

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## INDEX

### 1. General Ocean News

- a) Geoacoustics Integration at Kongsberg Maritime Under Way
- b) French Prime Minister Visits IXSEA
- c) Alec Electronics Co., Ltd. Announces its Recent Acquisition by JFE-Advantech Co., Ltd.,
- d) New Gonio Argos Beacon Direction Finder Released
- e) Medway Harbour Invests in New Buoys From Hydrosphere UK
- f) Offshore Pipelines Inspected Using Gavia AUV
- g) Fugro Chance Inc. Introduces Positioning System
- h) RESON Delivers SeaBat Sonar System to the Chilean Navy
- i) Edgetech Introduces New Very High Frequency for Their 4200-SP Side Scan Sonar System

### 2. Who's on the Move?

- a) Appointment of Chris Napier as General Manager – Marine Renewables at J+S Ltd

### 3. Event, Training & Demonstration News

- a) Imarest Stanley Gray Lecture, London, UK - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008
- b) Remote Ocean Sensing Workshop, Büsum, Germany, October 30 – 31, 2008

### 4. Job Postings

- a) Kongsberg Underwater Technology, Inc Seeks Product Sales Manager, Houston, USA

## **1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS**

### **1.a) GEOACOUSTICS INTEGRATION AT KONGSBERG MARITIME UNDER WAY**

The acquisition of GeoAcoustics Ltd by Kongsberg Maritime was completed in September this year. This was followed up immediately by a number of meetings, the latest at the Kongsberg Maritime office in Horten, Norway, focusing on marketing and sales issues. Helge Uhlen, Product Sales Manager at Kongsberg Maritime, invited representatives from GeoAcoustics to introduce its present and upcoming product range to Kongsberg Maritime and representatives of sister companies worldwide.

In discussions with a focus on the market the integration was brought under way by getting the world wide sales network operational by supplying information and support for the GeoAcoustics product range.

For further information please contact Ralf Timm by e-mail: [ralf.timm@geoacoustics.com](mailto:ralf.timm@geoacoustics.com) or visit [www.geoacoustics.com](http://www.geoacoustics.com) and [www.km.kongsberg.com](http://www.km.kongsberg.com).

### **1.b) FRENCH PRIME MINISTER VISITS IXSEA**

The French Prime Minister, Mr François Fillon, visited the IXSEA site in Marly le Roi (outside Paris) where the company's Fiber Optic Gyroscopes (FOGS) and Inertial Navigation Systems are manufactured on Tuesday 7 October 2008.

IXSEA's President Thierry Gaiffe welcomed the Prime Minister as both IXSEA's President and President of the Richelieu Committee, which represents innovative Small and Medium Sized (SME) French companies.

Mr Fillon took the opportunity to meet with 150 entrepreneurs and members of the Richelieu Committee to announce a package of more than 22 billion euros to assist companies through the current credit crisis, and assure them that the French government will support them.

For further information on IXSEA, please visit [www.ixsea.com](http://www.ixsea.com).

### **1.c) ALEC ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. ANNOUNCES ITS RECENT ACQUISITION BY JFE-ADVANTECH CO., LTD.,**

Alec Electronics Co., Ltd. announces its recent acquisition by JFE-Advantech Co., Ltd., a manufacturer of environmental and industrial water sensors. JFE-Advantech is a subsidiary of JFE Steel Co., Ltd., the 3rd largest global steel producer. The name of Alec Electronics Co., Ltd. changes to JFE-ALEC Co., Ltd. effective September 1st, 2008.

The merger combines the expertise of both companies in oceanographic instrumentation and fresh water industrial instrumentation. North American users of Alec equipment will continue to receive qualified sales and technical support through Rockland Oceanographic Services, Inc. in Victoria, British Columbia.

For more information please visit [www.jfe-alec.com](http://www.jfe-alec.com) or contact [alec@rocklandocean.com](mailto:alec@rocklandocean.com).

### **1.d) NEW GONIO ARGOS BEACON DIRECTION FINDER RELEASED**

RS Aqua Ltd report that, after a lengthy development period, a new Argos direction finder has been market launched. Model KRL400P replaces the previous GONIO400 using latest technology to pinpoint the origin of Argos beacon transmissions. The device is far smaller and lighter than the previous version weighing in at just 3 kgs gross and incorporates a friendly user interface. The first production batch of KRL400P units has already been sold and a second run is nearing completion. The standard configuration combines the IP67 rated control unit with 5m and 25m antenna cables but these can be optionally extended.

The KRL400P will typically be used to detect transmissions from Cobham T&L AS-900A Argos beacons which are fitted to seabed landers, mooring strings, ROVs and AUVs. The beacon is full ocean depth rated and activated on surfacing to announce its position via the Argos satellite service. The KRL400P will enable fine tune location at site during the recovery process.

Visit [www.rsaqua.co.uk](http://www.rsaqua.co.uk) where links will appear via the Latest News section. Contact RS Aqua's product specialist Roger Scrivens [r.scrivens@rsaqua.co.uk](mailto:r.scrivens@rsaqua.co.uk) for more details.

### **1.e) MEDWAY HARBOUR INVESTS IN NEW BUOYS FROM HYDROSPHERE UK**

Peel Ports Medway has installed five Mobilis BC1242 buoys, supplied by leading aids to navigation specialist Hydrosphere, to mark a secondary channel from the Thames Estuary to the River Medway. The new channel improves traffic management, enabling shipping at the confluence of the Thames and Medway, to pass or overtake in this busy area.

Peel Ports Medway, Assistant Harbour Master, Guy Peto says: "I chose the Mobilis buoys as I know that they are very reliable and robust and, consequently, require minimal maintenance. The buoys are primarily polyethylene, which in normal circumstances will not require repainting. The buoys marking this channel are special marks as defined by the I.A.L.A specification - the buoys are yellow in colour with a top mark comprising a yellow St. Andrew's cross. The special mark, which was suggested by Peel Ports Medway in consultation with Trinity House, helps increase visibility and gives them a distinctive look."

Previously, when vessels in excess of 130m long were using the single channel it was deemed one way, but the second channel means that the stretch of water can simultaneously be used by smaller vessels. The buoys, which were launched in August 2008, mark from the start of the channel, past the wreck of the WWII supply ship SS Richard Montgomery, to the small ships anchorage point.

The Mobilis BC1242 has a 1.24m diameter polyethylene hull and is designed for near-shore deployments where high visibility is critical. The buoys, which can be lifted by any single or combination of lifting eyes, have a modular design that allows commonality of parts and reduced maintenance.

For further information please contact Andy Reid, Hydrosphere on Tel: +44 (0)1420 520374 or Email: [andy@hydrosphere.co.uk](mailto:andy@hydrosphere.co.uk).

#### **1.f) OFFSHORE PIPELINES INSPECTED USING GAVIA AUV**

SeeByte, a cutting edge software solutions company, used its AutoTracker intelligent payload software to guide a GAVIA Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) as it inspected two pipelines in Reykjavik, Iceland. Hafmynd, the manufacturers of the GAVIA AUV, supported the trials and the work was funded by BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd.

The purpose of this trial was to tackle complex pipeline shapes. The AutoTracker software interfaces to the AUV which is pre-programmed on the surface to carry out specific underwater missions, navigating using sonar and other sensors. The GAVIA can be launched from vessels or from the shore by two personnel without the need for specialist cranes or lifting equipment. SeeByte was able to demonstrate the capabilities of the inspection system during multiple runs over 4km of the eastern sewage pipeline in Reykjavik Harbour, and 3km over the western outfall. The operations were carried out in very shallow waters (2-30m), but the GAVIA AUVs can operate to depths greater than 1000 metres. A total distance of over 36km was completed during the operations.

SeeByte developed the AutoTracker intelligent payload as part of the SeeTrack Offshore family. The AutoTracker payload paints a picture of the seabed and interprets that picture so that it can instruct the AUV to maintain a constant offset from a pipeline. The payload is capable of accurately tracking a single pipeline amongst multiple pipelines and on varied terrains. In addition, AutoTracker includes advanced search routines that enable it to recover the pipeline track after an unexpected pipeline burial. This trial was a follow up to the BP-sponsored trials carried out in 2006 using a larger AUV and the trials carried out in March of this year in Orkney using a two-man portable AUV.

For further information please contact Abelene Heuer, +44 (0)131 447 4200 or email: [abelene.heuer@seebyte.com](mailto:abelene.heuer@seebyte.com)

#### **1.g) FUGRO CHANCE INC. INTRODUCES POSITIONING SYSTEM**

Fugro Chance Inc., have recently introduced a compact, powerful positioning system called STARFIX.® TOPS, with accuracy capability as great as sub-meter.

The TOPS "Total Positioning System" box serves as the primary GPS receiver that surveyors use on a project, such as for performing a rig move.

It uses dual frequency receivers for a quieter position and heading. The onboard ethernet switch allows connection to the field laptop using a network cable. Through this single cable, GPS positioning, heading, and corrections are available.

With development of the TOPS box, less equipment is needed, ensuring an improved set-up. The system is currently being used successfully in the Gulf of Mexico as well as by sister Fugro companies in New Zealand; Perth, Australia; and Trinidad.

Fugro's STARFIX Suite of navigation software provides guidance and support for offshore survey activities in conjunction with the TOPS box. It is suitable for field planning as well as providing real-time positioning, a graphic display, and interfacing to survey devices.

Upcoming modifications include support for multiple TOPS boxes and network-attached radios.

For more information please contact Dixie Poche, Marketing on Tel: +1 337 268 3286 or email: [dpoche@fugrochance.com](mailto:dpoche@fugrochance.com)

### **1.h) RESON DELIVERS SEABAT SONAR SYSTEM TO THE CHILEAN NAVY**

In August 2008, Commander Rafael Widow, of the Chilean Navy took delivery of a SeaBat sonar system, which was fitted on the Submarine Tender - Almirante Jose Torino Merino Castro.

Originally designed as a miner and auxiliary vessel, she was refitted and modernized in Sweden in 1997 where she was provided with all the equipment needed to fulfil her new role of Submarine Tender. Now with the addition of the RESON SeaBat sonar system, the "Merino" will take on yet another new task, and change her position in the Navy, to that of a hydrographic role within the South Coastal and Blue Water area in order to determine the extension of the continental platform of Chile.

The re-fit of the Merino included the installation of SeaBat 8160 multibeam sonar and the NaviSound 630DS sin-glebeam echosounder.

The RESON SeaBat 8160 has a swath coverage greater than 4 x water depth, and can operate to depths of 3000m. It consists of a linear receive and transmit array mounted on a support base, and also benefits from a pitch-stabilized transmitter and an active roll compensated receiver. As it is compatible with other SeaBat sonar heads it can be updated in minutes to accommodate future requirements. The NaviSound 630DS is specifically designed for ocean research, and provides high quality soundings, at depths of up to 6000 meters. The 2kW transmitter, triple channel compatibility, continual data storage and tamper resistant encryption, make it an ideal partner with the SeaBat to offer an unrivalled combination of range, resolution and profitability together with scope and depth of coverage.

At a Factory Acceptance Test in Denmark in June, Commander Rafael Widow commented on the professionalism of the RESON team, and the strength of support that he received from the whole of RESON, and the Project Manager.

Additional information Contact: Sales manager Carlos Ortiz, RESON Inc., USA, E-mail: [Carlos.Ortiz@reson.com](mailto:Carlos.Ortiz@reson.com).

### **1.i) EDGETECH INTRODUCES NEW VERY HIGH FREQUENCY FOR THEIR 4200-SP SIDE SCAN SONAR SYSTEM**

EdgeTech has introduced a new very high 900 kHz frequency for their 4200-SP Side Scan Sonar System. The 4200-SP System will now be available with 300/900 kHz dual simultaneous frequencies.

This new 900 kHz frequency will be ideal for those customers seeking very high resolution imagery while not wanting to sacrifice the ability to collect data at longer ranges. While operating at 300 kHz the user can expect to achieve a range of 230 meters per side and at 900 kHz, 75 meters per side in salt water, and considerably longer than this in fresh water conditions.

A 4200-SP System consists of either a 100/400 kHz, 300/600 kHz or 300/900 kHz dual simultaneous frequency towfish and either a rack mount or portable topside processor. Price for the system remains the same regardless of which towfish, topside or frequency set is chosen.

The 4200-SP can also be installed on an AUV, ROV or custom platform and comes available with a multitude of additional optional sensors.

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

## **2. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?**

### **2.a) APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS NAPIER AS GENERAL MANAGER – MARINE RENEWABLES AT J+S LTD**

J+S Ltd has announced the appointment of Chris Napier to the newly-created position of General Manager – Marine Renewables based at the Barnstaple site. In this role, Chris will be responsible for developing J+S Ltd's market presence in the Marine Renewables sector and in particular the wave and tidal energy components of the sector.

J+S is bringing to the Marine Renewables market a range of medium and high voltage subsea connectivity solutions, load and position monitoring systems and broad engineering solutions to offer both to the Wave Energy Converter companies and the Wave Hub programmes currently underway in both UK and European waters. Chris holds a MBA from the Open University and has a strong marketing background, most recently in B2B marketing with Proctor and Gamble. Commenting on the appointment, David Jeffries, Managing Director, stated "I am pleased to welcome Chris to our business, at what is a very exciting time for the Company as we continue to migrate our other core business technologies developed for naval defence and the oil and gas support markets into the newly emerging Marine Renewables market."

Chris Napier said "I am excited to be joining J+S in this challenging role and believe there are real opportunities in the Marine Renewables sector for the Company."

For further information please contact David Jeffries, Managing Director on +44(0)1271 337508.

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

### **3.a) IMAREST STANLEY GRAY LECTURE, LONDON, UK - 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

'Booming global trade – opportunities and threats for marine insurance' is the topical subject of the next Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) Stanley Gray Lecture. Being delivered on 10 November at IMarEST headquarters in the heart of the City of London, the lecture is a timely reminder of the importance of London to the marine industry. It is open to members and non-members alike.

Simon Stonehouse, Marine Hull Underwriter at Brit Insurance, will take the opportunity to touch briefly on the history of marine insurance and its role within the circle of quality, a voyage of discovery that embraces up-to-date statistics and shipping information. He will then focus on the current climate, highlighting the major issues – both insurance and shipping related - faced by marine hull underwriters. Finally he will propose suggestions and ideas on working together to improve safety at sea.

"London is home to more international shipowners, operators and managers than any other city in the world. There's also a heavy concentration of shipbrokers, bankers, lawyers, recruiters, surveyors, insurers, P&I clubs, shipping companies, associations, accountants, publishers so what better place could there be to hold a lecture on such a key topic as insurance," says IMarEST Chief Executive, Keith Read CBE. "We look forward to a fascinating and highly relevant lecture in these economically challenging times."

The Lecture will be delivered at IMarEST, 80 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BJ. Attendance is free of charge to IMarEST members and non-members alike. The evening begins with tea and networking at 17.00; the lecture starts at 17.30 and the post-lecture reception is at 18.45. Reservations can be made online at [www.imarest.org](http://www.imarest.org), through direct contact with the IMarEST Events Department at +44 (0)20 7382 2655 or at [events@imarest.org](mailto:events@imarest.org)

### **3.b) REMOTE OCEAN SENSING WORKSHOP, "METHODS AND APPLICATIONS", BÜSUM, GERMANY - OCTOBER 30 – 31, 2008**

The 1st International Remote Ocean Sensing Workshop ROS 2008 will be hosted by the FTZ in Büsum. 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) as well as acoustic profilers. It will stimulate discussions on extended applications such as renewable energies, environmental and economic activities and shipping security to face future needs. Last-minute registration is still possible.

For additional information, please contact Helzel Messtechnik GmbH, on Tel: +49-4191-95 20-0 or Email: [hansen@helzel.com](mailto:hansen@helzel.com). The full programme can be viewed at <http://www.helzel.com/helzelmed/download/ROS2008.pdf>

## **4. JOB POSTINGS**

### **4.a) KONGSBERG UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY, INC SEEKS PRODUCT SALES MANAGER, HOUSTON, USA**

Kongsberg Underwater Technology, Inc., a US subsidiary of Kongsberg Maritime AS, currently has a position open in Houston, TX for a Product Sales Manager.

They are seeking an individual with experience in the geophysical and/or hydrographic survey industries, preferable with local knowledge of the Gulf of Mexico offshore marketplace. Primary responsibility is to create and develop business relationships with customers' senior managers, technical supervisors and engineers by giving expert technical sales support and quotations on a wide range of Kongsberg Maritime products including: single beam and multibeam echo sounders, motion reference units, sub-bottom profilers, side scan sonars and software for survey and data processing. Ability to personally conduct basic product demonstrations is desirable.

Successful applicant must have a strong technical background, be capable of working independently in the field and interfacing directly with the customer. Bachelors degree in engineering, GIS, or related science or equivalent field work experience is required. Position requires significant domestic and some international travel and occasional work aboard offshore vessels. Kongsberg Underwater Technology, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please reply to Darlene Burt via email (no phone calls please) at: [darlene.burt@kongsberg.com](mailto:darlene.burt@kongsberg.com) or mail resume to: Darlene Burt, Kongsberg Underwater Technology, Inc., 19210 33rd Avenue West, Suite A, Lynnwood, WA 98036.