

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) IXSEA OPENS NEW OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

As a mark of IXSEA's global growth, Nick Goodwin has recently left his position as Sales Director of IXSEA Ltd. to set up the Australian division of IXSEA. This allows the company to provide closer support to its clients in Australia and New Zealand.

The Australasian market has shown consistent year on year growth in multiple sectors over the last five to six years. Oil and gas has seen large scale investment and high oil and gas prices have ensured the current trend for the next five or so years. IXSEA has a traditional market place serving and supporting the construction survey sector here and so it makes sense to be in Australia.

"The increase in wealth around the Pacific Rim has led to an increase in the size of military forces projected by governments around the region. With new definitions of exclusive economic zones giving Australia massive tracts of subsea territory to police/protect, the Australian government has committed itself to new surface and submarine programs, all of which are potential markets for IXSEA products," said Nick Goodwin, Regional Sales Manager, Australasia.

"With a growing client base in the oceanographic and hydrographic survey sectors, as well as a large potential market in the mining sector, it is best to have an office in the region. We now have an office in Brisbane and plan to open another in Perth shortly."

For further information please visit www.ixsea.com.

1.b) TRIMBLE ANNOUNCE NEW MARINE BEACON GPS RECEIVER

Trimble has announced the new SPS351 as replacement for the popular DSM212/232 GPS units used extensively in the marine industries. The new Trimble SPS351 receiver uses RTCM DGPS corrections either broadcast free by Beacon stations, from SBAS (satellite based augmentation systems), via an external radio or Internet connection from a local reference station.

The SPS351 receiver is part of the family of Trimble site positioning system products with common interface, connectors and interchangeable accessories. This system approach helps reduce product training and part stocking. For large companies managing multiple sites around the world it increases operational flexibility and reduces the need for knowledge of different systems for different applications through deployment of a common user interface.

Features new to the SPS351 include: Ethernet and browser interface provides remote access over the internet or by cable for data and configuration; Integrated IALA Beacon capability allows the use of free MSK Beacon correction transmissions without extra receiver or antenna; Integrated Bluetooth® wireless technology for cable-free configuration and operation with computer or cell phone.

The robust construction and modularity of the Trimble SPS351 receiver delivers installation flexibility via external GPS antenna options, as required on marine vessel installations. The receiver can be mounted in a secure environment protected from the weather and theft, leaving only the antenna outside. Trimble EVEREST™ technology improves results in high multi-path environments such as those encountered on construction vessels and port construction sites.

For further information please visit www.zeework.co.uk.

1.c) CCGIS MAP GIVES OIL COMPANIES FIRST PEEK AT FACILITIES DURING STORMS

C & C Technologies, Inc. (C & C) gives registered users a free means of tracking named storms in relation to their Gulf of Mexico assets in real time during clear weather and throughout storms such as Hurricanes Ike and Gustav with CCGIS Map™.

CCGIS Map™ is a Geographic Information System developed by C & C. It focuses primarily on the oil and gas industry's infrastructure and allows efficient access to real time Gulf of Mexico data to anyone with Internet access.

Users of CCGIS Map™ do not have to wait until after the storm's passage. National Hurricane Center storm positions are plotted as they become available. You no longer have to wait days for a map. You can watch the storm track in real time as it passes over Gulf of Mexico oilfield infrastructure.

To view the current CCGIS Map™ data from Hurricane Gustav in relation to Gulf of Mexico assets, please go to www.CCGISMap.com.

If you would like more information about CCGIS Map™, please contact Ralph Coleman +1 337 210 0000 or by e-mail through www.CCGISMap.com.

1.d) ODIM BROOKE OCEAN AWARDED LAUNCH AND RECOVERY CONTRACT FOR EMNS

ODIM Brooke Ocean has been awarded a contract by Lockheed Martin Corp. of Syracuse, New York, to provide a launch and recovery subsystem in support of their System Development and Demonstration Phase of the Expendable Mine Neutralization System (EMNS).

The EMNS is a mine identification and neutralization system for support of mine neutralization operations from MCM-1 Class ships. It will replace the aging and maintenance intensive AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization System and will provide ships with improved reconnaissance capability, positive identification of mine threats, reduced neutralization mission times, and reduced maintenance in both time and required spares.

The launch and recovery system that ODIM BROOKE OCEAN will supply is designed to meet the environmental and other MIL specs as defined in the primary contract. In addition, the overboarding boom is designed to allow both the Expendable Neutralizer and Exercise Neutralizer to be deployed and recovered a safe distance away from an MCM1 Avenger Class Ship and closer to the waterline to minimize pendulum motion when suspended from the umbilical.

For further information visit www.brooke-ocean.com or www.odim.com.

1.e) SONARDYNE LODESTAR GETS FIRST WHEELMARK FOR MARINE AHRS

The Sonardyne Lodestar has become the first marine AHRS (Attitude Heading and Reference System) using "strapdown" inertial sensors to receive the Wheelmark approval. Such sensors are rigidly strapped down, or attached, to the body of the unit resulting in size and weight reductions, lower cost, and greater reliability. The Wheelmark is the European standard that confirms it has been designed and approved to meet performance standards of Resolution A424(XI) and A694(17) of the IMO (International Maritime Organisation). The certification followed an intensive testing programme and now enables ship operators to use the gyro compass output of the Lodestar for a range of applications. These can include primary navigation and as a feed for helm, autopilot, radar and ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System.) This is expected to prove particularly attractive to the operators of ships and offshore vessels that need high standards of heading accuracy for a variety of applications in the subsea construction and survey sectors.

In addition to providing highly accurate vessel heading, Lodestar is also a single, cost efficient, source for heave, roll and pitch data. This can be applied to dynamic positioning systems (DP), helideck monitoring and compensation for multibeam sonar and acoustic positioning systems. The Wheelmark certification now means that vessel operators can use a single Lodestar for a wide range of tasks and remain confident that it meets the necessary IMO standards.

Lodestar is a solid state AHRS incorporating six sensing elements, three ring laser gyros (RLG) and three linear accelerometers. It is an extension of the Sonardyne product range and was developed for seamless integration with the company's widely used LBL (Long BaseLine) and USBL (Ultra-Short BaseLine)

acoustic positioning systems. Lodestar is available in surface or subsea configurations depth rated up to 5,000 metres.

The gyrocompass algorithm calculation developed by Sonardyne for Lodestar produces output in real time for heading, roll and pitch. Because of the precision of the sensing elements used in the unit, the instrument produces a highly accurate solution for each rotation in the x, y and z-axis. Lodestar also provides a robust heave measurement solution by applying a heave algorithm to the vertical motion of the unit. Lodestar is consequently suitable for any application that requires the accurate measurement of heading, heave, roll and pitch in a dynamic marine environment. By combining a motion sensor and gyrocompass in the same unit, significant advantages can be gained in relation to system calibration as the heading and motion frame share a common internal alignment axis. Lodestar is upgradeable to full Inertial Navigation System (INS) providing position, velocity, orientation and angular velocity at high update rates.

For further information please contact Richard Binks on Tel: +44 (0) 1252 872288 or visit www.sonardyne.com.

1.f) NEW APPLICATION SHOWS DETAILS OF UK MONITORING PROGRAMMES

The United Kingdom Directory of Marine Observing Systems is a searchable database of marine monitoring conducted by UK organisations and is available to browse at www.ukdmos.org. UKDMOS provides an internet-based tool for searching monitoring programmes with the aim of providing information to coordinate marine monitoring across different organisations.

This will result in: interested parties gaining a better understanding of marine monitoring carried out in the UK; identification of where sampling can be better coordinated between organisations leading to a more efficient use of resources such as ship time; ability to evaluate if current monitoring is sufficient to provide data to meet the objectives.

Monitoring programmes may be searched spatially using GIS and/or by organisation, parameter groups, frequency, start dates and other fields by use of the drop down menus on the search webpage. Locations of each monitoring programme are displayed using GIS and further details provided with links and contact details. Each individual point may be interrogated using the GIS. A download into a csv file is available which gives summary details of each programme as defined by the users search criteria.

UKDMOS is for the wider marine community and specifically a key output for the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS). The technical build of the directory has relied heavily on outputs from the EU funded SeaDataNet project and the submission of content is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Scottish Government. Maintenance of the UKDMOS database content will be completed by the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN). UKDMOS forms the marine monitoring component of the UK - Environmental Observation Framework (EOF) being taken forward by the Environmental Research Funders Forum.

Contact ukdmos@bodc.ac.uk for further information or visit www.ukdmos.org

1.g) FLOWQUEST CURRENT PROFILER SALE GROWS RAPIDLY

The sale of LinkQuest's FlowQuest line of acoustic current profilers has grown rapidly since its introduction. An extensive line of models has been used for a large number of diverse applications worldwide. LinkQuest recently provided Columbia University with a FlowQuest 600 system with WaveQuest directional wave measurement option, bottom tracking option, and Data Fusion function interfacing to a third party sensor and a FlowQuest 300 system with bottom tracking option and Data Fusion function. These systems, along with previously purchased FlowQuest 600 systems, will initially be used in current and wave studies in Indonesian Seas.

All profilers are equipped with LinkQuest's acoustic modems for deployment assistance and periodic data collection. LinkQuest has also provided a vessel-mounted FlowQuest 75 ultra long-range acoustic current profiler to a US organisation for deepwater water surveying from a surface ship. Taiwan's National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, and a Taiwanese national university, have recently purchased several

FlowQuest 300, FlowQuest 600 and FlowQuest 1000 systems for current circulation and directional wave measurement studies. Elcome Marine Services in India has purchased a FlowQuest 600 system for offshore current measurement projects. LinkQuest has also recently provided a FlowQuest 150 vessel-mounted long-range profiler to the Instituto de Investigaciones Pesqueras of Spain for offshore current survey and a FlowQuest 600 acoustic current profiler to C.I.M.A. S.L. in Canary Island.

For more information, please visit www.link-quest.com for contact the company at sales@link-quest.com.

1.h) GLOBAL VIEW ON ROV PERSONNEL STATISTICS

Statistics on the number of ROV (remotely operated vehicle) personnel working across the industry worldwide have been produced by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA). This new analysis uses information supplied by member organisation on personnel working on two dates in 2007, in February and August, on a global basis, replacing the previous complex North Sea/rest of the world reporting system.

"Drawing on information supplied by 20 ROV contractors, who submitted significant data, we were able to deduce that in February 2007 nearly 1,700 personnel and just over 2,000 in August 2007 were engaged in offshore ROV-related activities, primarily in marine construction and drill support activities," explains Hugh Williams, Chief Executive of IMCA.

"This is very much a 'snapshot'; it is not intended that these statistics exactly represent personnel at work on actual days, but rather to reflect personnel levels at two particular times in the year, roughly six months apart," he explains. "The figures do not include personnel on leave, sick or not working for any reason, and only include those actually working on the two days of the survey. They do not take into account any major contract that may have been completed shortly before the days of the count nor, for that matter, one which may have started shortly after.

"We'll shortly be asking our ROV contractor members to complete a return for 2008," says Hugh Williams. "With each response the analysis becomes more accurate and useful both for benchmarking and to add weight to IMCA's discussions with clients and regulatory bodies. Individual company figures are kept confidential within the secretariat, with only the total being released to the ROV committee and in the subsequent information note."

IMCA (and its predecessor AODC) has published ROV statistics for the North Sea area (Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway and the UK) since 1982, apart from a two-year gap in the mid 1990s.

Information on all aspects of IMCA's work on is available from www.imca-int.com or Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5520 or email: imca@imca-int.com

2. EVENT, TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2.a) SUT SUBSEA AWARENESS COURSE, 8TH – 12TH DECEMBER 2008, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The five-day Course has been designed to be suitable for contractors, engineers, operators and those new to the offshore industry, those transferring from other disciplines within the industry and those who have worked in subsea previously but would benefit from a refresher course and exposure to the latest technology. Whilst most of the course will be presented in a 'classroom' environment, the sessions will be interactive, with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss what has been learnt.

For further information on this event please visit www.sut.org.au

2.b) NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 8TH NOVEMBER, PORTSMOUTH, UK

Featuring presentations from a range of professional and amateur archaeologists, the NAS 2008 Annual Conference will provide an opportunity to discuss research, review the archaeological activities of members

and colleagues, exchange ideas on encouraging access to our shared heritage, and network with peers from the UK and abroad.

An exciting international event, the NAS 2008 Conference will incorporate a Maritime Trade Display, Poster Display, the Annual Adopt-A-Wreck Award, and the 2008 NAS Annual General Meeting. Hosted by Robert Yorke (Chair Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, and Vice President NAS), the Conference will take place on Saturday 8th November 2008.

A casual evening of Beer & Skittles will take place the evening before Friday 7th November 2008, and an excursion recording anchors (as part of The Big Anchor Project) will follow on Sunday 9th November 2008.

To register for this exciting event, email nas@nauticalarchaeologysociety.org, Tel: +44 (0)23 9281 8419 or Fax: + 44 (0)23 9281 8419 the Society using the details provided.

Alternatively, you can download the NAS 2008 Annual Conference booking form from the Conference pages of the NAS Portsmouth website <http://www.nasportsmouth.org.uk> or by following the Conference link from the Society homepage: <http://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org>.

2.c) INTERNATIONAL REMOTE OCEAN SENSING WORKSHOP ROS 2008, 30 – 31 OCTOBER 2008, BÜSUM, GERMANY

Helzel Messtechnik will sponsor the 1st International Remote Ocean Sensing Workshop ROS 2008 hosted by the FTZ in Büsum, Germany, October 30 - 31, 2008. The FTZ Research and Technology Center Westcoast in Büsum was founded in 1988 as a central facility of the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel. It pursues multidisciplinary integrative aligned coastal research, especially in the field of shallow water and estuary research with main focus on applied, problem-oriented formulation of the coastal region.

During the past few years, Remote Ocean Sensing became more and more valuable to modern coastal management. This International Remote Ocean Sensing Workshop will offer potential stakeholders the opportunity to exchange and discuss operational and scientific uses of Radio Oceanography (HF and MW radar technology). It will give an impulse for discussions on extended applications such as renewable energies, environmental and economic activities and shipping security to face future needs.

For further information please email hansen@helzel.com or visit <http://www.helzel.com/helzelmed/download/ROS2008.pdf>.

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

3.a) MARPORT APPOINTS SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER FOR SEARCH & SURVEY SONAR APPLICATIONS

Marport has appointed Peter Gross to the position of Senior Product Manager, Search & Survey Sonar. Peter will operate from Vancouver, British Columbia from where he will be responsible for analyzing and understanding search and survey sonar market needs, developing product requirements, executing product roadmaps, conducting competitive analysis and creating strong market positioning. He will also serve as Senior Product Manager for AquaPix™ - Marport's upcoming multibeam swath bathymetry sonar.

Karl Kenny, Marport President & CEO said, "Marport continues to be a leading developer of Software Defined Sonar® technology. As such, we welcome a sonar expert such as Peter to the Marport team. In addition to strategic planning, his expertise will provide enhanced product development and customer support in a variety of new search and survey sonar applications."

Peter has over 15 years of experience in the sonar industry, serving in hardware and software development, strategic business development and marketing. His area of specialization is underwater acoustics, with emphasis on active/passive sonar, acoustical positioning, underwater telemetry, transducer modeling and software engineering. He was founder and President of Muse Research Inc., a developer of sidescan, sub bottom profiling, and multi spectral sonar image processing systems to the defense and commercial survey industry. Peter graduated from Ryerson University in 1988 with a degree in Electrical Engineering and received his Masters degree in Physics from Queen's University in 1993. Peter is very pleased to be working in the exuberant atmosphere of Marport, and promises to refrain from getting excessively excited when talking about sonar technology at dinner parties.

For further information on Marport, please visit www.marport.com.

3.b) NEW MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY CENTRE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

The Australian Maritime College's dedicated Maritime Transport Policy Centre has welcomed its new Director, Mr John Francis. Mr Francis commenced duties at the start of September, taking over from interim Director Prof. Barrie Lewarn. Mr Francis brings almost 30 years of maritime experience to the role, having worked for companies such as P&O and, more recently, Thompson Clarke Shipping, in Melbourne. Born in the UK, he moved to Australia in 1978 and holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Tasmania. His position at the head of the dedicated national research and advisory centre comes at a challenging time for the industry, with a major skills shortage a problem among stakeholders.

"One of the major issues being faced by Australian shipping is the lack of people with maritime training, not only for service on board Australian ships but also for shore-based jobs such as in marine pilotage and senior operational positions within port corporations and marine safety agencies ... and it's getting harder to find suitably qualified mariners to fill those important positions," Mr Francis said. "This position offers the opportunity to undertake research into policy changes that will make a contribution to alleviating the difficulty the industry is facing." Mr Francis said he plans to draw on his maritime consultancy experience to work with industry and government(s) to develop policy initiatives and source the funding needed for ongoing research.

For further comment please contact Maritime Transport Policy Centre Australian Maritime College John Francis Tel: +61 03 6335 4812 or email j.francis@amc.edu.au.