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

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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) BOWTECH ANNOUNCE UNIQUE HYPERBARIC LED LIGHTING

Further development in Bowtech's burgeoning AquaVision range hails the launch of their unique LED Hyperbaric lighting, bringing a lunge forward in safety and reliability through innovation utilising advanced technology. The 100,000 hour life LED-320/80 Chamber and LED-360 Bunk Lights have been designed specifically for use within the Hyperbaric Diving environment, whether that be in Hyperbaric Chambers, TUP's, Diving Bells or even Wet Bells.

The Chamber Lamps are available in Dry or Wet options, which are then fitted with a helium relief valve to ensure the safe egress of any gas which may migrate through the sealing faces during compression, thus eliminating any potentially explosive hazard. The lights run very cool compared with conventional lamps, of an equivalent output, due to the use of highly efficient, high brightness Bowtech LED clusters. They also produce at least double the lumen output.

When supplied as a Chamber lamp, the light is populated with a White and Red LED cluster to allow them to be remotely switched from white light for the waking hours and red light during resting hours. If supplied as a Bunk light, an extended bezel is fitted to provide a focused beam. For more information, please contact: Mike Winstanley at bowtech@bowtech.co.uk www.bowtech.co.uk

1.b) PARTRAC ANNOUNCE RECORD SALES OF SEDIMENT STABILITY INSTRUMENT

Glasgow-based marine consultants Partrac Ltd have announced a continued and rising interest in sediment stability instruments - the Cohesive Strength Meter (CSM). Finance Director Peter Wilson said: "We have recently processed five orders for the device, including WWF (Honduras), University of Buenos Aires, University of Antwerp, University of Tennessee and the US Department of Agriculture. We're not surprised to see the Belgians purchase units as they have significant sediment management issues, but we are also delighted to generate sales in Southern, Central and Northern America."

Peter Wilson also commented upon the recent use of the Cohesive Strength Meter in non-marine applications. He said: "Although the CSM was developed for use in marine and estuarine environments, the methodology and technology is transferable to other sedimentary environments. For instance, the CSM is increasingly being used in terrestrial soil erosion studies and in riverbank stability analyses, both here in the UK and in Central America."

Partrac Technical Director Kevin Black recently visited the WWF and a multi-national Agri-business in Honduras, to train scientists on the CSM with a view to helping them reduce their soil loss and consequential environmental impact. For further information and a brochure, please contact Peter Wilson at Partrac Ltd Email: pwilson@partrac.com Tel: +44 (0)141 303 8255

1.c) GARDLINE MARINE SCIENCES OPENS NEW AUSTRALIAN OFFICE

Gardline Marine Sciences has established a regional operations and marketing centre in Perth, Western Australia to further develop the growing business in Australia and South East Asia. Simon Redford has been appointed as Regional Manager - Oil and Gas. With over 25 years experience working within the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry, Simon brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of this highly competitive market. During the 1990s, Simon was instrumental in establishing Gardline's successful joint venture company in Australia, which undertook a variety of survey related projects generating AUS\$ 35m revenue. The new Australian office will compliment other regional head offices in Houston and Singapore to improve customer service worldwide.

The company currently operates a fleet of nine dedicated survey vessels, which are permanently mobilised with fully integrated equipment packages, which can be readily deployed and can easily accommodate additional specialised equipment as each survey dictates. For further information contact Simon Redford at 33a Walters Drive, Osborne Park WA 6017, Australia. Tel: + 61 (0) 8 9205 4090 or alternatively simon.redford@gardline.com www.gardlinemarinesciences.com

1.d) FUGRO COMMENCES HIGH RESOLUTION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY DATA ACQUISITION FOR GRANBY OIL AND GAS

Fugro commences a programme of approximately 3,200 kms of 2D geophysical data acquisition with its vessel "Fugro Meridian" for Granby Oil and Gas. The programme of work will be carried out over 3 separate survey areas in UKCS Quads 9, 14 and 16 respectively. The surveys in Quads 9 and 14 are being shot with a high density line spacing which will feed into Fugro's 2D-to-3D geophysical data conversion package, GeoQube.

GeoQube processing converts closely spaced 2D survey lines into a 3D volume that can be loaded onto a 3D workstation delivering the functionality of 3D visualisation and interpretation. Fugro is very pleased to have been chosen by Granby for their first geophysical operation and to be collecting the first modern dataset over the acreage. For more info contact c.mott@fugro.com or andy.cowlard@fugro-fsi.com

1. e) HYDROID WINS SECOND PHASE CONTRACT FROM ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY FOR AUTONOMOUS UNDERWATER VEHICLES

Hydroid, LLC announced today that it has entered the second phase of a contract signed in 2006 with the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN). The order for an additional Hydroid REMUS 100 AUV system was awarded after six months of extensive trials with the first two deployed systems by the RNZN, one of the most modern naval forces in Southeast Asia. The order for an additional REMUS 100, which expands the RNZN's fleet to three REMUS 100 vehicles in total, is part of a larger Mine Countermeasure (MCM) capability being delivered to the RNZN by New Zealand Ocean Technology, Ltd. The original REMUS 100 systems, delivered by Hydroid in 2006 and 2007, as well as the new vehicle, are configured with a sensor suite specifically designed to meet the RNZN's requirements for MCM activities.

"The REMUS 100 with dual frequency side scan is uniquely suited for New Zealand's environment where underwater cameras often have limited utility," said Commander Gordon Stamp of the Royal New Zealand Navy. "Hydroid's AUVs provide us with excellent acoustic images upon which we can quickly identify abnormalities that require further investigation." For more info contact Liz Boal, Greenough Communications, lboal@greenoughcom.com www.hydroid.com

1.f) HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INFORMATION RELEASED IN GOOGLE EARTH FORMAT

The Hydrography Unit of the MCA's Navigation Safety branch have released a selection of files for download to the general public which provide information regarding some of the MCA's bathymetric multibeam surveys. Rob Spillard, Hydrography Manager, says "All seabed data that the MCA gathers is used to keep UK nautical charts and publications up-to-date to support safety of navigation in UK waters. However, our data can be used for many other purposes and we are hoping that, by publishing the data on our web site in a special layer, viewable in "Google Earth", we will encourage other government and non-government organisations to share seabed data with us, thereby saving costs for everybody. In addition, we are also pleased to show the public where their money is being spent and hope that, by doing this, we may also receive suggestions regarding new areas that should be considered for surveying so as to further improve safety for the mariner." The files can be viewed by downloading free Google Earth and show extensive information about the areas the MCA has surveyed in recent years. Each file includes an image of the surveyed seabed. Download files from the the Hydrography website at www.mcga.gov.uk/hydrography. The files are not to be used for navigation. For further information please contact Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, on: (023) 8032 9401 www.mcga.gov.uk

2. EVENTS

2. a) JOINT NOC EVENT – BREAKFAST CLUB AND TECHNOLOGY MARKETPLACE

On 10 July 2007 the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS). UK will be hosting a Joint Even the Breakfast Club meeting and the Technology Marketplace. The Breakfast Club will provide you as manufacturers and service providers from the marine industry the opportunity to meet with NERC marine facilities users and specifiers, providing a look ahead for you on the requirements of the National Marine Equipment Pool. This event will be largely free format with only a small portion of time given to an introductory briefing by the Head of the Physics User Group Colin Griffiths (Scottish Association for Marine Science). The rest of the time is yours to meet with the scientists and engineers from the marine User Groups and Sea Systems and take part in opportunistic discussions, whilst enjoying breakfast and a coffee. You are welcome to arrive at NOCS from 08.30 onwards, with the introductory briefing starting at 0915 hours.

Knowledge Transfer is a key component of the Technology theme of the new NERC Oceans 2025 programme <http://www.oceans2025.org/>. One of the new events will be an annual Technology Marketplace. This is to be a joint event between the NERC marine community and the Association for Marine Scientific Industries. Its aim is to bring together technology developers in the NERC community and interested parties from industry, to facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding. The Marketplace will begin at 1100 hours. For further information please contact Aidan Thorn (adft@noc.soton.ac.uk).

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE

3.a) KELSO RIDDEL APPOINTED AS REGIONAL MANAGER EAME, HL TECHNOLOGIES

HL Technologies (HLT), is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelso Riddell as Regional Manager for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Kelso was one of the original team at Oceano Instruments (later iXsea and iXSurvey) and brings over 25 years experience and knowledge of the offshore and oceanographic industries throughout the world. Kelso will be working to develop HL Technologies business in the diving, ROV and geophysical industries, promoting brands including Umbilicals International Diviline umbilicals, Geocable Systems and Seiscon connectors. HL Technologies, LP, via its Umbilicals International and Geocable Systems, manufactures a wide variety of cable systems, umbilical systems and cable connectors and terminations for both onshore and offshore applications. For further information please contact Colin Zak at +1 281 275 6600, or via e-mail at czak@hl-tech.net.

3.b) RECRUITMENT OF KEY PERSONNEL BY FUGRO GEOS

Fugro GEOS have announced that they have recently acquired the services of three key members to join their team. Dr Jill Bradon has joined us as a Principal Offshore Engineering, Dr Véronique Cochin has joined the Seasystems Division in the Sandnes office in Norway, as a Senior Metocean Specialist; and Maikel Laukens has joined as Operations Manager for the Weather Forecasting Division. Before joining Fugro GEOS, Dr Jill Bradon worked at the University of Reading as a Research Fellow working on many offshore-related projects, including investigations into problems experienced with mooring lines. Dr Véronique Cochin's PhD course was in Evaluation of Ground Wave Radars for Operational Oceanography specialising in sea surface current, wind and sea state measurements by VHF/HF radars. Prior to joining Fugro GEOS, Maikel Lauken had a long career with the Royal Netherlands Navy as an Aviation Forecaster. Information on career opportunities at Fugro GEOS in the UK and around the world is available from www.geos.com/careers/intro.asp

4. JOB POSTINGS

4.a) SENIOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS – GARDLINE GEOSURVEY

Gardline Geosurvey Ltd is now seeking Senior Hydrographic Surveyors to join project teams for data acquisition offshore and post-mission processing, mapping and report compilation and for multi-disciplinary inshore surveys. Applicants will ideally be of graduate calibre or equivalent with relevant experience and hold a recognised surveying qualification. Swathe processing experience would be advantageous in a surveying-related subject. Successful candidates would be expected to spend approximately 180 days offshore, with the remainder of time on leave. For further details and an application form please call the Human Resources Department on 01493 845600, email hr@gardline.com

5. AND FINALLY

5.a) BRITISH 'POLAR BEAR' TO SWIM IN NORTH POLE WEARING SPEEDOS, CAP AND GOGGLES

British adventurer Lewis Gordon Pugh, otherwise known as 'The Polar Bear' will be the first person to swim the geographic North Pole, in water temperatures of minus 1.8C (28.7F) - the coldest waters a human has ever swum in. He is making the one kilometre swim in an area that should be frozen over to demonstrate the devastating impact of climate change. Mr Pugh expects the Investec North Pole Challenge, on July 15, to take 21 minutes. He will swim, in accordance with Channel Swimming Association Rules, in just a swimming costume, cap and goggles! He will leave London on July 8 to join a Russian icebreaker in Murmansk which sets sail the next day, taking the swimmer and his crew to the North Pole.

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