profiling and Underwater Magnetometry are scheduled for November 2008 in Annapolis. Specifics will be announced soon on the ILL and Black Laser web Sites. DVD Training of all these subjects is available from International Industries Inc. and Black Laser Learning. They form a complimentary aspect of the "in person" training and the special "*Not in the Manual*®" format of Vince Capone. For more information, please contact [moira.patton@internationalindustries.net](mailto:moira.patton@internationalindustries.net)

### **3.c) SUT LONDON EVENING MEETING - SUBSEA DEVELOPMENTS IN AZERBAIJAN- A CHALLENGE? 18 MARCH 2008, LONDON, UK**

The next SUT London Evening Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 18 March at the Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building, Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine, London. Presentations will be on "Subsea Developments in Azerbaijan - A Challenge?" Lectures begin at 18.00 with Cheese and Wine being served at 19.30.

Speaker 1 will be Dickon Parnell (BP) who is BP's Lead Subsea Project Engineer for the ACG Phase 3 Subsea Delivery Team. He will cover the Engineering Challenge of BP's Azerbaijan Major Projects: starting with some context around world energy demand; then Azerbaijan and the Production Sharing Agreement; then the very high level project schedule; logistics; current field layout and the BTC pipeline.

Speaker 2 will be David Hargroves, KBR who is the Subsea WI System Project Engineer for ACG Phase 3. He will outline the intent of the ACG Phase 3 Subsea Water Injection System, the resources available locally, the interfaces with the platforms, wells and other considerations, the subsea facilities, equipment that has been installed and the considerations of testing, start-up and operation. For more information, please contact [michele.ross@sut.org](mailto:michele.ross@sut.org)

## **4. WHO'S ON THE MOVE**

### **4.a) WFS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CHESTER MROZ AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

WFS announces the appointment of Chester Mroz as Executive Vice President with global responsibility for WFS's Oil and Gas activities. Mr. Mroz will also immediately assume responsibility for directing all WFS's US based business activities.

Brendan Hyland, Chairman and Founder of WFS Ltd, stated: "We are very pleased Chet is joining the team. He brings many years of experience of the global Oil & Gas industry, a deep knowledge of our customers' needs and an enthusiasm for spearheading WFS's growth not just in the global Oil industry but the key US Defense and Industrial markets too."

Mr. Mroz is a leading business executive and strategy consultant to the Oil & Gas industry. In recent years as an independent consultant, he provided strategy, business development and M&A advisory services to ABB, Honeywell, Emerson, Yokogawa, Haliburton, Baker Energy, Shell Global Solutions, Siemens and Thermo Electron.

Prior to this, as President -Business Area Petroleum, Chemical and Consumer Industries- for the ABB Automation Group, he held global responsibility for a \$610 million business operating in 39 countries and with 3,500 employees. Mr. Mroz has also held senior executive roles with C-Bridge Internet Solutions, Texas Instruments, Foxboro and Mobil Oil Corporation

On his joining WFS, Mr. Mroz commented: "Deepwater drilling and production amounts to over 2/3 of the new O&G being discovered and continues to be the long term growth sector of the industry. Deepwater subsea markets are growing at 25% per annum and new O&G frontiers like the Arctic are mainly subsea applications. WFS underwater communication technologies are unique and essential to meet the O&G industries subsea challenges- we see a very exciting future for WFS!"

For more information about WFS and its products, visit the company's website at:  
<http://www.wirelessfibre.co.uk/>

## **5. JOB POSTINGS**

### **5.a) HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS, SURVEY ENGINEERS, GEO'S, PROJECT MANAGERS, GEOTECHNICAL MANAGERS WANTED BY DAVE OLIVER HYDROGRAPHICS LTD, UK**

Dave Oliver Hydrographics Ltd, UK are urgently seeking Hydrographic Surveyors, Survey Engineers, Geo's, Project Managers, Geotechnical Managers and more for exciting ongoing contracts or permanent positions. Please send your CV, salary expectations and availability to [mholehouse@dohs.co.uk](mailto:mholehouse@dohs.co.uk) or visit [www.dohs.co.uk](http://www.dohs.co.uk) for more information.