

oceanbuzz!

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

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1.GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

1.a) OCEANBUZZ CELEBRATES 20TH ISSUE WITH LATEST FEATURE!

We are delighted to announce that this is the 20th edition of Oceanbuzz and so an ideal time to introduce our latest feature, Oceanbuzz advertising. No groans please – Oceanbuzz will still remain completely free of charge for all those to receive and for all those interested in submitting news articles, job postings and event information.....but if you want to benefit by getting your company logo or advert in front of over 8000 industry colleagues worldwide – then Oceanbuzz offers an affordable way of doing just that. Oceanbuzz is a simple format that worked before and is working again – nothing fancy but regular bits of news that gets circulated globally and on a weekly basis. Folks are spreading the word and our list is growing daily. If you are interested to find out more about sponsoring an issue – simply email info@intelligentexhibitions.com .

1.b) RUSSIAN POLAR EXPEDITION RETURNS TO MOSCOW

The Russian ITAR-TASS News agency today displays photos of the Russian polar expedition leader, State Duma Deputy Chairman Artur Chilingarov arriving at Moscow's Vnukovo carrying with him a photo of the Russian flag placed on the seafloor under the North Pole. Last week the Russians dispatched two mini-submarines some 2.5 miles under the North Pole and symbolically, planted their flag on the sea floor. The expedition was prepared by the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute and consisted of the Akademik Fyodorov research ship, a nuclear-powered ice-breaker and two submersibles and 135 research scientists. As well as some scientific goals including the study of Arctic plants and animals it also has been viewed as a politically charged symbolic gesture to claim the rights to the sea bed which could be rich in oil and gas. For more info <http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=11775992> or google Russia Claims North Pole for the global reaction to this recent expedition.

1.c) ARGOS SATELLITE TRACKING WILL HELP ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT PENGUIN TRAVELS

University of Washington scientists will attach satellite tracking devices to the backs of six penguins that have been treated at two centres in northern Argentina after their feathers were fouled with oil. The birds will be released into the Atlantic Ocean and their movements traced using satellites and the Internet. The idea is to plug a critical gap in the knowledge of the Magellanics' annual life cycle, their movements on the journey from their winter feeding grounds back to their breeding colonies along the southern Argentina coast and the Islas Malvinas, or Falkland Islands.

Through late October the birds' movements will be tracked by the Argos satellite system operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the French space agency. A satellite will pass overhead every two hours and chart the penguins' positions, then transmit the information back to the researchers, who will use it to update a public tracking map on the Internet.

The transmitters will be active for 36 hours at a time and then will be off for 36 hours, a means of preserving the two double-A batteries in each transmitter for the life of the project. The researchers have no way of knowing whether the birds will go to southern Argentina or the Malvinas, or whether they will follow a straight course to the breeding grounds or take a circuitous route.

The satellite tracking will be instrumental in pinpointing the birds after they arrive at the breeding grounds. Punta Tombo alone is home to some 400,000 penguins during breeding season. Locating the penguins once they reach the breeding ground is important so the researchers can assess the birds' physical condition after the long journey. For more info www.penguinstudies.org

1.d) ALLSEAS GROUP PURCHASES FOUR DUAL-HEAD SEABAT 7125 MULTIBEAM SONAR SYSTEMS

RESON has been awarded a contract from the Swiss-based Allseas Group S.A's to deliver eight SeaBat 7125 Multibeam sonar systems to be used on remotely operated vehicles (ROV) down to depths of 4000 meters. Allseas Group will operate these eight systems as four dual-head systems,

enabling them to detect small diameter pipes, cables and other objects with unparalleled accuracy.

The SeaBat 7125 dual-head sonar system consists of two complete sonar systems, with one sonar processor acting as a “slave” to the other. The “master” processor is the sole interface for the operator, with all entered settings being instantly relayed to the secondary (or “slave”) processor. The “master” processor also dictates the ping sequence between the two sonar head assemblies in order to minimize feedback between the two systems. For further information contact Nico van Woerkom, nvw@reson.nl

1.e) NEW METOCEAN BUOY PROTOTYPE IN PRODUCTION BY AXYS TECHNOLOGIES

Axys Technologies recently announced they were in the process of developing a completely new metocean buoy - the WatchMate - a smaller (~1.5m diameter) and lighter hull than their WatchKeeper, that will meet more closely the demands and economics of the fresh water quality monitoring marketplace. Thanks to the efforts of AXYS engineers such as Russell Huband (amongst others); they are pleased to announce that the first prototype buoy is currently being assembled at AXYS. They will be integrating sensors and conducting tests on the new buoy shortly, and are on plan for an autumn product launch. For more information go to www.axystechnologies.com

1.f) EDGETECH SIDE SCAN SYSTEM USED IN LOCATING SHIPWRECK YIELDING \$500 MILLION TREASURE

An EdgeTech 2400-DSS Deep Towed Side Scan Sonar System, owned and operated by Odyssey Marine Exploration, was used in locating a shipwreck code named the “*Black Swan*” which yielded over 500,000 silver and gold coins that have been estimated to be worth somewhere around \$500 million. This was the same system used by Odyssey in 2003 to help locate the *SS Republic*, which produced more than \$75 million worth of coins.

The 2400-DSS utilises digital CHIRP technology which provides higher resolution imagery than conventional analog and digital systems as well as extended range; an important factor when trying to locate a shipwreck. The 2400-DSS has a low frequency range that is 30% greater than conventional systems at the same frequency and a high frequency range that is 50% greater. Because of this CHIRP technology the system can also be towed at depths of up to 6,000 meters with no degradation in the quality of data.

The EdgeTech 2400-DSS can be configured as a stand-alone side scan/sub-bottom or as a combined system. It comes available with a choice of three dual simultaneous frequency side scan sets; either 75/120 kHz, 75/410 kHz or 120/410 kHz. Additionally three frequency ranges are offered for the sub-bottom profiler; 1-6 kHz, 2-16 kHz or 4-24 kHz. The 2400-DSS can also be installed on an AUV or ROV and comes available with a multitude of additional optional sensors including magnetometer, altitude, pressure, CTD, SVP, attitude, responder or customer defined. For more information please visit www.edgetech.com

1.g) MTEM POSITIONING CONTRACT FOR VERIPOS

MTEM of Edinburgh, exponents of advanced patented electromagnetic services for detection and mapping of hydrocarbons, has awarded Veripos a three-year contract for provision of precise GNSS positioning services in support of its worldwide offshore operations.

Initial work under the contract has already begun, with MTEM claiming significant results for an investigative project in the North Sea aboard Northern Lighthouse Board’s tender vessel, NLV Pole Star, for which Veripos provided LD2-G2 integrated mobile units in support of its Ultra decimetre-accuracy precise point positioning service.

The contract is the latest of a series to have been awarded to Aberdeen-based Veripos for its global positioning services following similar long-term agreements recently concluded with leading offshore concerns in China and Mexico.

MTEM's specialised cable-based EM operations for access and processing of high-resolution survey data in real-time are directed from its Edinburgh headquarters supported by subsidiary bases in Aberdeen, Calgary and Houston. For further information contact dvd.goodfellow@virgin.net

1.h) 'OPEN YOUR HORIZONS' – IMCA'S LATEST CAREER PROMOTION DRIVE

The vital issue of the skills shortages that currently besets the offshore industry has deeply concerned the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA). Throughout 2007 the association has been involved on a careers promotion quest, and they have now published their latest piece of ammunition for use in the ongoing campaign, 'Open Your Horizons: Global Careers in Marine Contracting', a colourful careers brochure that is international in outlook, has a carefully chosen positive message and is to be distributed widely. IMCA's career information can be found at www.imca-int.com/careers/

2. EVENTS

1.a) EB AT OFFSHORE EUROPE 2007

Design and construction expertise in building solutions to pipe handling and subsea trenching challenges will be emphasised by The Engineering Business (EB) at this year's Offshore Europe (Aberdeen, 4-7 September). WaterBridge, their safe method of access, is also sure to attract attention having performed well in the Southern North Sea. (Stand 1154)

Long renowned for their high performance ploughs and trenchers, EB has now added lay equipment to its portfolio. As a result the company provides solutions for all aspects of pipeline installation from deck handling equipment to seabed trenching equipment. A clear measure of the company's success is a £45m order book which includes a wide range of lay equipment, a 7000t capacity carousel and a new generation of high performance ploughs and trenchers. Further information can be obtained from Toby Bailey at The Engineering Business on +44 (0) 1434 682800.

3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE

3.a) STEVE MAIER JOINS SONTEK FROM TELEDYNE RD INSTRUMENTS AS SENIOR EMBEDDED SYSTEMS ENGINEER

Steve Maier has spent the past 21 years of his career employed with Teledyne RD Instruments working with Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers, Doppler Velocity Logs, and Acoustic Doppler Flow Meters. Early in his career at TRDI, Steve started out as a Test Technician and eventually moved into Engineering where he ran the Software and Firmware Engineering groups. During that time, he was responsible for designing many of the algorithms (Bottom Track and Profiling Modes) that are in use today.

With his high-level expertise in Doppler signal processing and his extensive applications knowledge, Steve will be leading SonTek in many different areas of new product development. In addition to working as part of the R & D team, Steve will also work along-side SonTek Founder and current YSI Technical Advisor, Ramon Cabrera, who also shares over a 20-year history in this industry. Additional information and other product news can be found at www.sontek.com.

4. JOB POSTINGS

4.a) TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATOR NEEDED BY GARDLINE GEOSURVEY, UK - CLOSING DATE: 24TH AUGUST 2007

Gardline Geosurvey Limited requires a motivated individual to join their Hydro Division, based at their Head Office in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The Hydro Division is concerned principally with non-oil and gas survey activities such as hydrographic, UNCLOS, cable route and renewable energy applications for Gardline's fleet of survey vessels.

Duties will include detailed project technical planning and document preparation, supervision during mobilisation and data acquisition phases, quality control of data acquired, and final report co-ordination. In the case of hydrographic survey projects, a Lead Hydrographer role is envisaged.

In addition to internal liaison within the Gardline Marine Sciences Group, the successful candidate will be the client contact at a technical level so the ability to communicate effectively and at all levels is essential for this role. International travel and limited periods of sea time will be required.

Ideally qualified to FIG/IHO Category A or B in hydrographic surveying, of degree calibre or equivalent with previous relevant experience. Previous experience of undertaking and management (onshore or offshore) of hydrographic surveys for nautical charting purposes would be advantageous. For further details and an application form please call the Human Resources Department on 01493 845600 or email hr@gardline.com.

4.b) WAVESPEC SEEKS EXPERIENCED DYNAMIC POSITIONING SYSTEM ENGINEERS, UK

Wavespec has been undertaking FMEA studies for many years on the DP system capability and reliability of offshore vessels, including the latest generation drill ships and semis, flotels, diving support vessels and platform supply vessels. They are presently increasing their work and profile in this business area and are actively seeking to recruit experienced individuals with knowledge and ability in analysing ship systems with respect to identifying potential single point failures. The positions are based in Essex with the need for occasional worldwide travel. Background information on the job and recruitment are available at www.wavespec.com. For more details and to apply please send your CV to inbox@wavespec.com with "DP Job" in the subject heading.

4.c) PRINCIPAL GEOSCIENTIST, METOC PLC, UK

Metoc are looking for a senior player to develop its highly regarded marine, coastal and river survey activities. Unique career development opportunities come with this role. For further information on the role and to apply, go to <http://www.metoc.co.uk/jobads/job156.pdf>

4.d) MEASUREMENT DEVICES LIMITED (MDL) VACANCY FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, UK

Measurement Devices Ltd (MDL) has a vacancy for a Business Development Manager to work with the Dynamic Systems product group in their York office. This group primarily consists of MDL's Fanbeam laser radar product, however some exciting new developments will soon add to the product portfolio that falls into this group. The role is based in the new MDL's York facility where the management team is now located. More details on the position can be found on MDL's website at <http://www.mdl.co.uk/vacancies/index.html>. Apply by sending a CV with covering letter to jobs@mdl.co.uk or contact Keith S. Park on +44 1224 246700.

5.AND FINALLY

1.f) REQUIRED VIEWING FOR ALL WITH AN INTEREST IN OFFSHORE DIVING.....

...particularly those wondering if it would be the right career choice for them. On Sunday 12th August at 7pm the BBC will be showing 'Real Men Under Pressure', the first in a series about extreme jobs.

As the BBC programme notes explain: "Jess, Martin and Stu are saturation divers... they regularly dive to 200 metres under the North Sea to satisfy our insatiable desire for oil. They live for a month in a tiny metal chamber in the heart of a ship, under pressure, so that they can make regular excursions to the sea bed without suffering decompression sickness. In this 60 minute documentary we follow them as they join a dive support ship heading 100 miles out of Aberdeen to the oil fields. The helium / oxygen mix that they breathe makes them sound like Donald Duck... the diving bell that delivers them to the sea bed looks like a space ship... it's an excursion into an incredible world that has rarely been seen before... not even their wives knew what they did until they saw this film...!" IMCA was delighted to be

able to put the BBC production team in touch with an IMCA member company whose divers on board the 'Seawell' feature in the film.