

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

a) GEOACOUSTICS – A KONGSBERG COMPANY

Kongsberg Maritime has signed an agreement to purchase GeoAcoustics Ltd.. The acquisition will enhance Kongsberg Maritime's market position as GeoAcoustics' products will complement Kongsberg's product portfolio.

GeoAcoustics has 30 years of experience in underwater acoustics. It has an excellent reputation in the market, especially for side scan sonars and technology for sub-bottom profiling. GeoAcoustics' main product within side-scan sonars is the GeoSwath that includes bathymetric dataprocessing. In 2007/08 GeoAcoustics had a turnover of approx. £4M and has 43 employees, including its subsidiaries in Mumbai and Singapore.

GeoAcoustics believes that joining forces with Kongsberg Maritime will further strengthen the current market position. Kongsberg Maritime and GeoAcoustics are able to offer a broader range of products and customers will have one main supplier for their hydrographic requirements.

For further information go to www.geoacoustics.com or www.kongsberg.com

b) TELEDYNE TSS SLASHES GYRO COMPASS DELIVERY TIMES

New manufacturing techniques and streamlined product design are enabling Teledyne TSS to deliver new gyro compasses in less than six weeks. High demand combined with the complexity and precision manufacture of TSS and S G Brown gyrocompasses had traditionally required delivery lead times of several months. The company has always recognised that this was a deterrent for many customers who might have preferred to buy a TSS and S G Brown Meridian gyro but were unable to wait so long for delivery. Teledyne TSS therefore undertook a major reappraisal of its manufacturing processes to speed them up.

The transformation has been achieved through a combination of factors arising from the application of modern manufacturing techniques. These include the use of improved materials management and just-in-time delivery to ensure that components are available when required but without the accumulation of expensive stock. Changes have also been made to designs of the gyros themselves which have had their electronics upgraded to make manufacture quicker and easier. A new facility also ensures that the testing of gyro compasses is able to match the higher output from the factory floor. Because of these new techniques, productivity has nearly doubled from 30 gyros per month to 53. The company is now confident that potential customers will benefit from knowing that Meridian gyros will be available when they need them.

Gyrocompasses from Teledyne TSS include the naval and commercial marine range sold under the S G Brown brand name. The Meridian range is available in surface and subsea models and also in the high performance Surveyor range. The company also manufactures the Orion inertial navigation system which combines ring laser gyro technology with advanced motion sensing.

For further information please contact Carolyn Jones on Tel: +44 (0) 1923 470800 or cjones@tss-int.com

c) BOWTECH UNDERWATER ULTRA LOW LIGHT CAMERA TAKES THE LEAD

In the sub sea world, seeing in the dark is key. An industry first, the Bowtech Explorer EXTREME further enhances the qualities of the field proven, Bowtech Explorer camera. Surpassing the sensitivity of the SIT cameras of old, the EXTREME is truly a quantum leap forward in underwater Ultra Low Light Level viewing. Featuring the latest EMCCD technology the EXTREME uses Electron Multiplying (EM) to give a superb 85% to 95% Quantum Efficiency (QE), in that critical underwater Blue/Green light region. Added to that, a low noise floor ensures great CCD sensitivity, with the attendant lower life-cycle cost benefits, that such solid state technology brings.

Increased spatial resolution and signal to noise ratio, gives a wide dynamic range. There is no halo from bright sources and naturally the EMCCD is not susceptible to damage from bright lights. With auto-iris

control this night and day advance in underwater camera technology, is available now from Bowtech Products AquaVision range of advanced cameras and underwater lighting solutions.

For more information, please contact Mike Winstanley on Tel: +44 (0)1224 772345 or bowtech@bowtech.co.uk. www.bowtech.co.uk

d) FUGRO LAUNCHES INTERNET BASED SURVEY SERVICES

Fugro announces a major step forward with the launch of their Remote Services based on FANS technology. FANS, short for Fugro's Advanced Navigation System, enables remote connections to offshore survey systems - either from the office or from other vessels in the offshore working area - and facilitates a new series of services, ranging from Remote Monitoring to Stand Alone Navigation with remote support and Remote QC.

Remote Monitoring is a service designed to remotely view, log and report the movement of floating objects, such as FPSOs, FSOs and TLPs and forms a further service in the family of asset management tools. Stand Alone Navigation with remote support is an on-demand navigation service developed as an alternative to traditional manned navigation services. Stand Alone Navigation is considered to be an attractive solution for non critical nearshore and offshore operations with a frequent, but non-permanent need for navigation support, on for example jack-up work barges and rigs, tug boats and support and construction vessels. Remote QC is a service providing realtime supervision and QC off offshore operations from a remote location, which can be an in-field support vessel or even an onshore office anywhere on the globe. Remote QC is carried out through a dedicated online webpage portal, the 'Project Dashboard', showing the status and proceedings of offshore operations and offering a general back-up solution and improved accessibility of offshore positioning systems.

FANS Technology provides the infrastructure based on internet connections on board, either via VSAT or similar communication systems and comprises both hard- and software. The hardware is formed by the FANS-box; a firewall and router which protects the survey network from other computers on board and on the internet. The software, with 128bit AES data encryption, ensures a secure connection between the office and the offshore operations.

Although the services require a permanent internet connection, data rates are relatively small. In standby mode, only a few bits per minute are sent to monitor the connection and even in full use, the system requires only 10 -20 kps of bandwidth. On average less than 10 kbps is needed, a bandwidth comparable to that required for a phone call.

The benefits of the Remote Services are wide spread and can be found in improved QC capabilities, reduced HSE exposure, fewer personnel transfers to or in the offshore working area, reduced logistical challenges, greater flexibility in personnel resource planning and allocation, and zero personnel standby costs.

Fugro's Remote Services have already proven their successful performance in practice and will be further rolled out in the offshore survey market in the coming period. Fugro will continue her effort in improving her services and her quest for new and more efficient survey solutions.

For further information please contact your local Fugro office or Remote-Services@fugro-survey.nl.

e) TELEDYNE RD INSTRUMENTS ENHANCES SEATRONICS LTD: LEASE POOL WITH ADDITIONAL DOPPLER

In its continuing effort to keep pace with client demand, Seatronics Ltd. has recently purchased fourteen new Teledyne RD Instruments (RDI) Doppler products to enhance the organization's existing lease pool. Seatronics is one of the world's largest rental and sales organization for marine survey electronic equipment including hydrographic, geophysical and inspection operations. The organization maintains two offices in the United States, as well as offices in Scotland, England, the United Arab Emirates, and Singapore.

Recent product purchases include a Teledyne RDI Doppler Velocity Log (DVL) for precision navigation onboard underwater platforms. Seatronics reports that this product is in high demand at the moment, particularly for use in cable burial and deep water vehicle positioning applications. Seatronics also purchased thirteen additional Teledyne RDI Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) ranging from 150 to 1200 kHz, bringing the total number of Teledyne RDI ADCPs available for lease to over 100 units. The ADCPs will be used to collect high precision current profiling data for a wide array of offshore applications around the globe. Demand for Teledyne RDI's products continues to increase as offshore oil and gas operations, in particular, remain brisk.

Mark Teles, Sales Manager at Seatronics in Houston, explains their product selection as follows, "Seatronics has made the Teledyne RDI product range an integral part of our rental business. The equipment is manufactured to the highest standard and supported with dedication and care. Seatronics will continue purchasing Teledyne RDI equipment to ensure the market and our clients have the best product available for rentals at all times."

Teledyne RD Instruments remains the industry's leading manufacturer of Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) and Doppler Velocity Logs (DVLs) for offshore applications. For more information, contact Grant Jennings at +1 858 842 2702 / E-mail: gjennings@teledyne.com or visit www.rdinstruments.com

For more information on Seatronics, contact Alistair Coutts at Tel: +1 (44) 1224 853 106 / E-mail: Alistair.Coutts@seatronics-group.com or visit www.seatronics-group.com.

f) TRIMBLE LAUNCH NEW RUGGED GPS ANTENNA.

Solving problems encountered in tough environments, the new Trimble Zephyr 2 Rugged rover antenna is resistant to corrosion, cracking around the mount point and leakage due to high vibration. The Zephyr 2 Rugged Antenna is a broad-frequency GPS antenna intended for marine installations subject to high shock and vibration such as drilling rigs, marine vessels, and dredging applications. The rugged design of the antenna is taken from the field proven Trimble MS990 design, while continuing to provide the antenna performance which minimizes multipath, offers robust low elevation tracking and sub-millimeter phase center repeatability. The antenna mounting is offered in two formats, a 5/8" thread mounting adaptor or a mast-mounting bracket which can be used in extremely high shock and vibration environments.

The Zephyr 2 Rugged Antenna offers comprehensive support for current and near-future signals, including GPS L2C and L5, GLONASS, and even Galileo. This technology future-proofing, in combination with the rugged durability of each antenna, means any investment in a Zephyr Model 2 Rugged Antenna will last for many years.

For further information visit www.zeework.co.uk

g) AXYS TECHNOLOGIES INC., ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF ITS NEWEST DEVELOPMENT: THE WATCHMATE™ BUOY

In response to the need for a reliable, lightweight and easy to deploy buoy platform, AXYS Technologies Inc., (AXYS) announces the release of the new WatchMate™ buoy. The WatchMate™ is a small, multipurpose buoy platform with superior operational performance designed for those looking for a data collection buoy for lakes, rivers, canals and coastal waters.

The new WatchMate™ weighs 285kg, 1.2m in diameter and due to its structure and design, the sensor payload can be lifted out and easily accessed for service. Like other AXYS marine platforms, this buoy monitors weather, air and water quality as well as waves and currents. The WatchMate™ is also expandable to allow for new sensors, supports a variety of telemetry options, and monitors a variety of meteorological and oceanographic parameters.

A test deployment to evaluate the WatchMate™'s performance in an offshore operational environment took place on July 30th, 2008 in Haro Strait, 5km from the coast of Vancouver Island. The buoy was moored in 15m water depth and immediately started transmitting meteorological and wave data back to the AXYS

facility in Sidney, BC. The buoy will be reporting data until the spring of 2009. WatchMate™ systems are now commercially available, with the University of Southern California (USC) purchasing the first two.

For further information on the WatchMate™, please visit www.axystechnologies.com or contact AXYS Technologies directly on Tel: +1 250 655 5860.

h) SMARTSEARCH AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE

INNOVATUM Ltd. is making available the SMARTSEARCH magnetic mapping system for world -wide rental. SMARTSEARCH may be used for route clearances; munitions and UXO searches; pipeline and cable location; wreck location and archaeological survey.

SMARTSEARCH has successfully performed the munitions clearance survey on the Nord Stream pipeline. Please contact Terry Slater/ Rob Nunn INNOVATUM Ltd for further information, t: +44(0) 1284 729 123 e: sales@innovatum.co.uk or w : www.innovatum.co.uk

i) OCEANTOOLS DELIVERS 500TH CUSTOM-BUILT SUBSEA HOUSING

OceanTools has delivered their 500th & 501st custom-built subsea housings to the University of Limerick in Eire.

OceanTools has many years experience designing underwater pressure housings. As well as designing & building pressure housings for their own products – with several thousand delivered – they also design custom housings for a wide range of customers. The company has delivered many sizes and shapes of underwater housings for a myriad of applications – some small, some large, some shallow, some deep.

OceanTools has delivered housings in a wide range of materials including hard-anodised aluminium, titanium, stainless steel and UHMWPE and with depth ratings ranging from a few tens of metres all the way to 6000m and beyond. The OceanTools design team has many years experience and are equipped with the latest 3D CAD and FEA software. OceanTools can also build subsea housings that include underwater bulkhead connectors, mating connectors, connector assemblies and power-supplies etc. Housings may be pressure tested as deep as 12000m as part of a comprehensive 'design and build' service.

For further information please contact Kevin Parker on Tel: +44 (0)1224 709606 or visit www.oceantools.eu

j) VERIPOS ENHANCES AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN POSITIONING NETWORKS

Global precise positioning supplier Veripos has extended its multi-source Differential GPS service for Africa with the establishment of new reference station facilities at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Chimoio in Mozambique, in East Africa. Meanwhile, in West Africa, new reference facilities have also been sited on the island of Sao Tome in the Gulf of Guinea and Lambarene in Gabon. All the stations have been commissioned in response to increased development of regional oil and gas basins in addition to meeting corresponding growth in mineral exploration and production activities.

Part of Veripos' worldwide high-precision GNSS positioning operations on behalf of leading operators of seismic, survey and construction support vessels, its African network provides a comprehensive seamless, dual-frequency DGPS service covering all major offshore sectors. Additional reference stations for continued development of the service are currently planned for Ghana and South Africa.

Elsewhere, for its North West European positioning network, Veripos has relocated its former Tananger reference station in Norway to the Dusavik suburb of Stavanger as a result of increased demand for its services from leading offshore users in the area. According to Grant Morton, Veripos Service Delivery Manager, it will ensure a combination of excellent communication links, clear visibility of the sky and a lack of interference, which were all factors in selecting the new site.

Veripos is at www.veripos.com

2. EVENT, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

a) HYDRO8 SYMPOSIUM SET FOR SUCCESS, 4-6 NOVEMBER, LIVERPOOL, UK

Hydro8, the 16th European Hydro Symposium in this year's European Capital of Culture, Liverpool, from 4-6 November promises to be a key event in the world hydrographic calendar, according to its organisers, The Hydrographic Society UK, which is staging the biennial proceedings on behalf of The International Federation of Hydrographic Societies.

The three-day event, which is being held in Liverpool's historic Britannia Adelphi Hotel, will feature over 50 leading exhibitor companies and organisations in addition to eight main conference sessions with speakers from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and USA. Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff, National Hydrographer of the UK, will open proceedings with a keynote address dealing with the main conference theme, New Opportunities.

Individual conference sessions will cover Coastal Mapping Techniques & Applications, Data Handling & Presentation, Tides & Currents, Standards & Training, The Marine Environment, Precise Positioning and Hydrography for Marine Renewables. Fringe events include afternoon technical workshops, demonstrations and vessel visits at the nearby Albert Dock while there will also be opportunities to visit locally-based Proudman Oceanography Laboratory, one of the world's leading oceanographic research organisations.

A wide-ranging social programme includes organised visits to the Merseyside Maritime Museum and Liverpool's two famous football grounds, Anfield and Goodison Park. Meanwhile, the City's celebrated Georgian Town Hall is the setting for the customary Symposium dinner for delegates at which the Lord Mayor will be present.

Hydro8 is officially supported by International Ocean Systems, Ocean Scientific Instruments Ltd (OSIL), Seawork 2009 International and Ocean Business 2009. Separately, a number of sponsorship opportunities in addition to those being provided by Gardline Marine Sciences, Applied Acoustics Engineering, Fugro and Swathe Services are still available, say the organisers; interested parties are asked to contact the event administrator without delay (admin@hydro8.org.uk). Alternately, full details of sponsorship opportunities and benefits appear on the main symposium website, www.hydro8.org.uk, together with the conference programme, exhibitor list, registration rates and other information.

For further information please contact Helen Atkinson at helen@hydrographicsociety.org.

b) AUVS – FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES & EMERGING MARKETS, 30 OCTOBER, PERTH, AUSTRALIA

The Society for Underwater Technology and the Australian Hydrographic Society are proud to announce their 4th Joint Technical Seminar and Exhibition.

The global investment in AUVs continues to increase as the technology is further embraced by the oil and gas, environmental, security and defence sectors. This fourth one-day AUV seminar and associated exhibition will again be an important milestone event to hear the latest developments on autonomous underwater vehicles.

Places for this event are limited so early registration is essential. Should you require further information on this event then please contact Joyce Bremner, j.bremner@sut.org.

c) PRELIMINARY ONE-DAY SEMINAR NOTICE: INTERFEROMETRIC SONARS FOR SHALLOW WATER SEABED MAPPING – DATA PROCESSING CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS, 21-24 OCTOBER, USA

The day before Shallow Survey 2008 in New Hampshire, USA this seminar will be held at the same venue as the Conference - Wentworth by the Sea Hotel in New Castle, New Hampshire.

A series of presentations are planned from system experts and users followed by a facilitated debate on the future of interferometric sonar data processing -

They hope to address questions aimed at the developing use of interferometric sonars in shallow water mapping for navigational charting and habitat mapping. There will be opportunities for every delegate to address their priorities, air their experiences, and influence the technology development. The seminar is free to attend, with lunch provided. Attendance is by pre-booking only - if you are interested in booking a place please contact either of the seminar hosts Lindsay Gee of IVS3D (lgee@ivs3d.com) or Tom Hiller of GeoAcoustics (tom.hiller@geoacoustics.com).

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

a) VALEPORT APPOINT NEW PRODUCT MANAGER

Valeport are pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Gardiner as Product Manager. Working in the Sales department, Jim's responsibilities include specifying new products and managing them to point of sale, plus general sales duties. As a chartered marine scientist with a technical background in both marine and hydrographic science, his past experience with UKHO and supporting roles to the RN survey fleet fit well with Valeport's plans.

Communications welcome to jgardiner@valeport.co.uk. For further information on Valeport please visit www.valeport.co.uk

b) IXSEA APPOINTS NEW GLOBAL TECHNICAL MANAGER

IXSEA has announced the appointment of Jim Titcomb as Global Technical Manager for the company's new offshore division. With 18 years experience in the offshore industry, Titcomb has worked worldwide in senior technical positions. Prior to IXSEA, he was Geophysical Technical Manager with UTEC Survey where he oversaw the expansion of the geophysical engineering team by 300% in 14 months.

"Jim is a highly motivated technical manager with global experience; he possesses a detailed knowledge of inertial and seabed mapping applications," said IXSEA's Offshore Director Richard Parkinson. "He understands the specific needs of our customers whether they are in drill support, metrology or geophysical survey in Houston or Singapore!"

Speaking of his appointment, Titcomb said he was looking forward to the challenge of working with a dynamic, growing company, and excited about delivering IXSEA's unique positioning and geophysical technology to the offshore market.

For further information please Tel: +33 (0)6 13 49 05 66 or visit www.ixsea.com