

oceanbuzz!

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

Oceanbuzz is a new weekly e-newsletter that has been launched as a direct result of industry asking if we would take up the challenge of compiling and sending out news snippets from around the globe. Not intended to compete or replace any of the well established magazines or news journals that have the expertise to cover a story in detail – Oceanbuzz is more about sharing news in a quick and easy method without excessive amounts of links and/or information. If the newsletter is received positively and the stories keep coming (send to info@intelligentexhibitions.com), we'll aim to distribute on a weekly basis. Let us know what you think – good and bad and please pass on to colleagues in the industry who you think may be interested to receive Oceanbuzz. Happy reading.

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1. OCEAN BUSINESS 2007 NEWS

More than 150 companies are exhibiting at the upcoming Ocean Business event being held 27 – 29 March 2007 at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton . Over the coming weeks we will keep you up-to-date with information to help you plan your attendance. Remember, Ocean Business is FREE TO ATTEND and not only do you have the opportunity to visit the exhibition – but also attend more than 150 individual hours of training and demonstration sessions. Register to attend now at www.oceanbusiness2007.com

1.a) SONARDYNE TO LAUNCH NEW USBL PRODUCT RANGE

Sonardyne International Ltd, Yateley, UK, will be presenting its latest range of USBL (Ultra-Short BaseLine) positioning products at next months (March 27th-29th) Ocean Business exhibition in Southampton (Stand No.90). The family of USBL systems; Scout, Ranger and Fusion, will be demonstrated at Ocean Business alongside the first public appearance of Lodestar. The launch of this exciting new product is expected to attract considerable attention from the industry and represents a major departure from Sonardyne's traditional acoustic navigation, positioning and communication products. The new line-up offers a layered approach to system selection from simple through to complex and now enables customers to easily identify the USBL product that best suits their underwater tracking and positioning needs. www.sonardyne.com

1.b) NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH: GeoChirp 3D from GEOACOUSTICS

The GeoChirp 3D from GeoAcoustics Ltd (Great Yarmouth, UK) provides the shallow survey market with a new tool to image sub-surface structures and buried objects.

The GeoChirp 3D provides a three-dimensional image of the sub-seabed with typical penetration of 10 – 30 m and decimetric horizontal and vertical resolution, with the results presented as a high resolution 3D seismic volume. Designed to be deployed from small vessels of opportunity (anything with a Hi-AB crane or 'A' frame will do), the GeoChirp 3D can be applied to targets of marine geological, engineering, archaeological and defence interest.

The capabilities of the system have been shown in several port investigations and marine archeological sites. In Southampton (UK) it was used for mapping a buried cofferdam, prior to possible future dredging works. William Heaps, Hydrographic Manager, Associated British Ports, said "While we knew of the cofferdam's presence from original engineering drawings, this data gave us a whole new picture, in 3 dimensions, of what was really going on under the surface." Developed in partnership with the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, the GeoChirp 3D has successfully transferred the well established principles of conventional 3D reflection seismics to the world of high-resolution Chirp sub-bottom profiler technology. For more info contact Tom Hiller at tom.hiller@geoacoustics.co.uk or visit www.geoacoustics.com

1.c) NOVEL SENSOR SYSTEMS FOR DETECTING WATER CONTAMINATION

Chelsea Technolgoies Group will exhibit novel sensor systems that have been developed alongside the UK and US government agencies and departments for use in detecting water contamination. With the continued threat of terrorism, CTG has been testing the highly advanced Fast Repetition Rate Fluorescence (FRRF) technology (FAST^{tracka} II) in the critical role of environmental monitoring and protection. FAST^{tracka} II will be on show at Ocean Business with demonstrations available throughout the day.

FAST^{tracka} II is perfect for deployment at critical points in water distribution systems, it can detect contamination before and after treatment. Already, the system has detected several chemicals during investigations, including methylparathion (an insecticide that is structurally and functionally similar to the nerve gas sarin), potassium cyanide (which can result in nervous system and respiratory failure), diuron and paraquat. Whether the pollution is accidental or intentional, an accurate and swift response is vital following notification through an early warning-monitoring network (also under development by CTG). The response time for FAST^{tracka} II is a matter of seconds. For more information contact www.chelsea.co.uk

1.d) ASL TO DEMONSTRATE NEW ICE PROFILER AND WATER COLUMN PROFILER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

ASL will be demonstrating and discussing their new hardware and software at Ocean Business. Training sessions are free to attend and are being held on the 27th March from 1130 – 1230 hours and again on 28th March from 1500 – 1600 hours. As with all the companies offering training at Ocean Business, ASL have a limited number of tickets available to reserve in advance - otherwise, registration for interested parties is in person onsite at Ocean Business. For more information on obtaining an ASL demonstration ticket contact Terry Sloane at Planet Ocean terry@planet-ocean.co.uk

2.GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

2.a)NOCS 6500m PRESSURE TESTING FACILITY UNDERGONE REFURB

During 2006, to improve the service provided to the users, the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton's (NOCS), UK large pressure vessel underwent a complete refurbishment. The vessel is now fully operational again and available to meet your pressure testing requirements. The improvements did not stop with just the vessel; new external double-doors were also added to the pressure testing area to improve access so you can now more easily test larger pieces of equipment at NOCS without the worry of how you are going to get into the centre. The vessel is part of a pressure testing facility at NOCS that includes two hyperbaric pressure vessels and an acoustic test tank. The facility is currently utilised all year round by over 60 companies and plays an integral part in the testing of much of NOCS own equipment.

A Brochure on the pressure testing facility, including full specifications, is available to download from the NOCS website (<http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/nmf/Downloads/pressuretesting.pdf>)

For further information on the Pressure Testing Facility at NOCS please contact Kevin Saw (ksw@noc.soton.ac.uk)

2.b)RUTGERS' SUBMARINE GLIDER COMPLETES A MISSION OFF THE COAST OF ANTARCTICA

Scientists at the Coastal Ocean Observation Laboratory (COOL) in Rutgers' Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences have recently completed a 24 day mission with the Slocum electric glider, built by Massachusetts based Webb Research Corp. The glider has been gathering data in support of the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research project, which monitors changes taking place in key ecosystems around the world and was equipped with sensors to measure salinity, temperature, turbidity and optical qualities of the waters off the Antarctic Peninsula. Operated by a team of researchers some 7000 miles away, the glider phoned home more than 1,300 casts in this short mission. Twelve years of previous shipboard research in the area had produced 1,600 casts.

2.c)SADERET APPOINTED A SATEL UK DISTRIBUTOR

Satel have awarded a UK distributorship to Saderet. Based in Finland, Satel are leading manufacturers of radio data communications systems for a wide variety of applications. Satel products are well known for quality and performance, and are widely used in conjunction with GPS, remote sensing, industrial, and telematics technologies. Fully type approved to meet pan-European requirements, the transceivers are intuitive to use and are manufactured to such standards that operation in any environment is possible.

www.saderet.co.uk

2.d)SEATRONICS PLACE A SIGNIFICANT ORDER WITH VALEPORT

The Seatronics Group, worldwide marine technology rental specialists, has placed a significant order for group usage with Valeport. The equipment has been ordered in direct response to the high demand for Valeport products from Seatronics' customers. Products ordered include numerous Midas CTD's, SVP's, and the Midas SVX2 - Valeport's new small-scale combined CTD/SVP. Water level recorders suitable for both long and short-term deployments were selected, as well as high accuracy pressure sensors. The Mini IPS (Intelligent Pressure Sensor) and current meters such as Valeport's popular lightweight Model 106 were amongst the product list, and current meter Model 803 which is designed for use on ROVs and other underwater vehicles. www.valeport.co.uk

2.e)AANDERAA CURRENT METERS FOR IRISH SEA FISHERIES BOARD

Hampshire, UK based RS Aqua Ltd, report that the Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM) has taken delivery of 3 x RCM-9LW shallow water, single point current meters. The instruments, manufactured by Aanderaa Data Instruments (AADI) Bergen, Norway, are fitted with Temperature, Pressure and Conductivity sensors in addition to Doppler current transducers. The RCM-9LW units will be used by BIM to monitor conditions in the vicinity of mussel farms around the Irish coastline. As part of the supply contract, RS Aqua is providing a free product training course for BIM personnel at their Dublin head office.

The RCM-9LW was introduced by AADI during 2006 to provide a shallow-water, low cost option within the hugely popular RCM-9/11 range. The "LW" version is restricted to a maximum water depth rating of 300m and can be fitted with any combination of the AADI "Smart" sensors for Temperature, Pressure, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen and Turbidity. Further details on the RCM range can be found at www.rsaqua.co.uk or by contacting d.goldsmith@rsaqua.co.uk

3. TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

3.a) NEW HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING COURSE

Skilltrade together with STC have started their first hydrographic surveying course to help address the real shortage of trained hydrographic surveyors and have attracted delegates from The Netherlands, Ireland, England and Poland. The course has been developed in line with the requirements as laid down by the IHO (International Hydrographic Office) and has resulted in a very comprehensive practical programme. The course is divided into four modules and includes: a 5-day basic safety training course; a 3-week nautical course encompassing all basic competencies of the Class "B" program including mathematics, statistics, physics, nautical science and communication technology; a module on Bathymetry, Tides, Water Levels and Flow, Positioning, Hydrographic Practice, Hydrographic Data Management, Environmental Science and Legal Aspects; practical training with a company. The requirement to follow all modules depends on the candidates background, experience, assessment form and interview. Every week there is a different guest lectures from or visit to: anchor lay-barge, port surveying, environment surveying, multibeam echosounders, wreck survey, pipeline survey, cartography, ROV surveys and shallow water surveys plus the surveys of the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy.

To get a taster of what the more intensive course will offer, plan to attend the complimentary training course that is being offered at Ocean Business 2007 on Wednesday 28 March 2007 from 1330 1630 hours.

Advance registration for this course can only be secured by contacting Skilltrade directly or alternatively you can register directly onsite. For more information contact JStam@skilltrade.nl
www.skilltrade.nl

4. EVENTS

4.a) BOB DOWNING CHARITY GOLF DAY

In memory of Bob Downing, who passed away suddenly just prior to Oceanology last year, friends and colleagues at Maritech Consultants Ltd are organizing a Charity Golf day on the 30th March 2007 in Great Yarmouth, UK. There are still a few places remaining for the anyone interested in participating. The event will include an auction and raffle with all money raised going to the British Heart foundation. If you wish to donate a prize for the raffle or auction contact Kerry at Maritech telephone number +44 (0)1493 331822. For more information www.ilexuk.com/golfday.htm.

4.b) 3RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY UK

All fully paid-up Individual and Corporate Members are invited to attend the 3rd Annual General Meeting of The Hydrographic Society UK being held alongside Ocean Business 2007 at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton at 1300 hours. Please come along and have your say on the future of the Society. Light refreshments will be provided. Non-members, with an interest in the activities of The Hydrographic Society, are also welcome to attend as observers. <http://www.ths.org.uk/>

4.c) TELEDYNE RD INSTRUMENTS "ADCPS IN ACTION" USER'S CONFERENCE

Teledyne RD Instruments has announced the dates for its 6th ADCPs in Action User's Conference to be hosted at the Catamaran Resort in San Diego, California on November 5-7, 2007. This annual users conference attracts industry experts and users from around the globe who share their experience and address the topics deemed most important to today's ADCP/DVL users. Teledyne RDI is formally seeking ADCPs in Action 2007 speakers, co-sponsors, poster paper presenters, and attendees. For full information, visit http://www.rdinstruments.com/adcps_action, or contact Julie Harris (Tel. +1-858-842-2600 / E-mail: jharris@teledyne.com.)

5. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

5.a) DEREK LYNCH NEW DIRECTOR FOR VERIPOS

Derek Lynch has been appointed Global Sales & Marketing Director of Veripos, the Aberdeen-based GNSS specialists providing globalised precise positioning services for the offshore oil and gas industries. Reporting to Managing Director Tony Leary, he will be responsible for continuing development of Veripos' worldwide marketing, sales and commercial activities with particular emphasis on its operations throughout Europe, the Americas and Australasia as well as the Middle and Far East. Mr Lynch, 45, joins Veripos from Nautronix with whom he was formerly Vice-President of Sales for its Vessel Control Systems (DP) division, now part of the L-3 Communications group of companies.

5.b) ANDREW MCMURTRIE – JOINS GEO CENTURY

Andrew McMurtrie, previously of Nautronix joins Geo Century Ltd as Sales Director. Meet up with Andrew at the Offshore Survey 2007 conference where he will be speaking on Deepwater Metrology.

6.JOB POSTINGS

Send us your job postings and we will distribute them to the international ocean community.

If you wish to be removed from this e-newsletter simply respond with 'REMOVE from Oceanbuzz' in the subject line.

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