

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) ITER AND SEA LAUNCH JETSWATH RAPID HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY CRAFT

ITER and SEA, in collaboration with Bombardier, have launched a new hydrographic survey craft for conducting rapid survey operations in difficult marine environments at Euronaval.

JetSWATH allows detailed, high-resolution seabed mapping in shallow waters with the ability to transit to and from the target areas at high speed. The system comprises a phase difference bathymetric sonar (PDBS) plus a full range of position, motion and navigation sensors, all built into a Bombardier Jet ski. The whole system is operated by the single Jet Ski rider using a waterproof console situated at the crafts steering column.

The survey sonar is SEA's SWATHplus operating at 468 kHz giving very high resolutions across a wide swath, even in very shallow waters (as little as 1 metre deep). SWATHplus is a highly successful survey sonar selling into both the defence and commercial markets.

JetSWATH supports a wide range of maritime operations including mine countermeasures, amphibious landings, and rapid environmental assessments. JetSWATH shows that rapid, effective environmental survey in difficult or dangerous environments is affordable and available now.

For more information contact Nick Hawkins at SEA on Tel: +44 (0)1373 852000 or Email: nick.hawkins@sea.co.uk

1.b) MACARTNEY'S NEW JUMBO DISPLAY MAKES CABLE HANDLING EASIER

Knowing how much and how fast cable is heaved in or paid out can be crucial for controlling underwater equipment, but standing next to the winch to view a display may not always be the optimal position for observing equipment entering and leaving the water. MacArtney's new cable status indicator with jumbo display allows the operator to view vital cable information from exactly where on board it suits him.

A good cable status indicator is a valuable tool for showing the position of equipment on the way in or on the way out of water, when knowing cable speed and length of cable pay-out on a winch can be critical. However, it may be equally important for the operator to be in close proximity to where the equipment is lowered into or lifted out of the water.

Winches can be controlled via a remote control system by an operator located a distance away from the winch on the ship's deck, but traditional cable status indicators cannot be seen at a distance. The operator may be forced either to choose to stand closer to the water or to the winch, periodically check the display, or may even require two crew members.

The new cable status indicator by MacArtney allows the winch operator to stand exactly where he needs to on board. The extra large numbers on the jumbo display can be read at a distance, meaning that the operator can stand near to where the system is being launched, yet maintain complete visual control of how much cable is deployed, its speed and subsequently where the system is under water.

The system can also be fitted as slave to other systems, including existing cable status indicators or computers with winch control software. It can be set to display a wide range of data, including cable tension and time, and is ideal for showing cable data on any type of winch application.

For further information please contact Lars F. Hansen at Email: lfh@macartney.com or Tel: +45 76132000.

1.c) TURNER DESIGNS ANNOUNCE FLUOROMETER ENHANCEMENTS

RS Aqua Ltd, UK distributor for Turner Designs Inc, USA, report the following news relating to fluorometers from the extensive Turner catalogue.

Orders for the C3 submersible 3-channel fluorometer, only launched in mid 2008, have exceeded all expectations. The instrument has certainly won favour within the fluorescence community. The device can be shipped with one, two or three sets of optics, factory fitted. The parameter range is wide and includes in-vivo Chlorophyll a, blue green algae, Rhodamine WT dye, crude oil, CDOM, optical brighteners and

turbidity. Other options include a pressure sensor and a very popular mechanical wiper.

PhytoFlash, the successful solid state, in-situ, variable fluorescence system, is now offered with an optional 600m rated titanium optical head assembly mated to a Delrin housing for use in potentially corrosive environments. The standard aluminium optical head version will also use the same Delrin housing and is offered with modified shade and flow caps.

The final item of news is that a PhytoFlash to Seabird CTD cable has been added to the accessories schedule to enable plug and play connection to Seabird CTD systems.

Contact product specialist David Goldsmith at d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk for more details.

1.d) COLUMBIA RIVER GETS A NEW SATLANTIC LOBO!

Satlantic has recently announced the newest delivery of their Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatory (LOBO) to WET Labs for use in the Lower Columbia River, near Astoria, Oregon.

As one of North America's largest rivers, the Columbia is important both commercially and recreationally. The data provided by the LOBO will help researchers monitor long-term trends in critical water quality parameters. The Lower Columbia River LOBO is part of a collaboration project within the Center for Coastal Margin Observation & Prediction (CMOP), led by Oregon Health and Science University. To view more participating partners and to see live data from the Lower Columbia River LOBO visit www.columbia.loboviz.com.

1.e) UTEC SURVEY POSITIONING CONTRACT FOR VERIPOS

Aberdeen-based Veripos is to provide UTEC Survey Inc in Houston and its associate companies in the UK, Singapore and West Africa with worldwide GNSS positioning services under a multi-year contract worth approximately \$2m. The new contract extends the relationship between the two companies under which Veripos has been supporting UTEC Survey's global offshore operations since May 2006 with a complete range of dedicated DGNSS services, including hardware, software and signals.

Trevor Hughes, UTEC Survey Inc's Vice-President for Commercial and Business Development, commented "As our company broadens its geographical interests and expands its global operations, it has become a strategic necessity to partner with a quality global positioning supplier such as Veripos, which has a track record of excellent service and outstanding support."

Stephen Browne, Manager of Veripos Americas region in Houston, responded by saying: "We are extremely pleased to be awarded this new contract as it demonstrates the mutual benefits that can be achieved when two quality-driven organizations work closely together and build upon an established and strong working relationship."

For further information on Veripos or UTEC Survey please visit www.veripos.com or www.utecsurvey.com.

1.f) SEEBYTE'S MINE NEUTRALISATION PROGRAM EXTENDED

SeeByte, a cutting edge software solutions company, has been awarded a \$1Million contract extension through the United States Office of Naval Research (ONR), within its on-going Very Shallow Water (VSW) Mine Neutralisation (MN) programme of work. The extension follows on from discussions with project teams and user feedback from operators involved with the successful ONR project.

In the first phase of the existing programme, SeeByte was successful in demonstrating Automatic Target Recognition (ATR) and sonar servoing. The ATR was used to detect, track and classify bottom and floating targets observed using a BlueView Technologies imaging sonar. The sonar servoing was used to autonomously manoeuvre a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and; using Through The Sensor Technologies, home the vehicle to a buoyant target in the water column.

The extension to the current MN work will focus on producing an 'operator in the loop' solution to the Mine Neutralisation problem where SeeByte's sensor processing and control capabilities will be merged with SeeTrack Topside and the iRobot Maritime systems (formerly Nekton Research) Transphibian vehicle.

SeeByte will use SeeTrack Military to monitor and visualise the vehicle's progress and will provide an intuitive operator interface which will enable the user to control the vehicle using high level commands.

SeeTrack Military is a mission planning, monitoring, post processing and sensor fusion tool for rapid on-site analysis and intelligent decision making. Sensors include: sidescan sonar, imaging sonar, bathymetric, and video. It is a highly modular, equipment-agnostic system and is designed to perform on both notebook and desktop environments. The software is operationally used by the US Navy and provides the graphical interface for the US Navy's Common Operator Interface Navy – EOD (COIN).

If you would like more information on this topic please contact Abelen Heuer – Marketing Communications Executive on Tel: +44 (0)131 447 4200 (ext. 163) or Email: abelene.heuer@seebyte.com

1.g) AXYS TECHNOLOGIES INC. TO PROVIDE TWO WATER QUALITY DATA BUOYS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AXYS has been awarded a contract from the University of Southern California (USC) for the supply of two WatchMate™ data collection buoys. The solar and battery powered WatchMate's are each configured with two WETLabs Water Quality Monitors, all-in-one instruments that measure salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll and turbidity.

The buoys will provide USC's public health and water quality officials in Southern California with a better picture of water quality along the Pacific Coast. The project is led by Burt Jones, a research associate professor in the USC Marine Environmental Biology program, and it covers much of the shoreline of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Jones' team and an AXYS Field Service Specialist will install the two buoys this fall near Redondo Beach and El Segundo, as part of a project that involves USC biologist Dave Caron. Jones and Caron want to see if these sensors will detect water conditions that precede blooms of harmful algae. The work is funded by the West Basin Municipal Water District, who are testing pilot desalination plants along the Santa Monica Bay.

For further information please visit www.axystechnologies.com

2. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

2.a) WORLD'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL LIDAR CONFERENCE, JANUARY 26 – 28, NEW ORLEANS, USA – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

The ILMF is the premier event for the LIDAR industry attracting professionals from all over the world with the next event scheduled for January 26 – 28, 2009 in New Orleans, USA. The last event saw record growth in attendance with over 580 delegates in attendance from 32 countries all looking to invest and benefit from LIDAR technology and services.

The technical conference focuses on work-in progress reports on all aspects of airborne and bathymetry LIDAR with a particular emphasis on papers that address the key commercial and technical issues facing the industry. To view the conference program visit <http://www.lidarmap.org/conference/>.

Alongside the conference is an exhibition consisting of the world's leading LIDAR system and component manufacturers, operators and software companies. With record interest from companies around the world – this is not an opportunity to be missed for all those who are seriously looking to invest.

Still need more information on the benefits and potential applications of LiDAR technology? The 'Basics to LiDAR workshop series' is catering to those that are new to the business and want to find out what LiDAR is, how it works, what the applications are, the cost benefits and how it compares with other mapping technologies. <http://www.lidarmap.org/basics/>

For more information on any aspect of the event simply email info@lidarmap.org. To register visit <https://www.smartregister.co.uk/events/iexhib/ilmf09/>

2.b) NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR AMSI BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2009

The Society of Maritime Industries, through its constituent association the Association of Marine Scientific Industries (AMSI), is inviting nominations for its annual award to recognise individuals who have contributed most to the business of the marine science and technology sector in the UK.

The Society's Chief Executive, John Murray commented, "the UK marine science sector is a vibrant industry epitomised by the enthusiastic and successful entrepreneurs which work within it. This award will highlight the important work of the sector particularly at a time of enhanced public concern for the marine environment and its close relationship to climate change."

Nominations are now invited for the AMSI Business Person of the Year 2009 which will be presented at a special ceremony during Ocean Business 2009 at Southampton, UK in March 2009.

John Murray continued "we are keen to see nominations from all involved with the marine science industry and therefore we encourage those interested to visit www.amsi.org for further information and to download or request a nomination form."

2.c) IMarEST SINGAPORE GOLDEN JUBILEE DINNER, 14TH NOVEMBER 2008, SINGAPORE

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport Mrs Lim Hwee Hua will be the Guest of Honour (GOH) at the Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner which marks the 50th anniversary of The Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology's (IMarEST) operations in Singapore..

The gala dinner is the highlight of a series of celebrations organised by The Joint Branch of The Royal Institution of Naval Architects and The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (Singapore).

"We are looking forward to welcoming up to 500 key members of the marine community and their guests at the Dinner to be held on 14 November at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel in Singapore," said Dr Arun Kr. Dev, Chairman of the RINA & IMarEST Joint Branch (Singapore)..

Further information on the Golden Jubilee Gala Dinner and on the South East Asia Division is available from Ms. Abi Virjee, South East Asia Division Executive; Email: abi.virjee@imarest.org or Tel: +65 96447563.

2.d) MBC 48 MULTIBEAM COURSE, 24TH – 29TH NOVEMBER 2008, SINGAPORE

The 48th UNB-OMB / UNH-CCOM Multibeam Sonar Training Course, co-hosted by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, will be held from 24th – 29th November 2008 at the Furama City Centre Hotel, Singapore and remains the only course of its type in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Multibeam Course is a 36-lecture, 6-day course primarily designed to provide a theoretical and practical background in marine multibeam survey technology and techniques. The information is tailored for those using marine multibeam survey systems in both the traditional hydrographic survey field (for safety of navigation and nautical charting) as well as non-traditional ocean survey fields (such as continental shelf boundary delimitation, offshore engineering, harbour dredging, fisheries habitat, route survey and scientific research fields).

Registration is still open and further details and application form available at: http://www.mpa.gov.sg/calendar_events/mb_course.htm, or via email from yhtlow@mpa.gov.sg or lgee@ivs3d.com