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1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) MET OFFICE REQUIRE SHIP BASED MARINE SERVICES TO MAINTAIN MOORED BUOY NETWORK

The Met Office has a requirement for Marine Services in support of its network of seven offshore plus two inshore ODAS buoys, currently located in the Irish Sea, Bay of Biscay and North East Atlantic. The requirement can be split into 2 main areas:

(1) Provision of a suitable vessel:

(a) To deploy, recover and service our ODAS buoys and their deep-water (up to 5000m) moorings. The vessel must be capable of carrying up to 3 (2,5m diameter and 4,5 T in weight) buoys and their moorings. Messing and workspace for 2-3 Met Office personnel for the duration of the voyage (typically, up to 10 days) to be provided. The provision requires for a suitable vessel to be made available within 60 hours notice, to respond to an emergency event such as a buoy going adrift; (b) For servicing work only: To provide a vessel capable of visiting the remote deep water sites to change sensors and instrumentation – without necessarily lifting the buoy.

(2) Mooring provision:

To provide suitable deep water moorings to securely tether the buoys and keep them on station. Be capable of lasting at least 3 years but ideally would last 5 years before replacing. These moorings must be made available to fit in with deployment and maintenance schedules, and include the transport and loading arrangements for these moorings to designated ports and vessels around the United Kingdom.

Expressions of interest are invited for: Provision 1 (to cover all or part(s) of the network), Provision 2 or both Provisions 1 and 2. The above provisions describe current methods for servicing meteorological data gathering platforms in remote deep-sea areas. The Met Office would welcome and consider other innovative solutions to meet these elements of their marine business requirements. The intention is to let a 5-year contract commencing early 2008.

The formal OJEU notice is available at <http://ted.europa.eu/>, Document 2007-151902-EN. For further information contact Jon Turton, Tel: 44 (0)1392 886647, email: jon.turton@metoffice.gov.uk <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk>

1.b) GEOSWATH SONAR CHOSEN BY BAE SYSTEMS AS SURVEY PAYLOAD FOR TALISMAN AUV DEMONSTRATOR VEHICLE

GeoAcoustics (Great Yarmouth, UK) is pleased to announce that the GeoSwath Plus wide swath sonar system has been selected by BAE Systems Underwater Systems as the first survey payload to be integrated into the modular, multi-role Talisman unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV).

The Talisman M vehicle is currently undergoing systems integration at BAE Systems, prior to field trials and a demonstrator tour of the United States planned in the third and fourth quarters of 2007.

Of the selection BAE Systems commented: "The GeoSwath attracted our attention as it is a neat, compact UUV ready-system with the ability to collect high resolution mapping and side-scan data simultaneously over a very wide swath. Combined with BAE Systems' extensive experience in systems integration we are confident that the GeoSwath can give our customers a very attractive additional capability".

For further information go to www.geoacoustics.com or www.baesystems.com

1.c) EDGETECH SIDE SCAN SONAR INSTALLED ON ROTV COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL PIPELINE INSPECTION IN THE NORTH SEA

An EdgeTech 4200 Series Side Scan Sonar System installed on two MacArtney Focus-2 ROTVs owned and operated by Noordhoek Survey has just completed its first project; a pipeline inspection in the North Sea.

The Focus-2 vehicles were used to inspect roughly 600 km of pipeline and utilised EdgeTech's 4200 Series Side Scan System with high frequency 300/600 kHz arrays. Aboard the vessel during the pipeline inspection campaign the onboard geophysicist Professor Jean Lanckneus commented, "The side scan data acquired was of outstanding quality. The stability and maneuverability of the ROTV combined with the noiseless environment provides the obvious choice for all future side scan operations".

Additionally, representatives at Noordhoek had the following to say: "The data recorded was quite simply excellent. The pipeline entering the protective structure is seen quite clearly and even the gaps between the mattresses covering the pipeline on the port channel are displayed."

For more information visit www.edgetech.com

1.d) A NEW WING DEPRESSOR FOR C-MAX SIDESCAN SONAR

C-MAX Ltd has introduced a new hydrodynamic wing depressor for use with their CM2 digital sidescan sonar. The design of the CM2 towfish allows this high-aspect-ratio wing to be positioned below the tow point without obstructing the acoustics. The wing typically increases the towfish depth by 50%, or reduces towfish layback by the corresponding amount. C-MAX claims that this wing is significantly more efficient than the usual top-mounted delta-fin depressors.

The wing weighs only 5kg and has handles allowing easy launch and recovery of the towfish. A clip-on tail unit ensures that the motion of the towfish and wing is stable and predictable on launch and under tow. Contact: Peter Robinson, tel +44 1305 853005, email sales@cmasonar.com

1.e) NEW APPLICATION NOTE ON THE USE OF OSIL'S MINIBAT IN THE RIA DE VIGO

OSIL (Ocean Scientific International Ltd) are introducing a new tool to assist their customers in understanding the versatility of the instruments that they provide. OSIL's application notes will provide customers with practical examples of equipment available through OSIL and will provide first hand accounts from customers already using the product explaining what it has helped them achieve.

The first application note focuses on the CRIA project's use of OSIL's MiniBAT in their studies in the Ria de Vigo. The project, funded by the Xunta de Galicia, is investigating the high productivity and the sporadic occurrence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the ria. They have been using OSIL's lightweight tow vehicle to collect spatial and temporal datasets by attaching an AML Micro CTD, a Web Labs Wetstar and an OBS 3 to the MiniBAT. The combination of this apparatus meant they could monitor conductivity, temperature, pressure, fluorescence and turbidity and the MiniBAT allowed them to do so at a much quicker rate than if they had used traditional methods.

OSIL anticipate publishing application notes on the majority of their products to provide their customers with a library of resources to assist them in choosing the best equipment to meet their needs. You can view the full application note at www.osil.co.uk

1.f) ENHANCED SATELLITE COVERAGE FOR VERIPOS

Veripos of Aberdeen, leading suppliers of high-precision GNSS positioning solutions to the international offshore and marine industries, has introduced a major enhancement to its services by increasing transmission power from Inmarsat's Indian Ocean Region satellite, resulting in fully redundant high-power delivery of GNSS augmentation data throughout its Asia, Middle East and Africa regions.

Running in parallel with Veripos' existing high-power satellite delivery service, the upgrade enables enhanced service reception in addition to significantly improved levels of availability and redundancy. It also ensures improved flexibility and independence for users, who now no longer need to be reliant upon vessel-borne Inmarsat reception terminals or mini-domes for accessing data from the satellite; instead, small omni-directional antennas can be used for optimum results and ease of operation.

Veripos adds that further similar satellite power upgrades are planned for the near future so as to permit worldwide seamless redundant high-power coverage for users of its positioning services. Widely used by leading operators of 3D seismic, survey and DP construction vessels, the globalised services include a Precise Point Positioning (PPP) solution for decimetre accuracy along with a fully redundant proprietary Differential GPS (DGPS) facility, integrated mobile equipment and QC software. For further information go to www.veripos.com.

2. EVENTS

2.a) 2007 MATE INTERNATIONAL ROV COMPETITION A SPLASHING SUCCESS

The 2007 MATE International ROV competition organized by the MATE Center and hosted by the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University of Newfoundland (MI) and the National Research Council's Institute for Ocean Technology (IOT) was a splashing success! The event was held from 22nd to 24th June.

Each of the 41 competing teams, representing Canada, the U.S, Spain, Scotland, Iran and Hong Kong, put a tremendous amount of time, energy, and effort into their vehicles, technical reports, poster displays, and engineering presentations. Two teams from Newfoundland and Labrador, Heritage Collegiate from Lethbridge and Eastern Edge Robotics from St. John's, placed second overall in the Ranger and Explorer classes.

The Eastern Edge Robotics team from the Marine Institute, Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic, also won for Best Poster and team member, Justin Higdon, was named Engineering MVP. Carbonear Collegiate took home the Sharkpedo Award for most innovative tool.

For more information contact Kimberley Thornhill, Educational Marketing Co-ordinator, Fisheries and Marine Institute, at 778-0544, 691-9221, Kim.Thornhill@mi.mun.ca

2.b) IMarEST STANLEY GRAY LECTURE - "A UNIQUE SHIP - A UNIQUE SOLUTION", 9TH JULY 2007, LONDON, UK

The Cutty Sark, the world's last tea clipper, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, was in the news for all the wrong reasons on 21 May this year. At 04.45 fire broke out on the ship, which was undergoing a major conservation project. This unique vessel will be the subject of the forthcoming IMarEST Stanley Gray Lecture, 'A Unique Ship – A Unique Solution' - being given by Peter Mason, Chief Engineer on the 'Cutty Sark' project at the City Conference Centre. Open to members and non members alike, there is no charge for attending, but places can be reserved using the online facility at www.imarest.org/events/stanleygraycuttysark/ Further information is available on the website, from events@imarest.org or Tel: +44 (0)20 7382 2655.

2.c) REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SENSING AND MAPPING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT 3, 16 JULY 2007, LONDON, UK

This one-day symposium will bring together the special interests of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society (RSPSoc) and Challenger Society for Marine Science (CSMS) through the RSPSoc/CSMS jointly affiliated ocean colour SIG. The symposium is being held at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.

Talks include: a Novel Technique for Estimation of Primary Production directly from Earth Observation Data: An Inherent Optical Property Approach, Kathryn Barker (University of Plymouth / Plymouth Marine Laboratory); GlobColour: Developing a European ocean colour service supporting global carbon-cycle research and operational Oceanography, TBC (ACRI / University of Plymouth); New Approaches and Methods in Marine Geological Mapping, Christian Wilson (British Geological Survey); The Landmap service and use of ASAR imagery for inter-tidal areas mapping, Kamie Kitmitto (University of Manchester)

A few places are still available for presentations, please email Dr Samantha Lavender S.Lavender@plymouth.ac.uk if you are interested in presenting. Details and a registration form are available at <http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/geomatics/sensemapp3/> with registration forms due on Friday 6th July 2007.

2.d) MARINE MEASUREMENT FORUM CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS, 31ST OCTOBER 2007, BRIGHTON, UK

The 41st MMF is scheduled for Wednesday 31st October to be held at the Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton, East Sussex and the current hosts International Ocean Systems and Intelligent Exhibitions are inviting industry colleagues to make contact if they are interested in making a presentation.

The MMF is a successful established non-profit making, one-day seminar that provides opportunities for the informal exchange of ideas, knowledge, techniques and developments across an extensive range of marine scientific measurement activities. Attendees typically include Scientists, Surveyors, Engineers, Research centres, Academia, Manufacturers, Survey companies, Consultants, Monitoring authorities, Dredging companies, Port authorities, Oil companies, etc.

If you are interested in presenting at this event please contact Astrid Powell from International Ocean Systems astrid@divermag.co.uk by 31st July 2007. To register your interest to attend, please contact Caroline Barraclough from Intelligent Exhibitions +44 (0) 844 443 1050 or cb@intelligentexhibitions.com The delegate rate is £37.50 +VAT and places are limited so book your place early.

3. JOB POSTINGS

3.a) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH BP IN THEIR HOUSTON BASED OFFICE

The Marine Survey Specialist role will be responsible for the delivery of dedicated Survey and Positioning support to BP's Western Hemisphere Business Units through the life of an asset from access to decommissioning. Working as part of the BP Survey Community, the Survey Specialist will develop and interact with a global network of technical staff and be exposed to state-of-the-art tools, methodologies and technologies. The successful applicant will be expected to take responsibility for all aspects of Survey and Positioning and be committed to the achievement of the highest standards of HSSE performance for offshore survey operations activities.

Required Experience and Qualifications: Ideal candidate would be a professionally qualified Engineer or Surveyor with a minimum of 5 years of relevant experience in marine survey operations, with a strong emphasis on subsea construction and installation activities. Thorough knowledge of all geomatic and geodetic requirements related to subsea marine construction projects. Thorough knowledge of subsea acoustic positioning principles associated with subsea marine construction projects, with emphasis on acoustic frequency management. Must be willing and able to travel for at least 25%, including to offshore sites. To be considered for this position, please submit your resume by going to www.bp.com/careers/subsurface <file://www.bp.com/careers/subsurface> .