

oceanbuzz!

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

This FREE OF CHARGE newsletter is brought to you by the organisers of the Ocean Business event www.oceanbusiness.com. It is FREE to subscribe to and FREE to include your articles. Simply send us your news, job postings, info on events and we will help spread the word to the Ocean Technology industry. To add your colleagues to the Oceanbuzz circulation list simply email info@intelligentexhibitions.com or go to the new Oceanbuzz website www.oceanbuzz.org where you can download past issues as well.

INDEX

1. General Ocean News

- a) AADI Weather Buoy Deployed to Improve Maritime Safety
- b) Trittech Launch Subsea Acoustic Telemetry Product Range at UUVS
- c) IMCA Membership Passes the 500-Mark Globally
- d) ONR Extends SeeByte PATT Contract
- e) Major Positioning Contracts for Veripos Americas Region

2. Event, Training and Demonstration News

- a) OHMSETT Hosts Oil Spill Training Course
- b) Underwater Acoustics 15 -19 September, 2008 at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, London

3. Who's on the Move?

- a) Ann Douglas joins R2Sonic as Vice President of Operations

1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) AADI WEATHER BUOY DEPLOYED TO IMPROVE MARITIME SAFETY

It was blowing a gale with six metre waves in the area when the ship "MS Server" was stranded off the island of Fedje in January 2007. Now, a new trial project is going to improve maritime safety in this area.

A weather buoy, which is located on the open waters immediately west of Fedje, measures wind direction and wind speed, visibility, wave height and ocean current at several levels. The information is sent in real-time to ships in the area, but it does require that ships have an up-to-date electronic map.

The Norwegian Coastal Administration is responsible for the national wave and current warning service. The buoy project takes place in cooperation with Aanderaa Data Instruments AS.

Last year, around 47,000 ship movements were registered in the area around Fedje's Vessel Traffic Station, from Hjeltefjord in the south to Sognesjøen in the north. The number includes, among others, tankers, cargo ships, cruise ships and ferry traffic.

For further information on AADI please tel: +47 55 60 48 00 or visit www.aadi.no.

1.b) TRITECH LAUNCH SUBSEA ACOUSTIC TELEMETRY PRODUCT RANGE AT UUVS

A miniature, subsea, acoustic telemetry product range is being launched at UUVS (Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase) on 23 & 24 September 2008 by Trittech on stand number 456.

Trittech International will be presenting exciting, new developments in the field of through-water communications. The new Micron Mini Modem which consumes very little power provides robust, long range, spread spectrum data transmission with an exceptionally low error rate all from an extremely compact and low cost unit.

The Micron Mini Modem can also be integrated into the MicronNav USBL tracking system. It is quick and easy to mobilise as a tracking navigation sensor for ROVs and AUVs of all sizes, as well as a data transmission system. MicronNav is designed to provide 180 degree hemispherical coverage below the transducer, allowing vehicle tracking in very deep or shallow water. Trittech anticipates the new telemetry products will be a superb solution for many through-water navigation and data communications.

For more information on this product or about Trittech please visit www.tritech.co.uk or tel: +44 (0)1224 744111.

1.c) IMCA MEMBERSHIP PASSES THE 500-MARK GLOBALLY

A major milestone has been reached by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), the global trade association that represents offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies, with the announcement that the association now has over 500 member companies based in over 50 countries.

"It seems like only yesterday that we reached the 400-mark. Indeed it almost is, as that was only ten months ago!" says Hugh Williams, IMCA's chief executive. "The past year has seen faster growth in terms of number of member companies (25% in less than a year) and geographical reach than ever before. We reached 200 member companies in 2002; we passed the 300 mark in April 2006; and then last September celebrated the fact that we had 400 members; and now we have hit and are rapidly moving beyond the 500-mark. We are delighted to be able to serve the interests of so many companies responsible for playing a key role in the ever-developing and expanding \$20bn.pa industry.

"It is very much the international aspects of IMCA that has helped the membership numbers increase so rapidly; the global spread of our message has generated growth across all membership categories from International Contractors, through Contractors, Suppliers, to Corresponding Members.

The current and planned growth in terms of numbers and size of the supply vessel fleet has, in particular, been responsible for a marked increase in the number of owners and operators who have now become members. We are delighted that this is the case, for we have a very definite role to play helping to ensure safe operations within the expanding fleet."

Full information on the benefits of membership is available at www.imca-int.com or from IMCA at Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5520 or email: imca@imca-int.com.

1.d) ONR EXTENDS SEEBYTE PATT CONTRACT

SeeByte, a cutting edge software solutions company, is pleased to announce the award of a twelve month contract extension through the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

PATT is a Performance Analysis & Training Tool developed by SeeByte which can be used to effectively evaluate Mine Counter Measure (MCM) capabilities. The current ONR funded project was tasked with integrating the NSWC PC CAD/CAC software into SeeByte's PATT module and with the SeeTrack Military product.

This contract extension to the current ONR funded project follows feedback from ONR and users of SeeTrack Military, and aims to target improvements to the current product. The contract extension includes improvements to the current sonar rendering and mine simulator modules integrated into the PATT system to enable near real time PATT evaluation results to be obtained while carrying out PATT Post Mission Analysis (PMA). PATT will also be enhanced to enable better feedback and reporting to the user in all modes of operation and provide automated ship route planning through the safest transit area, based on performance and clearance predictions from PATT.

If you would like more information on this please contact Abelen Heuer on tel: +44 (0) 131-447 4200 (ext. 163) or email: abelene.heuer@seebyte.com.

1.e) MAJOR POSITIONING CONTRACTS FOR VERIPOS AMERICAS REGION

Veripos's Houston-based Americas Region has been awarded major offshore positioning contracts by DOF Subsea, LSP, Tidewater and WesternGeco for vessels operating in Brazilian, Mexican and US waters. The contracts also cover supply of proprietary integrated demodulator and GNSS receivers and associated software modules to ensure seamless high-precision sub-metre positioning for survey, construction support, seismic and general offshore operations.

Facilities being provided to LSP for its well-testing vessel, Aires Swan, operating in Mexican waters on long-term contract to PEMEX include Veripos's dual-beam Standard and Standard HF augmentation data services together with LD2 and LHD2 integrated demodulator and GNSS receivers. Meanwhile, WesternGeco's seismic support vessels Toisa Crest and Toisa Coral are to use the Veripos Ultra Precise Point Positioning (PPP) service for decimetre-level accuracies supported by LD2-G2 receivers and Verify-QC processing software.

In Brazil, Verify-QC software is additionally being provided for DOF Subsea's Skandi Fluminense support vessel using Veripos dual-beam Ultra PPP and D-Glonass positioning. Also in Brazil, Tidewater's Kehoe Tide and Dalan Tide have both been equipped with LD2-GS receivers with added UHF systems in readiness for operations later this year.

For further information on Veripos please visit www.veripos.com

2. EVENT, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2. a) OHMSETT HOSTS OIL SPILL TRAINING COURSE

The National Oil Spill Response Test Facility will host an Oil Spill Training Course on September 22-26, 2008. This one-week course is taught by first-class instructors from Texas A&M University National Spill Control School.

Designed with oil spill response personnel in mind, it is the only program where students practice hands-on oil recovery operations in the test basin using real oil. During the five-day course, students will learn the decision-making and responder skills essential to efficient oil spill response/recovery operations.

The program also incorporates NIMS Incident Command Systems training, Series I-100 and I-200 plus the Incident Management Handbook and ICS forms, all of which are integrated into a table-top spill response exercise the last day of the training.

Upon completion, students will receive a certificate of completion which includes the 8-hour HAZWOPER refresher. Registration forms as well as a brief description of the course and agenda can be found on the Ohmsett website at <http://www.ohmsett.com/Training.html>. For more information, please contact Susan Cunneff at +1 732 866 7185 X12 or e-mail: scunneff@ohmsettnj.com.

2. b) UNDERWATER ACOUSTICS 15 -19 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY, TEDDINGTON, LONDON

Returning from its very successful courses held this Spring in Melbourne, Seiche is taking bookings for its annual Underwater Acoustic Courses hosted by the National Physical Laboratories in Teddington. The first three days, 15 - 17 September, are devoted to the basics of Underwater Acoustics where delegates will acquire an excellent understanding of the mechanisms of sound propagation in the ocean, the impact of noise and reverberation produced by the ocean environment and the basic structure and performance of sonar equipment. The mathematics content is kept to a minimum. For the final two days 18/19 September, delegates can follow their specialism either by attending the Advanced Underwater Acoustics or the Acoustic Monitoring of Marine Wildlife. In these specialist courses delegates will gain a full understanding of localised and ambient noise and a rule-set by means of which sonar equipment may be specified, among other topics. The Acoustic Monitoring course provides comprehensive training for Environmental Impact Assessments and similar activities.

Full information can be obtained from, www.seiche.com and by downloading a brochure from www.seiche.com/2008Brochure or by contacting Gillian Coates, gacoates@seiche.com.

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

3. a) ANN DOUGLAS JOINS R2SONIC AS VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

Mrs. Ann T. Douglas has joined R2Sonic in the capacity as Vice President of Operations. Ann has over 20 years experience in operations in domestic and multi-national corporations. Most recently, Ann was Director of Operations for Iconix Video, Inc., a leading manufacturer of advanced high-definition camera systems. At Iconix, Ann implemented manufacturing and inventory controls that allowed inventory values to be reduced by 27% while increasing on-time delivery performance.

Prior to Iconix, Ann spent four years as VP Operations for Reson, Inc. While at Reson, Ann was instrumental in implementing the strategic overhaul of the company's supply chain. This resulted in the delivery of standard sonar products within 3 weeks lead time, with unsurpassed product quality and shipment accuracy.

For further information on R2Sonic please contact Jens Steenstrup on tel: +1 805 967 9192 or email: jens@r2sonic.com.