

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## INDEX

### 1. General Ocean News

- a) First Deal For Rotech Subsea Singapore Base
- b) Centek wins the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2008
- c) Publishers of Hydro International release The Electronic Chart, 2nd Edition
- d) Coda Echoscope Real-Time 3D Sonar Deployed in Middle East for Underwater Construction
- e) The Marine Institute Launches New ROV Program for High School Graduates
- f) More AADI Conductivity Sensors for CEFAS Smart Buoys
- g) Life-Probing Instrument Preparing for Mission to Mars
- h) OSIL Supply Skomer With a Data Collection System
- i) FarSounder Announces New Test Facility, Warwick

### 2. Event, Training and Demonstration News

- a) UK Spill Marine Spill Seminar, 2-3 July 2008, Southampton, UK
- b) SUT's Annual Subsea Engineering Dinner on board The Erasmus, 5 June 2008
- c) Successful Dye Tracing workshop hosted by RS Aqua, 17 April 2008, UK
- d) David Goldsmith takes a tumble but still sets off from Lands End this Saturday

### 3. Who's on the Move

- a) Mr. Charles Brennan has joined R2Sonic in the capacity as Chief Hydrographic Engineer
- b) L-3 Communications Klein Associates, Inc. Appoints Rene Osias as Sales Manager for Side Scan Sonar Systems
- c) Karl Erik Kjelstad nominated as new ODIM chair

### 4. Job Postings

- a) Technical Sales Position Available at Valeport, UK

## **1.GENERAL OCEAN NEWS**

### **1.a) FIRST DEAL FOR ROTECH SUBSEA SINGAPORE BASE**

Mass-flow excavation (MFE) specialists Rotech Subsea has announced the first contract secured from its recently opened Singapore base. The company, which operates a patented range of T tools, has signed a deal with offshore contracting specialists TS7 valued in excess of \$500,000 to perform trenching services for a project in New Zealand. There are also opportunities with TS7 for additional workscope in the region. The company's T4000 spread will be sent to the project, along with Senior Technicians supplied from both the Singapore and UK bases.

Rotech Subsea had a presence in the region for almost four years, previously with a dedicated Asia-Pacific representative and more recently serviced from the Aberdeen base. But establishing an office in Singapore's Orchard Road and storing three of its tools at the Loyang Offshore Supply Base will allow Rotech Subsea to respond to clients within hours rather than weeks. For more information contact Suzanne Mackie on + 44 131 561 2244 or [info@holyroadpr.co.uk](mailto:info@holyroadpr.co.uk).

### **1.b) CENTEK WINS THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE 2008**

Centek Limited, the UK-based manufacturer of casing centralisers for the oil and gas industry, has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2008 for outstanding achievement in International Trade.

Centek manufactures casing centralisers, which are widely used in deep water oil and gas drilling to position pipes down the drilled hole prior to cementation. The company was founded in 2001, and in the three years from 2004 its export sales have more than doubled, with 77 per cent of its business coming from outside the UK. Centek sells its products both direct and through distributors, and it has collaborative agreements with one of the World's largest service and supply companies in the oil industry.

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the UK's most prestigious awards for business performance, and are awarded for achievements in three categories: International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development. For further information go to [www.centekltd.co.uk](http://www.centekltd.co.uk) or email [david.allen@practicalpr.com](mailto:david.allen@practicalpr.com) or email [Vicki.Cousins@centekltd.co.uk](mailto:Vicki.Cousins@centekltd.co.uk)

### **1.c) PUBLISHERS OF HYDRO INTERNATIONAL RELEASE THE ELECTRONIC CHART, 2ND EDITION**

After a successful and sold out first edition, Reed Business Geo – the publisher of Hydro INTERNATIONAL – has released the updated second edition of *The Electronic Chart*.

The Electronic Chart, 2nd edition, written by Horst Hecht, Bernhard Berking, Gert Büttgenbach, Mathias Jonas and Lee Alexander, and peer-reviewed by Adam J. Kerr, gives mariners, manufacturers, maritime administrators, hydrographers, chart data providers, GIS experts, etc. an excellent overview on 'Marine Electronic Charts'. Chart data and navigational functions are described, along with many other areas.

The Electronic Chart is suited for education and training, daily use onboard and familiarisation with this new navigation tool by hydrographic offices, maritime safety administrations, shipping companies, maritime academies, universities, equipment manufacturers and professional mariners, among others.

To experience the potential of ECDIS yourself, a CD accompanies the book with software offering demonstrations of the several systems described. Colourful illustrations make the book attractive and easy to read. The Electronic Chart, priced at EUR49, can be purchased through the Hydro INTERNATIONAL website at [www.hydro-international.com/bookstore](http://www.hydro-international.com/bookstore). Additional information, such as the contents page, first chapter, reviews and biographies of the authors, is also available from this webpage.

### **1.d) CODA ECHOSCOPE REAL-TIME 3D SONAR DEPLOYED IN MIDDLE EAST FOR UNDERWATER CONSTRUCTION**

CodaOctopus Products recently announced an agreement with Van Oord, one of the world's leading dredging and marine contractors based in Rotterdam, Netherlands, to deliver Coda Echoscope™ for deployment on various underwater construction projects.

Two of three Echosopes ordered by Van Oord have already been delivered for their Middle East operations. In an interesting new application, the systems assist crane operators to correctly position massive 10 ton blocks (Accropodes™) on the seabed, 7.5 metres (25 feet) below the surface of the water. In trials, the Coda Echoscope enabled operators to interlock these specialised Accropode blocks significantly faster than conventional technology and with considerably less risk, as it removes the need to use divers to position the concrete blocks. The real-time 3D information provided by the Coda Echoscope allows operators to work with an extremely high level of accuracy based on visualisation to an extremely high resolution. For further information contact [debra.barker@codaoctopus.com](mailto:debra.barker@codaoctopus.com) or go to [www.codaoctopus.com](http://www.codaoctopus.com)

### **1.e) THE MARINE INSTITUTE LAUNCHES NEW ROV PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

The Fisheries and Marine Institute continues to expand career options for high school graduates with the addition of a new Technician Diploma in Remotely Operated Vehicles this fall. This two year program is designed specifically for high school graduates who want a career that combines engineering, technology, computer and science skills in an oceans environment. Students will be trained in ROV piloting, hydraulics, electronics, electrical, underwater navigation, ROV launch and recovery operations and workplace safety. They will also experience live field training, simulated exercises in specialized ROV facilities, classroom instruction and a work term with industry.

Graduates will be eligible to be certified as ROV Pilot/Technicians Level 2. They will have the knowledge to operate, maintain and repair an ROV and will have the basic training in ROV deployment methodologies that encompass safety, inspection, operation and working load requirements.

The Institute will also continue to offer its one-year Advanced Technical Certificate for ROV Operators, initially launched in 2007. That program is designed for individuals who already have an accredited diploma or degree in electrical, mechanical, electronics or marine engineering and want to enter the ROV industry as a pilot/technician. For more information, please contact Stephanie Barrett, [Stephanie.Barrett@mi.mun.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Barrett@mi.mun.ca) or Kimberley Thornhill, [Kim.Thornhill@mi.mun.ca](mailto:Kim.Thornhill@mi.mun.ca)

### **1.f) MORE AADI CONDUCTIVITY SENSORS FOR CEFAS SMART BUOYS**

RS Aqua Ltd reports the delivery of a further batch of 6 Aanderaa (AADI) 3919B Conductivity sensors to the CEFAS Smart Buoy team during the Oceanology International exhibition (Oi08) in London last month. This supply brings the total owned by CEFAS to 25.

The acquisition of the stock of Conductivity sensors has been spread over an 18 month period and follows intensive field and laboratory testing of a sample unit. The testing programme included the calibration, at the AADI manufacturing plant in Bergen, Norway, of one sensor mounted aboard a CEFAS datalogger to establish whether any localized variations were introduced by the datalogger's components. The 3919B sensor offers an accuracy of 0.0018 S/m coupled with Aanderaa's famed ruggedness and reliability. In addition to its obvious popularity with CEFAS, the sensor is also used by researchers at NOC, POL and OceanLab amongst many others.

Smart Buoy is a moored, intelligent, automated, multi parameter platform for marine environmental data acquisition featuring real-time global 2-way telemetry. CEFAS have a network of Smart Buoys deployed around the UK coastline to monitor environmental variability and ecosystem functions. The 3919B AADI sensors, which can be configured for analogue or RS-232 output, are bulkhead mounted aboard the platform's system monitoring datalogger which, depending on site requirements, can be near surface, mid water or seabed mounted. Visit [www.rsaqua.co.uk](http://www.rsaqua.co.uk) for further information.

### **1.g) LIFE-PROBING INSTRUMENT PREPARING FOR MISSION TO MARS**

A new life-detecting instrument is preparing for a mission to the Red Planet. The Urey: Mars Organic and Oxidant Detector instrument, developed by a scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, received approximately \$2 million in NASA funding to further refine the design and technology for the European Space Agency's (ESA) 2013 ExoMars Rover Mission.

Named after the late Nobel Laureate and UC San Diego scholar Harold C. Urey, the Urey instrument will perform the first search for key classes of organic molecules in the Martian environment using state-of-the-art analytical methods at part-per-million sensitivities. This highly sensitive instrument is the first with the capability to effectively discriminate between Martian materials produced by biological and non-biological processes. In addition, the investigation will provide definitive oxidation characteristics of those same samples.

Jeffrey Bada of Scripps Oceanography, along with a multinational research team including colleagues Frank have designed an investigation using the Urey instrument to look for signs of past or present life on Mars. It will analyze Martian rock and soil samples provided by the ESA-developed ExoMars Rover, for organic molecules and amino acids, the building blocks of life. Urey will be built and tested at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. For further information go to <http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/Releases/?releaseID=903> or email [scrippsnews@ucsd.edu](mailto:scrippsnews@ucsd.edu)

#### **1.h) OSIL SUPPLY SKOMER WITH A DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM**

OSIL (Ocean Scientific International Ltd.) have recently supplied the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) with a data collection system for background monitoring at Skomer Marine Nature Reserve. The system consists of an OSIL Shearwater Data Buoy, fitted with a Campbell CR200 Data Logger and a VHF Omnidirectional Antenna. When deployed the 1.2 diameter buoy will be attached via a data cable to a customised OSIL Seabed Mounting Frame.

The octagonal mounting frame has been fitted with a YSI 6600 Multiparameter Sonde which will be primarily monitoring CTD, DO, turbidity and chlorophyll. Once collected, the data will be transmitted back via VHF to Skomer's Ethernet network where it will be downloaded onto a PC and later published on a website for public viewing. The buoy will be attached to the seabed by a two point mooring to prevent excessive movement of the buoy due to the extremely harsh environment of the nature reserve.

The system was purchased by CCW to collect environmental data which will support marine biological monitoring in Wales. The system has been designed to support any marine research that takes place in Wales and it is hoped will be the first of many systems purchased by CCW as part of a network of monitoring platforms around the Welsh coastline. For further information please visit [www.osil.co.uk](http://www.osil.co.uk) or contact [sophy.gasson@osil.co.uk](mailto:sophy.gasson@osil.co.uk)

#### **1.i) FARSOUNDER ANNOUNCES NEW TEST FACILITY, WARWICK**

FarSounder recently announced the addition of a new 1,250ft<sup>2</sup> (116m<sup>2</sup>) test facility, located in Warwick, RI, the same town as FarSounder's main office. Housing their own test tank means that transducer testing can be done more efficiently at their own location.

Used on commercial and private ships for obstacle avoidance and shallow water navigation, FarSounder FS-3 sonars are capable of generating a complete 3-dimensional image of the sea floor and in-water objects at navigationally significant ranges with a single ping. They offer visualization of a clear, easy to understand 3D sonar image. This sonar technology revolutionizes marine navigation, especially in shallow areas.

The FarSounder team is currently working on a Department of Commerce ATP Grant to extend the capabilities of their navigation sonar out to significant long ranges and high speeds appropriate for the largest of vessels as well as high speed ferries.

FarSounder's technology is also appropriate for security and defense applications. The company is currently working on a Phase II SBIR for the Department of Homeland Security as well as Project UPSIDE, a Port Security Pilot Program through Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC). For further information contact [JoAnn.Aldsworth@farsounder.com](mailto:JoAnn.Aldsworth@farsounder.com) or go to [www.farsounder.com](http://www.farsounder.com)

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

### **2.a) UK SPILL MARINE SPILL SEMINAR, 2-3 JULY 2008, SOUTHAMPTON, UK**

If you need to keep in touch with the oil & chemical spill industry and understand what is new and how the spill industry can help you in the event of a spill you should join UKSPILL for its 2nd Annual Marine Spill Seminar, an educational & informative event on the Solent.

The seminar starts on the 2 July with a networking supper at the national oceanography centre talking with the former SOSREP Robin Middleton. On the 3 July why not join UKSPILL at Ocean Village boarding a Blue Funnel passenger catamaran for the day afloat – the day starts with a visit to the OSRL Spill Base where you can see the latest equipment ready for deployment globally, then cruise down the Solent for a simulated spill exercise off Fawley, with equipment deployments and presentations from specialists on oil and HNS spills, surveillance, and current spill risks. The price is £175 per person – to book email [info@ukspill.org](mailto:info@ukspill.org) or phone 0870 4868980 or go to [www.ukspill.org](http://www.ukspill.org)

### **2.b) SUT'S ANNUAL SUBSEA ENGINEERING DINNER ON BOARD THE ERASMUS, 5 JUNE 2008**

SUT's Annual Subsea Engineering Dinner will this year take place in London on board "The Erasmus" whilst cruising the River Thames on the evening of Thursday, 5th June 2008. For further details please contact Michele Ross [michele.ross@sut.org](mailto:michele.ross@sut.org) or go to [www.sut.org](http://www.sut.org)

### **2.c) SUCCESSFUL DYE TRACING WORKSHOP HOSTED BY RS AQUA, 17 APRIL 2008, UK**

A Dye Tracing workshop, previously announced in OceanBuzz, was hosted by Hampshire's (UK) RS Aqua Ltd and venue at the Dept of Engineering's facilities at the University of Warwick on Thursday 17 April. The workshop brought together 11 speakers from academia, research, commerce and survey who presented details of various dye tracing based applications.

Some 55 delegates contributed to the success of the event via a number of lively question and answer sessions. Discussions continued during lunch and coffee/tea breaks. An "instruments in action" afternoon session offered attendees the opportunity to witness Turner Designs fluorometers in action within the Engineering Dept's extensive facilities, recently enhanced by a new flume.

Feedback from delegates indicated a high level of satisfaction with the content and organization of the workshop. Copies of the presentations are available from RS Aqua Ltd on line. Either visit <http://www.rsaqua.co.uk/dyetracing.asp> or contact Turner Designs product specialist David Goldsmith at [d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk](mailto:d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk)

### **2.d) DAVID GOLDSMITH TAKES A TUMBLE BUT STILL SETS OFF FROM LANDS END THIS SATURDAY**

OceanBuzz readers will be well aware that David Goldsmith, oceanographer with RS Aqua Ltd, is about to embark on a mammoth cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats to raise funds for the charity Epilepsy Bereaved. The start date is this coming Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Unfortunately David, who will be attempting the 1000 miles ride in the company of his brother Chris, had a bit of a tumble during Sunday's training session. Whilst many of us were watching F1 cars careering into tyre walls in Spain, David managed to get entangled with some hedging in the leafy lanes around Guildford. His bike stopped instantly but David didn't. A full somersault later he fortunately landed on his head, thereby minimizing the damage, and then slid along the tarmac road on his back. A few hours later he emerged from Guildford Hospital somewhat cut and bruised but apparently unbroken. An already arduous and painful ride will now be even more so.

Such spirit deserves full support and we urge any OceanBuzz readers who have not yet donated to his cause – and many ocean types are already listed as donors on the website – to visit the cycle ride home page at [www.goldsmithsbikebritain.co.uk](http://www.goldsmithsbikebritain.co.uk) to pledge their support. As we go to press the total pledged has passed the £6,000 mark and just needs one concerted final push to hit the £7,500 target.

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

#### **3.a) MR. CHARLES BRENNAN HAS JOINED R2SONIC IN THE CAPACITY AS CHIEF HYDROGRAPHIC ENGINEER**

Charles has over 35 years survey experience and has served as Survey Project Manager and Senior Contract Hydrographer for some of the world's largest offshore survey & engineering firms including Oceaneering International, Brown & Root Survey, SubSea Survey, Fugro Survey and Wimpol Ltd. UK.

For the last 10 years, Charles was the Senior Hydrographer for RESON, Inc. where he was responsible for the installation, training and support for all multibeam systems, auxiliary supplied equipment and software suites to customers throughout Asia. As Chief Hydrographic Engineer, Charles will be responsible for the development of the support and training department for R2Sonic. More information and highlights of Charles' career can be found online at [www.charlesbrennan.com](http://www.charlesbrennan.com).

#### **3.b) L-3 COMMUNICATIONS KLEIN ASSOCIATES, INC. APPOINTS RENE OSIAS AS SALES MANAGER FOR SIDE SCAN SONAR SYSTEMS**

L-3 Communications (NYSE: LLL) announced that its **Klein Associates, Inc.** division (L-3 **Klein**) has appointed Rene Osias as Sales Manager for their Side Scan Sonar Systems. Working with other members of the Klein team, Mr. Osias will be responsible for implementing Klein's strategy to multiply its sales of domestic and international Side Scan and Multi-Beam Sonar Systems.

Mr. Osias brings to L-3 Klein a unique blend of managerial and sales experience acquired over a 20 year career in the United States Navy. Rene' is highly experienced in all facets of Undersea Warfare including operation and maintenance of complex sonar suites. Mr. Osias is ideally suited to further expand and enhance Klein's valued customer network.

Rene' was most recently an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Specialist on the Littoral Combat Ship ASW Detachment One with the US Navy out of San Diego where he specialized in the Navy's latest generation sonar equipment and unmanned surface vessels. He earned a BS in Liberal Arts from Excelsior College. For more information please visit the company's web site at [www.L-3Klein.com](http://www.L-3Klein.com).

#### **3.c) KARL ERIK KJELSTAD NOMINATED AS NEW ODIM CHAIR**

The board of directors of ODIM ASA has submitted a motion to the company's general meeting nominating Karl Erik Kjelstad as chair in succession to Bjarte Bruheim. Martinus Brandal has also been nominated as a new director. The motion will come to a vote at the annual general meeting on 20 May.

Both the proposed directors are executive vice presidents of Aker ASA, ODIM's largest shareholder today. Present director Nils Are Karstad Lysø, who is also an executive vice president of Aker ASA, will resign at the annual general meeting. Further information contact Jogeir Romestrand, CEO, +47 913 30 387

### **4. JOB POSTINGS**

#### **4.a) TECHNICAL SALES POSITION AVAILABLE AT VALEPORT, UK**

Due to continuing growth, Valeport is looking to fill a technical sales position, focussed on the Hydrographic sector of its product range. Dealing with customers both in the UK and worldwide, the successful candidate will be responsible for the retention and development of existing customers, with a particular focus on the acquisition of new business. In addition they will also assist with Development and implementation of sales & marketing plans and strategies; Liaison on sales, marketing and business development matters with the relevant persons within the company; Arranging, organizing and attending the appropriate exhibitions and conferences.

The position will report directly to the Sales & Marketing Manager, with a close working relationship being required with other members of the management team throughout the company. UK and international travel will be required to visit customers, attend exhibitions and conferences, and a full driving licence is essential.

The ideal candidate will have some experience in the coastal & offshore survey business, preferably in the Hydrographic survey sector. Sales experience would be an advantage but a good attitude, professional manner, integrity, inter-personal skills, and the ability to be able to communicate technically with customers are more important. For further information, please email [kedwards@valeport.co.uk](mailto:kedwards@valeport.co.uk)