

oceanbuzz!

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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) UK BASED FATHOMS LTD OVERCOMES UNSEASONAL WEATHER TO COMPLETE A NEW SURVEY OF THE NORTH CORNWALL AND DEVON COASTLINE

Fathoms Ltd. is a long established UK based Survey Company and has recently completed a major bathymetric survey (overcoming frequently unfavourable weather) of the north Cornwall and Devon coasts. This survey was commissioned by the Channel Coastal Observatory (based at the National Oceanographic Centre in Southampton) and forms part of a national programme primarily aimed at collecting data to be used in a new coastal model being built to assist with coastal flooding studies.

The survey involved the collection of detailed bathymetric data along the whole coastline, stretching some 120km northwards from Padstow to Lynmouth. This wild and exposed coastline includes some areas that are so remote and hazardous that the British Admiralty chart still shows that the seabed had never been surveyed before. So some sections of Fathoms Ltd's new survey can be called 'original surveys': an unusual feat in 21st century Britain.

The client specified that surveys should span from the mean neap low tide water mark right out to one kilometre offshore. As a result, close inshore work (often hugging the cliff face) was required. So – to improve productivity and provide the client with the best results – Fathoms Ltd. adopted a special approach that allowed excellent progress to be made in the infrequent weather 'windows' of calmer conditions. As a result, high quality survey data was delivered within the contract deadline.

Fathoms Ltd. is also at the forefront of environmental work on the seabed. It has recently won a major new contract from Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd. (a subsidiary of the UK Atomic Energy Authority) to locate and recover radioactive particles from the seabed off the north Scottish coast. Fathoms Ltd. has designed and produced its own 'seabed crawler' named TROL (Tracked Robotic Offshore Logger) which travels along the seabed to map where radioactive particles are and then to recover them.

Matt French sums up Fathoms Ltd's recent successes by saying "I am proud that Fathoms' skilled team is collecting survey data to assess the risk of coastal flooding in the South West and helping to clear away radioactive particles from the seabed off north Scotland. Both contracts – in their very different ways - are valuable long term contributions to improving the environment."

Please contact Fathoms for further information on Tel: +44 (0)1458 251140 or Email: fathoms@fathoms.co.uk www.fathoms.co.uk

1.b) VERIPOS EXTENDS MIDDLE EAST OPERATIONS

Aberdeen-based Veripos has strengthened the presence of its worldwide GNSS-based precise positioning service for offshore applications with the appointment of Emphor FZCO of Dubai, UAE as exclusive agent for sales and support of its products and services throughout Middle East regions. The services comprise Veripos' complete range of high-precision global satellite positioning capabilities including its Ultra service and Precise Point Positioning (PPP) decimetre solution in addition to proprietary quality control software and advanced integrated user mobile hardware units.

With offices in Jebel Ali, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, Emphor is a leading independent contractor within the Centena Group of companies providing a wide range of dedicated marine electronics services. Together with its associate Centena company, Maritronics, it has specialised in the provision, commissioning, installation and maintenance of marine electronics systems since 1980.

Commenting on the appointment, Walter Steedman, Veripos' Managing Director, said: "We are absolutely delighted with this cooperation, which will significantly strengthen our activities in this developing region. We firmly believe that both our organisations share a philosophy of delivering the best products and services with particular focus on customer support and operational excellence".

Philip Cherian, Manager of Channel Partners at Emphor, further added: "With this appointment, Veripos has established a full-time service centre for the Middle East region in support of its complete range of services for professional offshore applications. Moreover, its products and services complement and significantly extend Emphor's own range of marine electronics offerings".

Emphor is at www.emphor.biz and Centena at www.centena.biz . Veripos is at www.veripos.com .

1.c) NOMINATIONS STILL SOUGHT FOR AMSI BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2009 – DEADLINE EXTENDED!

The deadline has been extended to 31 January 2009 for nominations for the AMSI Business Person of the Year Award 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 still 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 1 April 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.

amsi@maritimeindustries.org

1.d) SONARDYNE OPENS IMPORTANT NEW PREMISES IN SINGAPORE

UK High Commissioner, Mr Paul Madden officially opened the new premises of Sonardyne Asia Pte Ltd in Singapore today. He unveiled a plaque before an invited audience of leading customers and local business representatives before joining them on a tour of the modern new facility. The party also included Sonardyne's Group Managing Director, Barry Clutton and Strategic Business Development Director, Rob Balloch who travelled out from the UK to mark the occasion.

Sonardyne is a world leader in the design and manufacture of subsea acoustic systems and has had a regional office in Singapore for many years. Following the upsurge of offshore activity in the South-East Asian region there has been a dramatic increase in demand for Sonardyne products and services. This has made it necessary for the company to move to the new, custom-designed building in Loyang so it can maintain the high levels of support that its clients are used to. Sonardyne's expansion in Singapore is in line with the growth of the Sonardyne Group worldwide which has also led to an expansion of support facilities globally.

At over 9,000 square feet, the newly constructed building in Loyang is more than three times the size of the previous office and has been fitted-out to the highest specification. New facilities include a specially manufactured acoustic test tank while a modern service and repair area enables the rapid turnaround of customers' equipment. A large store also incorporates a secure area for controlled products such as Sonardyne's advanced 'Lodestar' Attitude and Heading Reference System. The high demand for tuition in the use of Sonardyne's advanced products has also resulted in a well-appointed training room being incorporated within the new building where monthly courses will be held.

Commenting on the opening of the new premises, John Ramsden, Senior VP of Sonardyne Asia said, "Sonardyne is well known within the industry for providing the highest levels of support. Investing in this new dedicated building enables us to offer our customers throughout the Asian markets even better service." He added, "In addition to supporting our core business within the oil and gas industry, our new facility will also allow us to support Sonardyne's diversification into new markets. These include the tsunami warning system we have installed in the Bay of Bengal and diver detection sonars that are attracting interest in the region."

For more information visit www.sonardyne.co.uk

1.e) MARPORT AND ROLLS-ROYCE ENTER AGREEMENT FOR SOFTWARE DEFINED SENSORS

Marport, a subsea acoustics technology company, announced today that it has signed a Product Development Agreement (PDA) with the marine division of Rolls-Royce, a global leader in marine propulsion, engineering and deck handling equipment.

The PDA resulted from a Memorandum of Understanding that both companies formalised in late 2007. Under the recently signed PDA, Marport and Rolls-Royce will develop software defined, wireless acoustic sensors for deck machinery controls used in commercial fishing, offshore supply & service and ocean energy applications.

Marport and Rolls-Royce will co-develop sensors and data analysis systems to maximize deck machinery utilization and automation. It is expected that the initial solutions will be deployed in the global fishing industry as part of a new Rolls-Royce E-Trawl™ system. When integrated with Marport's software-defined acoustic sensors, a fishing vessel's auto-trawl control system will be supplied with real-time trawl performance information that enables the gear to be automatically adjusted for optimized fishing.

Karl Kenny, Marport President & CEO said, "Marport is very pleased to continue its collaboration with Rolls-Royce Marine to further develop our software defined sensors for new applications in commercial fishing and offshore energy."

"This agreement provides Rolls-Royce with access to Marport's market leading sensor technologies that will broaden our product offering in next generation deck machinery control systems. We hope to continue our co-operation with Marport to develop other new technologies and products to serve future market demands," said Sveinung Giske, General Manager Sales in the marine division of Rolls-Royce.

For more information, please contact: Marport Deep Sea Technologies Inc. Glenda Leyte Marketing Manager, St. John's, Newfoundland +1 709 757 5757, ext 242 or Email: gleyte@marport.com

1.f) FUGRO HONORS DUNBAR BROTHERS FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Labor statistics show that the average number of years that employees stay with a company is four years. But for survey firm Fugro in Lafayette, Louisiana, these statistics have no bearing.

Brothers Bill Dunbar (40 years) and Don Dunbar (35 years) were both honored recently for their long years of service. Both brothers graduated from Opelousas High School and T.H. Harris Vo-Tech School; Bill in Civil Engineering Technology and Don in Industrial Electronics. The family tradition of staying with a job was passed down to the brothers by their father, Harold William Dunbar who worked for Bordelon Motors in Opelousas for 35 years; and their grandfather, Ewel Breaux, who worked for Montgomery Ward in Lafayette, also for 35 years.

When Bill started off at the original "John E. Chance & Associates" company, he worked as a draftsman, but also worked in the field on land and offshore. Today, he is Supervisor of Lafayette Survey Operations for one of the Fugro companies, John Chance Land Surveys. He considers the biggest change within the company that he has seen through the years is technology. Everything is done by computer and much easier to update.

Don's career took another direction. He began at the same company by repairing portable radios which were essential for communication on offshore projects. Gradually, he was responsible for taking care of radar and navigating aids on vessels. The opportunity for travel throughout the U.S. was offered to Don as part of the company's introduction in 1986 of the first privately-owned satellite positioning system, called STARFIX®. Today, Don is Manager of Marine Electronics for offshore survey firm Fugro Chance Inc.

For more information email dpoche@fugrochance.com

2. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

2.a) TECHNICAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED FOR THE TRITECH GROUP

The co-founder and Technical Director of Trittech, Dick Wright, has made the decision to step down from his current position. Likewise Marcus Cardew stands down from his position as Research and Development Director.

Tritech, which was acquired by Halma p.l.c. in November 2006, has won more business awards than any other Scottish company. Since its inception in 1990 Tritech has become world leader in the provision of high technology subsea, acoustic, video and mechanical products.

With effect from 1 January 2009 John Smith, the current Technical Director of SRD (Sonar Research and Development also acquired by Halma p.l.c.) becomes Technical Director of the Tritech Group. This new position assumes the responsibility for technical research and development throughout the group.

John Smith has a BSc Hons (first) in Electronics from U.M.I.S.T. Joining SRD in 1989 as an Electronics Engineer he has progressed through the company to Technical Manager in 1995 and then Technical Director in 2005.

Leading key developments on SRD's digital multibeam sonar systems Smith has very successfully grown with the company and now expanding his 20 years of expertise throughout the Tritech Group.

Headquartered in Aberdeen, the Tritech Group employs 130 staff at three UK locations. For more information visit www.tritech.co.uk

3. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS

3.a) IMarEST A SPONSOR OF SMI CONFERENCE

Sustaining the UK maritime industries at home and abroad is of vital importance to the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) and its membership, which is why it is delighted to be a sponsor of the forthcoming Society of Maritime Industries' (SMI) conference of the same name.

Being held in Glasgow on 11 and 12 February, 'Sustaining the UK Maritime Industries at Home and Abroad' is designed to inform and promote debate on the important factors that contribute to the continued dynamism of the nation's maritime industries. www.maritimeindustries.org/events

"There is true synergy between the SMI conference and our aims and objectives," says Graham Hockley IMarEST's Director of Membership Services and Professional Affairs who will be at the conference. "I am looking forward to renewing many acquaintances and making new ones; and delighted that delegates will have the opportunity to take away the latest issues of Shipping World & Shipbuilder incorporating Maritime IT & Electronic, Marine Engineers Review (MER) with its special Naval supplement when they are at the conference."

The two-day conference features sessions on: The UK naval and maritime industry's home market; The changing face of export business for the UK's naval and maritime industries; Realising the UK naval and maritime industries' potential, and includes optional industrial visits and a structured programme of one-to-one meetings between delegates as well as a reception and conference dinner in the former Royal Yacht Britannia moored close by at Leith.

Full information on IMarEST and the services it offers its members is available at www.imarest.org and from the Institute at 80 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7382 2600, Fax: +44 (0)207382 2670, info@imarest.org

3.b) IMCA PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON TRAINING OFFSHORE SUPERVISORS

A 'Catch 22' situation has been solved by the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) with the publication of its latest guidance 'Outline syllabus for training of personnel in supervisory positions' (IMCA C 011).

"Within the relevant committees and at our annual seminar members have discussed the pressing need for guidance on the training of offshore supervisors, having found that those who have demonstrated technical competence can often be promoted to positions of responsibility, only to find that they have inadequate competence in supervisory skills, and an incomplete or superficial understanding of the business of leading and managing their fellow employees," explains IMCA's Chief Executive, Hugh Williams. "The result can be an unhappy one for both the individual concerned and for employers.

"A number of IMCA member companies have in-house courses on leadership, management and supervisory skills. We have therefore drawn together some of the subject headings from these courses in the proposed syllabus for the training of supervisors, which can be used by members and other training providers to develop a course appropriate to their needs."

The aim of the new document is to provide a framework or syllabus for a training course suitable for supervisors and team leaders from all areas within the marine contracting sector, both on and offshore. It could also apply to newly appointed managers and those who have some experience of managing but who have received no formal training. The syllabus aims to provide clear guidelines on supervisory and leadership skills, as this aspect of the role of the supervisor or manager can be both difficult and important.

Under ten main headings - The Role of the Supervisor; Managing Yourself; Managing and Supervising Your Team; Cultural Differences; Communications; Delegation; Managing, Assessing and Monitoring Performance; Training and Development; Safety Leadership and Management; and Managing Change - the slim volume lists a number of vital points for discussion in a course which, it is suggested, would take two days or be tailored to the needs of IMCA member companies.

Copies of IMCA C 011 are available at £2.50 for members; £5.00 for non members (zero VAT, plus 20% for delivery outside Europe) online from www.imca-int.com or from the Association at 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR. Tel: +44 (0)20 7824 5520; Fax: +44 (0)20 7824 5521.

4. JOB POSTINGS

4.a) OCEAN BUSINESS 2009 - TEMPORARY ROLES AVAILABLE, UK

The Ocean Business team are looking for temporary staff to work at the show this year. Probably best suited to a student studying a relevant course, there are multiple roles to be filled. If you are available to work from 30th March to 2nd April at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK then please send your CV to cb@intelligentexhibitions.com NB Travel and accommodation costs will not be covered by the Ocean Business team. Deadline for applications 2nd February 2009.