

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## **1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS**

### **1.a) SONISTICS SUPPLY DUTCH NAVY WITH LOCATION BEACONS**

In the event of an accident, Dutch submariners escaping from or abandoning a distressed submarine will now stand a far greater chance of rapid recovery due to the supply of the SeaMarshall Personal Location Beacon (PLB). These compact units are pressure rated to 300m and are worn as part of the Submarine Escape and Immersion Equipment (SEIE). There is a full range of PLBs available to cover many of the problems encountered off shore.

For full information visit the SeaMarshall website at [www.seamarshall.com](http://www.seamarshall.com)

### **1.b) L-3 KLEIN ASSOCIATES, INC., RELEASED ITS LATEST DIGITAL SIDE SCAN SONAR, THE SYSTEM 3000H**

In response to their customer and market demand the System 3000H combines the capabilities of L-3 Klein's most popular, best selling System 3000 Side Scan Sonar, with the capabilities of L-3 Klein's Model 3900 Search & Recovery System. The System 3000H Side Scan Sonar brings to market the field proven capabilities of the System 3000 which allows interfaces for use with a magnetometer, pressure sensor and acoustic positioning with the added capability of higher resolution imaging with selectable frequencies of 445 kHz and 900kHz.

If you would like any additional information on the System 3000H or any of the L-3 Klein product offerings, please feel free to contact them at +1 603 893 6131 or visit [www.L-3Klein.com](http://www.L-3Klein.com)

### **1.c) HEALTH AND SAFETY OF SPAIN'S OCEANS TO IMPROVE THROUGH NEW MONITORING SOLUTIONS**

The health and safety of Spain's oceans will improve with the addition of several new ocean monitoring solutions provided by Canada's AXYS Technologies Inc. (AXYS) and its Spanish partner, SIDMAR. The projects described below represent three new distinct wins awarded to AXYS and SIDMAR Bernhard Pack S.L. (SIDMAR).

To alleviate drinking water shortages, several Mediterranean countries have taken to installing desalination plants. While the resulting fresh drinking water is much needed, desalination of seawater has two major direct impacts on the environment: high energy consumption and discharge of concentrated brine waste into the sea. If these brine discharges are not properly diluted, they can form highly concentrated benthic bands which can negatively impact the local marine environment. Through the ASDECO project ([www.proyectoasdeco.com](http://www.proyectoasdeco.com)), SIDMAR and AXYS will jointly design, deliver and maintain a WatchKeeper™ buoy. This buoy is outfitted with several water quality sensors which, through the use of an effective telemetry solution offering hourly data transmission, can provide the Spanish government confidence and reassurance that the desalination plants are operating as designed.

Spain's Port Authority (Puertos del Estado) is mandated to provide localized, mission-critical sea-state information. This information allows mariners the confidence to make timely and accurate decisions regarding vessel traffic management within Spanish ports. To support and expand this mandate, Puertos del Estado has purchased and recently deployed four (4) new TRIAXYS™ directional wave buoys. Two of these buoys will be deployed in Algeciras Bay. A third will be deployed in Tenerife (Canary Islands), replacing a competitor's buoy. The fourth buoy will be designed as a replacement and maintenance system, ready to spring into action if needed. With these additions, the number of TRIAXYS™ directional wave buoys within the Puertos del Estado coastal network expands to ten. The service contract for maintaining this world-class coastal monitoring network is managed by SIDMAR.

One of the major challenges that now face EU water and environmental authorities is the implementation of Directive 2000/60/EC, known as the "Directiva Marco de Agua" (Water Framework Directive), or DMA. The goal of the DMA is to achieve 'good ecological status' of all water bodies in the European Union by 2015. Spain's state government in Cantabria has responded to this and has awarded Spanish company Cuevas Gestion de Obras S.L., and consequently SIDMAR and AXYS, with a contract for two (2) met-ocean buoys. AXYS' WatchKeeper™ buoys were once again selected from a competitive process, based on their ability to be customized to meet the DMA requirements. The key benefit however is to Spain's government, which now has equipment, data and increased confidence to show all stakeholders that it is doing its part to help monitor and improve the health of its oceans.

For further information contact AXYS at [info@axys.com](mailto:info@axys.com) or visit [www.axystechnologies.com](http://www.axystechnologies.com). SIDMAR are experts in the marine and operational oceanography sector within Spain. For further company details please see [www.sidmar.es](http://www.sidmar.es)

#### **1.d) BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE INCREASE OF MINIATURE MEMS INERTIAL SENSING TECHNOLOGY**

In December 2008, Xsens completes the staged release of the new generation MTi and MTi-G, its miniature MEMS based Attitude and Heading Reference Systems. The release features new sensor electronics, new algorithms (in firmware) and now also a new software development kit (v3.1.1). The firmware and SDK are available for download for all Xsens customers.

Xsens Technologies B.V. offers small and highly accurate 3D measurement units using miniature MEMS inertial sensor technology. Xsens' products are key solutions for applications such as control, stabilization and navigation of unmanned vehicles, robots and other systems in marine, aerospace and ground applications, as well as human motion capturing.

For more info, please view [www.xsens.com](http://www.xsens.com) or contact [sales@xsens.com](mailto:sales@xsens.com)

#### **1.e) SONAR SIMULATION EXPERT AWARDED TOP INSTITUTE OF ACOUSTICS MEDAL**

Dr Judith Bell from Heriot Watt University has been awarded the Institute of Acoustics' prestigious A.B. Wood Medal 2008 for her work on sonar simulation and the extraction of information from sidescan and synthetic aperture sonar imagery.

Dr Bell was presented with the medal and a cheque for £250 by John Hinton OBE, President of the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) at the Institute's Conference on Underwater Noise Measurement, Impact and Mitigation from 14-15 October. Following receipt of her award, she gave a medal lecture on "Modelling of high frequency sonar systems".

The A B Wood Medal and prize is awarded to young research acousticians for distinguished contributions to the application of underwater acoustics. The award is made annually, in even numbered years to a person from Europe and in odd numbered years to someone from the USA/Canada

On receiving her award, Dr Bell said, "It is always a great satisfaction to be recognised by one's peers and it is a particular honour and privilege to be the recipient of this prestigious award."

Judith Bell's research has concentrated on the area of sonar simulation, where she has developed models to generate realistic synthetic sonar data. This has required careful modelling of the underlying acoustic processes. This research, which grew out of her PhD studies, has led to the development of a range of unique models, using both ray tracing and finite difference time domain techniques.

The ability of these models to provide realistic synthetic data has enabled her to develop a parallel research theme looking at novel algorithms for the processing of sonar data. The core areas of this work have been the development of algorithms for the detection and classification of mine-like objects in sonar imagery, techniques for compensating for the view dependency of sonar imagery, and subsequently techniques for improving the classification of seabed types and reconstructing 3-dimensional scenes from sonar imagery.

The models she has developed can also influence sonar design, as they permit the simulation of new waveforms and sonar systems which aim to improve the detection of specific objects. This has led her to study bio-inspired sonar systems and the use of chirp waveforms for improving sonar performance.

"The Institute is very proud to award the 2008 A. B. Wood Medal to Dr Bell" said John Hinton, President of the IOA. He added, "Her careful and thoughtful studies using this modelling approach have enabled her to make a fundamental and internationally-recognised contribution to the area of sonar data interpretation.

For further information on the IOA, or the Underwater Acoustics Group, please visit [www.ioa.org.uk](http://www.ioa.org.uk)

## 2. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

### 2.a) NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR IMarEST FROM SPRING 2009

Marcus Jones, currently Chief Operation Officer of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), will take up the role of Chief Executive from 1 May 2009, succeeding Keith Read CBE, who has served the Institute first as Director General and then as Chief Executive since January 1999.

"Keith Read's are large shoes into which to step," says Marcus Jones. "On behalf of members of the Institute all over the world I would like to pay tribute to his hard and inspired work over the past ten years. During his period in post, and he is only the fifth man to hold the position in the Institute's long and distinguished history, he has overseen the Institute's move to its headquarters at Coleman Street in the City of London, and transformation from the Institute of Marine Engineers, to its vibrant new role as the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) with a revised Royal Charter and new governance and membership structures."

"I am delighted that he will not be losing touch with the IMarEST; the Board of Trustees has asked him to take on the role of Counsellor to the Board with responsibility for a review of the Institute and pension fund as well as continuing with a number of his external commitments".

Keith Read reviewing his time with the Institute says: "It has been challenging, it has been stimulating, but above all it has been highly enjoyable. Marcus and I have been working closely together over the past few months and this will continue in the months to come. I would like to thank our members, the sector and the IMarEST team in London, and around the world, for their hard work and all they have done to support me and the Institute so splendidly over the past ten years. I am looking forward to my new role within the Institute and to seeing it go from strength to strength under Marcus's leadership."

Looking to the future, Marcus Jones explains: "As a Fellow of the Institute, I have been privileged to work with a strong management team here at IMarEST throughout 2008, a time of streamlining and positive change at the Institute. In the years to come I look forward to working with the HQ team, our overseas divisional officers and our 51 branches and their members around the world as we continue to provide excellent and ever more important services to the marine community."

For more information visit [www.imarest.org](http://www.imarest.org)

### 2.b) NEW VERIPOS MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

Aberdeen-based Veripos, leading GNSS precise positioning supplier to the world offshore industry, has appointed Kevin Murray-Taylor as Business Development Manager for its Europe, Africa & Middle East (EAME) Region with responsibility for continued expansion of its services on behalf of major operators of 3D seismic, survey, DP, construction and pipelay vessels.

With a Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) diploma in Marketing and also holding a BA in Business Studies from Robert Gordon University, he has been associated with the offshore industry for a number of years, having been responsible for sales and marketing of navigation, telemetry and underwater sensors for survey and ROV applications with both CDL and Stenmar Sonavision.

Veripos also announces the appointment of Alex Robinson as Global Finance & Administration Manager. Additionally responsible for assisting with strategic development of business operations, he joins the company from IMC International in Amsterdam for whom he was Business Controller with remits for management of fiscal budgeting and forecasting processes. He had previously held similar posts with Montblanc International BV and Dockers Europe BV, also of Amsterdam, following award of a BA Hons in European Business Management from the University of Abertay and studies at International Ecole de Negotiation in Toulouse, France as well as Fachhochschule in Dortmund, Germany. Both new appointees will report direct to Veripos Managing Director, Walter Steedman. Veripos is at [www.veripos.com](http://www.veripos.com)

### 3. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

#### 3.a) MARELEC 2009, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE 9TH FEBRUARY 2009

MARELEC 2009 is the 6th International Marine Electromagnetics conference. It combines a world class conference with an exhibition and poster session that provides an exciting opportunity for professional scientists and engineers from many disciplines to share their understanding and experience in electromagnetic phenomena in the marine environment. Today this sphere of science and technology is relevant to an ever-increasing number of applications and questions, from the oil and mineral exploration industries to military equipment, and from influences on marine life and materials to sophisticated measurement and modelling tools.

The conference technical committee invites paper and poster proposals in the broad areas of marine electromagnetics concerned with theoretical development and modelling, measurement and analysis, together with case histories where appropriate. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 9th February 2009.

To submit an abstract visit <http://www.marelec.co.uk/papers/>

A limited number of exhibit spaces are available at a cost of £645. Contact [info@marelec.co.uk](mailto:info@marelec.co.uk) for more information.

#### 3.b) NEXT EUROPEAN MULTIBEAM COURSE IN STAVANGER, NORWAY, 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2009

The 50th UNB-OMB / UNH-CCOM Multibeam Sonar Training Course, co-hosted by the Norwegian Hydrographic Service, will be held from 16-21 March at the Victoria Hotel, Skansegaten 1, 4006 Stavanger, Norway, and remains the only course of its type in Europe in 2009.

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 open and further details and application form available at: <http://www.statkart.no/IPS/?module=Articles;action=Article.publicShow;ID=12396>

#### 3.c) US HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCE 2009, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, USA MAY 11- 14, 2009 - CALL FOR PAPERS

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of 300 words or less for papers or posters for presentation at U.S. Hydro 2009.

U.S. Hydro 2009 is a continuation of the series of North American hydrographic conferences that alternate between the United States and Canada. This twelfth U.S. event follows the highly successful U.S. conference in Norfolk in 2007 and last year's well-received Canadian Hydrographic Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. The conference will include workshops on current topics in hydrographic surveying, a commercial exhibition including on-water demonstrations, posters, and a full schedule of technical sessions on the latest developments and applications in hydrographic surveying, multibeam and side scan sonar, data processing and management, electronic charting, marine archaeology, and related topics. Visit the conference website at [www.ushydro2009.com](http://www.ushydro2009.com)

Abstracts for technical papers and posters should be submitted to the Technical Program Chairman, Captain Guy Noll, NOAA ([papers@ushydro2009.com](mailto:papers@ushydro2009.com)) by December 16, 2008. Notification of acceptance will be made by February 1, 2009. The deadline for submission of papers and inclusion on the CD will be March 7, 2009.

The submitted abstract must include the following: *Title of proposed paper; Author name(s) and contact information, including title, employer, address, telephone, and email; Identification of primary author and intended presenter.*

Guidelines for submitting the paper and presentation materials will be sent to authors when notified of acceptance. The final paper must be consistent with the approved abstract.

## 4. JOB POSTINGS

### 4.a) GEMS SURVEY SEEKS CHIEF GEOPHYSICIST, DEVIZES, UK

GEMS Survey seeks applications for a new role within their expanding Geophysics division. The Position would be based in the Devizes offices and report directly to the Geophysics Manager. As one of the most rapidly expanding Geophysical companies in the industry, GEMS are highly active in the Cables sector, the Oil and Gas sector and are the foremost specialists in the UNCLOS/EEZ sector.

The successful candidate to be given this exciting new role within GEMS would be looked on to enhance GEMS reputation in all market sectors and prepare the division for a continued expansion.

Excellent communication skills with the ability to communicate with clients, partners and employees, and a dynamic, hands-on approach to delivering geophysical services will be a key requirement of this position. Key activities include developing the company's geophysical strategy and interacting with clients regarding geophysical integrity of the services. Preferred qualifications include Master's degree in Geophysics, 10+ years experience in a Geophysical services company and 3-5 years in manager/supervision position. GEMS offer an informal and international working environment, competitive salary, and good insurance and pension schemes.

If you are interested in this role, please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to [maxine.collins@gems-group.com](mailto:maxine.collins@gems-group.com). All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence.

### 4.b) PRODUCT SALES MANAGER POSITION, KONGSBERG UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY INC., LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, USA

Kongsberg Underwater Technology Inc., are a supplier of advanced hydroacoustic systems and underwater instrumentation including:

Autonomous underwater vehicles; Multibeam and single beam echo sounders; Sub-bottom profilers and side scan sonars; Motion reference units and navigation systems

Primary responsibilities: To create and develop business relationships with senior managers, technical supervisors and engineers by giving expert technical sales support and quotations on a wide range of Kongsberg's "Subsea" products and integrated systems. Significant domestic, some international travel and occasional work aboard offshore vessels is to be expected.

Qualifications: Strong technical background, capability to work independently in the field and directly with the customer. Degree in engineering, GIS, or marine science and/or technology or equivalent work experience is strongly desired.

Experience in one or more of the following: geophysical and/or hydrographic survey, oceanographic research, sonar, or marine instrumentation. Proposal writing and government contracting experience is desirable. Prior employment with NOAA, Navy or in academia is a plus.

Excellent company-paid benefits for the employee and family. 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.