

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.

Oceanbuzz Issue No. 86 – 2nd December 2008

INDEX

1. General Ocean News

- a) Fastwave receives repeat order for subsea environmental monitoring system
- b) UTEC surveyor now equipped for deep ocean cable route surveys
- c) Bowtech announce exclusive distributor for Benelux
- d) Partrac Celebrates 5th Birthday
- e) Woods Hole Group Awarded United States Army Corps of Engineers New England District Contract
- f) WaveRadar Rex enters the Chinese market
- g) The World Ports Climate Initiative launched by IAPH

2. Who's on the Move?

- a) IFHS elects new chairman

3. Event, Training & Demonstration News

- a) Imarest Metocean awareness training course, 10-12 Feb 2009, London, UK
- b) Global Energy Prospects Presentations 2008/9
- c) Next ROS workshop planned for 2010
- d) Subsea Technical Conference, 17-19 February, Perth, Australia

1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) FASTWAVE RECEIVES REPEAT ORDER FOR SUBSEA ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM

Fastwave Communications has received a repeat order for its satellite based turbidity monitoring system. The system is part of Western Australia's largest marine monitoring project, being developed and implemented by Woodside Energy. Woodside is developing the giant Pluto gas project, located off the remote North West coast of Australia. The repeat order is to support an expansion of the marine monitoring system.

The world class monitoring program provides early detection of conditions that could affect coral reefs over 1100 square kilometres of the environmentally sensitive Mermaid Sound, where a major pipeline dredging project is underway to bring the gas onshore.

The turbidity monitoring system developed by Fastwave provides near real time data from 12 autonomous instrumentation modules positioned on the sea floor in strategic locations surrounding the pipeline dredging operations. The offshore monitoring sites are beyond the range of terrestrial communications, requiring the use of satellite telemetry. Each subsea module includes turbidity sensors, data loggers, Iridium Satellite telemetry equipment and re-chargeable battery packs. These units are connected via specially developed underwater coaxial cables to small relay buoys equipped with compact, waterproof satellite antennas.

The instrumentation and electronics packages are located on the sea floor, rather than in data buoys, due to the prevalence of cyclones in the region, and have successfully survived two cyclones since deployment. Each site transmits three turbidity sample readings every 30 minutes via Iridium Satellite to Woodside's environmental monitoring team in Perth. With this reporting regime, the subsea units have an endurance of approximately 4 months before battery re-charging is required.

For more information please contact: Nick Daws, +618 9486 4256 nick@fastwave.com.au

1.b) UTEC SURVEYOR NOW EQUIPPED FOR DEEP OCEAN CABLE ROUTE SURVEYS

The UTEC Surveyor has become the first civilian vessel to be equipped with the powerful Kongsberg EM 122 multi-beam echo sounder only used previously by the US Navy. This gives the ship exceptional deep ocean mapping capabilities that UTEC Survey is now using to support operators in the submarine cable industry. The echo sounder installation was carried-out in Malta during September and has significantly enhanced the capabilities of the UTEC Survey-owned ship.

With 288 simultaneous beams, the new sounder enables the *UTEC Surveyor* to obtain high resolution seabed imagery from as deep as 11,000 metres. This is expected to offer significant cost benefits for clients in the submarine cable industry by enabling deep ocean routes to be chosen with greater confidence and precision.

The *UTEC Surveyor* began operating with the new EM 122 in October when it commenced a project for a major submarine cable installer in the Mediterranean. This contract is expected to continue until March 2009 after when it will be available to operate anywhere in the world that its advanced technology is needed.

The EM 122 system fitted to the UTEC Surveyor has been designed to perform seabed mapping to full ocean depth with an unsurpassed resolution, coverage and accuracy. It is the latest model in a series of deep sea multi-beam echo sounders from Kongsberg. Compared with previous models, it has up to four times the resolution in terms of sounding density through the inclusion of multi-ping capability and more than twice the number of detections per swath. High density signal processing keeps the acoustic footprint small even for the outer beams in the swath. In typical ocean depths Kongsberg claims that a sounding spacing of about 50 m across and along is possible. The achievable swath width of the EM 122 is in the order of 30,000 m, which is 25 per cent greater than Kongsberg's previous model, the EM 120. UTEC Survey now believes that this will enable it to provide a major benefit for customers seeking to optimise their survey operations.

The UTEC Surveyor is a highly specialised 60m survey vessel that is permanently mobilised with a full survey spread including a 2D high resolution seismic streamer system. With newly upgraded accommodation for 32 persons it can also support a wide variety of underwater operations including the deployment of observation class ROVs. It is one of a small fleet of vessels operated by UTEC Survey which operates out of bases in Aberdeen (UK), Accra (Ghana), Calgary (Canada), Houston (USA), Lowestoft (UK) and Singapore. The company is now a rapidly expanding contractor providing a full range of marine survey services to its clients in the oil and gas, telecommunications and maritime management sectors.

For more information contact Paul Eastaugh PEMS Marine & Offshore P paul.eastaugh@btinternet.com

1.c) BOWTECH ANNOUNCE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR FOR BENELUX

Bowtech Products are delighted to announce the appointment of SEATEC Underwater Systems B.V. as exclusive distributors for all of their product range, within the Benelux countries.

Signing the agreement at Bowtech's Headquarters in Aberdeen, Edwin Smits (General Manager) of SEATEC brings existing knowledge of Bowtech's range of underwater cameras, lights and strobes to compliment SEATEC's already proven underwater systems capability.

SEATEC's enthusiasm and ability to provide local support to Benelux countries, from their Dutch facility, has been a key feature in securing this exclusive distributorship.

For further information contact John Rushworth, Marketing and Project Co-Ordinator Bowtech Products Ltd
Tel: +44 (0)1224 772345

1.d) PARTRAC CELEBRATES 5TH BIRTHDAY

Established in autumn 2003, Partrac has grown steadily with an impressive list of over 60 clients in 11 countries. Partrac has worked across a broad range of industries including UK ports and harbours, utility companies, dredging operators, government agencies, local councils and the offshore renewables industry.

They have built up a strong team including marine scientists, oceanographers, sedimentologists and biologists. Our state of the art equipment pool allows us to deliver data acquisition in a wide range of challenging environments.

Of the last five years, Director Kevin Black commented, 'We have always recognised the challenge in this industry of starting a consultancy from scratch. Through hard work and commitment from our employees we have a strong reputation within the industry. We have a good track record in a range of areas including the ports sector and offshore wind and other renewables, including the growing marine tidal power industry.'

For more information visit www.partrac.com or call Judy McKay T: +44 (0) 141 303 8255

1.e) WOODS HOLE GROUP AWARDED UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CONTRACT

Woods Hole Group, Inc. an international, environmental, scientific, and engineering consulting organisation, has been awarded a contract by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District to provide environmental planning and consulting services for various projects located throughout the 14 northeastern states from Maine to Virginia and the nation's capital. The contract can extend for up to five years, with an estimated budget of \$15 million.

"The USACE contract represents a significant building block for Woods Hole Group and the organization's strategic plan," said Bob Hamilton, Vice President for Business Development and Coastal Engineer at Woods Hole Group. "We are fortunate to secure a contract of this type in these economic times, as it will allow the company to utilize its strengths in the areas of environmental, coastal and oceanographic consulting services. The relationship between Woods Hole Group and the USACE will also present

exciting opportunities to make a difference in our local environment while benefiting various public works projects.”

The scope of work will cover the USACE's North Atlantic Division mission area, which includes the New England District, as well as USACE Districts in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk, VA. The North Atlantic Division is one of eight Army Corps of Engineers regional business centers. As a regional business center, the division designs, builds and maintains projects to support the military, develop and protect the nation's water resources, and restore, protect and enhance the environment.

For more information, please contact Bob Hamilton at bhamilton@whgrp.com

1.f) WAVERADAR REX ENTERS THE CHINESE MARKET

RS Aqua Ltd report that during a visit to China in November by managing director, Roger Scrivens, a representation agreement was signed with Qingdao based LinkOcean Technologies Ltd to provide exclusive marketing, sales and technical support for WaveRadar Rex in China. The move to appoint a local distributor was prompted by a surge of interest over the last year from potential Chinese users.

RS Aqua is the global exclusive outlet for the Rosemount radar based offshore wave and sea level device which has risen to claim the number one spot for applications in offshore oil & gas along with emerging markets in offshore renewable energy (wind, waves, tidal), coastal monitoring and tsunami detection.

The agreement was signed with LinkOcean's proprietor Shuren Qin who then accompanied Roger on visits to potential users including Chinese National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC), Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co (CSSC) and Seismological Bureau of Shanghai. Visit www.rsaqua.co.uk for further information or contact product specialist Tony Sanders t.sanders@rsaqua.co.uk for more on WaveRadar Rex

1.g) THE WORLD PORTS CLIMATE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY IAPH

The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) held with assistance of Port of Los Angeles an inaugural meeting of the World Ports Climate Initiative in Los Angeles from November 23rd to 25th 2008. Some 50 experts attended the meeting, representing port authorities in Europe, Americas, Africa and Asia, regional port associations such as AAPA and ESPO, consulting firms and research institutes.

Following up the IAPH resolution on port climate action adopted in Dunkirk last April and also the World Ports Climate Declaration adopted in Rotterdam last July, IAPH launched the global platform called the World Ports Climate Initiative, which is open to IAPH member ports and non-member ports alike. The two-day symposium was to establish a basic framework and work plan for the WPCI as well as to exchange experiences of climate action and technical know-how among port authorities and expert organizations. It was agreed that Chair of IAPH Port Environment Committee, Dr Geraldine Knatz, CEO of Port of Los Angeles, chairs the WPCI with IAPH Managing Director, Fer van de Laar, being Director of the WPCI bureau for overall coordination.

The meeting also discussed extensively case reports among others on climate action, carbon footprint inventory, modeling approaches and innovation of terminal equipment. Also discussed was how to expand the IAPH Tool Box for Port Clean Air Programs to include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from port activity. For more information, please call +81-3-5403-2770.

2. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

2.a) IFHS ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN

William Heaps, Assistant Marine Advisor & Hydrographic Manager of Associated British Ports (ABP), has been elected Chairman of the six-member International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) in succession to Commander Paul Hornsby of the Royal Australian Navy; also elected, as Vice-Chairman, is Aubrey Price, President of The Hydrographic Society of South Africa.

Comprising member organisations in Australasia, Benelux, Denmark, Germany, South Africa and the UK, the IFHS collectively represents the hydrographic interests of individual and corporate members drawn from over 70 countries while maintaining working links with the inter-governmental International Hydrographic Organization in Monaco as well as other leading world survey authorities.

Mr Heaps, who is also Chairman of the International Federation's largest constituent organisation with a worldwide membership, The Hydrographic Society UK, holds a degree in Maritime Studies from the University of Wales and a diploma in Hydrographic Surveying from the University of Plymouth. Formerly Port Hydrographer at Southampton, he is currently responsible for assisting ABP's Marine Advisor in providing an overview of all marine and hydrographic matters within the 21 ports of the Group with particular reference to compliance with the requirements of the Port & Marine Safety Code and other statutory obligations.

The IFHS, which has its administrative headquarters in Plymouth, UK, is at www.hydrographicsociety.org

3. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

3.a) IMarEST METOCEAN AWARENESS TRAINING COURSE ATTRACTS DELEGATES FROM HOME AND OVERSEAS, 10-12 FEB 2009, LONDON, UK

The first Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) three-day Metocean Awareness Course, being held 10-12 February 2009 has already attracted participants from Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway as well as from the UK.

Being held at IMarEST headquarters at 80 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BJ in the heart of the City of London, the course is designed to ensure greater awareness of metocean (meteorology and oceanography) conditions worldwide amongst staff working in the offshore industry.

Metocean has a major impact on design and operations in the offshore industry. From a business perspective, it is imperative that users of metocean information are fully aware of the implications that the weather, waves, currents and water levels can have on their operations or design work. Experience has shown that if they are not, things can go wrong, with serious health and safety and economic consequences.

For further information email technical@imarest.org or visit www.imarest.org/events/metocean

3.b) GLOBAL ENERGY PROSPECTS PRESENTATIONS 2008/9

Douglas Westwood's widely acclaimed presentation on the prospects for the energy sector is to be extended to more cities worldwide.

If you missed the presentation recently in Qatar, this season there will also be presentations in Singapore, Perth, Houston, New York and London.

The focus for each event will reflect the interests of each locality's audience, but all will span the macro factors impacting the future of the energy industry: oil & gas, LNG, offshore, deepwater, renewable energy and more.

For the 2009 presentations John Westwood will be joined by senior colleagues from the Douglas-Westwood team. For further information and dates visit douglas-westwood.com or email: admin@dw-1.com

3.c) NEXT ROS WORKSHOP TO BE PLANNED FOR 2010

The positive feedback of the participants of the 1st International Workshop at the German Northsea Coast from October 30 – 31, 2008 made this workshop a successful event for the FTZ Research and Technology Center Westcoast in Büsum which was sponsored and organized by Helzel Messtechnik GmbH.

Offering 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, more than 30 participants from German and International Institutes and Research Centers used this chance to meet at the Research Center to discuss on extended applications of Remote Ocean Sensing for renewable energies, environmental and economic activities and shipping security.

The participants agreed to proceed with the next ROS Workshops on a two-year-basis. The date and country will be announced soon.

Should you be interested in the workshop proceedings and papers, e-mail hansen@helzel.com

3.d) SUBSEA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE 17-19 FEBRUARY 2009, PERTH, AUSTRALIA

The Society for Underwater Technology will hold the first Annual Subsea Technical Conference in Perth, Western Australia at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre in February 2009.

The aim of the conference is to identify the technical challenges and showcase solutions within the subsea arena. It will provide a forum, which will bring together diverse fields of science and engineering, to share ideas and to maintain high standards in marine science and technology.

'If you are involved in this exciting subsea industry, I urge you to register for this hallmark event as soon as possible, I look forward to welcoming you to Perth for the inaugural SUT Subsea Technical Conference'
Martyn Witton - SUT Perth Branch Chairman.

For further information or to register for this event visit www.sut.org.uk