

oceanbuzz!

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

Please help spread the word by forwarding this weekly newsletter to your colleagues and friends in the industry. And make sure you take time to meet up with them as the global marine science and ocean technology industry gets set to meet up in Southampton later this month. This FREE OF CHARGE newsletter is brought to you by the organisers of the Ocean Business 2007 event www.oceanbusiness2007.com. To add your colleagues to the Oceanbuzz circulation list simply email info@intelligentexhibitions.com.

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1. OCEAN BUSINESS NEWS

1. a) GLOBAL OCEAN COMMUNITY MEETS IN SOUTHAMPTON

In two weeks time the first Ocean Business event will open its doors to the global ocean community. With all of the exhibit space booked by over 170 of the worlds leading ocean technology companies, and a waiting list of those still wishing to be involved, the National Oceanography Centre is gearing up to host Europe's largest ocean technology event to take place in 2007. Hotels are filling up fast and the Gala dinner has sold out. If you plan to be in attendance you are encouraged to pre-register to avoid the queues on site but also to receive a handy social guide which includes details on where to catch up with your colleagues and friends from around the world. Suffice to say that in less than a year, Ocean Business has firmly established itself as a significant event that promotes an inviting programme with solid content, balanced with an opportunity to network with old colleagues and friends. We hope to see you there! Register now at <http://www.event-surf.com/events/ob07/>

1.b) SONARDYNE ANNOUNCE LODESTAR SEMINAR AT OCEAN BUSINESS

Sonardyne International Ltd has announced it will be holding a product launch seminar for its new Lodestar Attitude, Heading and Reference System during Ocean Business. The classroom seminar will be taking place on Wednesday 28th at 13:30 in Room 104/13 and will introduce Lodestar and the benefits it offers. Due to limited space in the classroom, Sonardyne is recommending anyone interested in attending, should book a place for the seminar in advance of the event by contacting: simon.goldsworthy@sonardyne.com. If you are unable to attend the classroom seminar, Sonardyne personnel will be available on Stand No. 90 to discuss Lodestar in more detail.

1.c) TRIMBLE TO INTRODUCE AND OFFER TRAINING FEATURES IN ITS GPS

Trimble will be at Ocean Business to explain the features in its GPS positioning systems that are used extensively for Marine Survey and Construction applications. Trimble staff will be available on the Applanix booth (No.71) as well as in a classroom training session on Thursday the 27th March at 10.30. The Trimble DSM 232 and the SPS550, SPS750 and SPS850 receivers will be shown as well as the SPS550H add on system for precise heading. Trimble GPS are used as both DGPS and RTK base stations as well as onboard survey and marine construction vessels to deliver precise 3D position and heading. Trimble will also explain how 'cell phone' technology can be used with its GPS to make use of Virtual Reference Station systems to ensure precision over long ranges without the worry of UHF radio links. www.trimble.com

1.d) CORRECTION RE: DSME UTECH SIDE SCAN SONAR

The sidescan sonar that DSME will bring is called the S-150P and is only 900mm x 89mm and only 12kg. Visit stand 134 at Ocean Business for more info.

2. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

2.a) IXSEA SPONSORS AMPELMANN PROJECT

IXSEA has sponsored the award winning Ampelmann project. Currently, access to offshore wind turbines is by helicopter or ship and involves the safe transfer of personnel with maintenance equipment from the moving vessel to the fixed turbine. In the North Sea it is currently limited to 50 to 75% of the year as opposed to onshore wind turbines which have accessibility for maintenance 98% of the year. The Ampelmann solution will provide safe and easy access to all offshore structures. Offshore testing using a full size prototype will start at the end of the summer of 2007. The Ampelmann project has involved the development of a vessel mounted transfer system that can be operated safely for more than 90% of the year.

The principle is based on a movable platform on the deck of the vessel that compensates the wave induced movements of the vessel. The top platform will stand still with respect to the fixed object (for example a wind turbine) providing a stable transfer in rough seas. The six legged flight-simulator on top of the vessel, offers all six degrees of freedom of the vessel which are simultaneously and continuously compensated by all six individual hydraulic legs providing a stable platform on the moving vessel. By measuring the vessel motion and real time control of the actuators in the platform, the top plate becomes stationery compared to the fixed world of the turbine.

The connection between the platform and the deck of the ship is provided by IXSEA's OCTANS, an IMO certified gyrocompass and complete motion sensor. With an Ethernet output the OCTANS sends real-time information about the six motions of the vessel to a computer (true heading, roll, pitch, SAFE HEAVE TM, surge, sway, as well as speed, acceleration and rate of return). Using specially designed software the computer then calculates the required movements of the Motion System in order to keep the top platform steady. To give the system a required workability of more than 90%, the system must be able to work up to and including a sea state with a significant wave height of 2.5M. At the NSW site this means that based on existing data of wave scatter data this system could work 93% of the year, which is a monthly downtime of a little over 2 days. Email Siobhan.lignon@ixsea.com for more info.

2.b) BLUEFIN BATTERIES FOR THE BPAUV RECEIVE US NAVY SAFETY APPROVAL

The fifteen-year evolution of the Bluefin Lithium-Polymer Battery where robotics engineers who took on the task to design a pressure-tolerant fully-submersible power system for the company's autonomous underwater vehicles is now being rewarded with the official issuance of a safety approval for the batteries by the US Navy. The Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA) granted safety approval for the 3.5 kWh batteries for use in the Battlespace Preparation Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (BPAUV) system. The Program Executive Office for Littoral and Mine Warfare (PMS-403) purchased the BPAUV system as a mission module for the Littoral Combat Ship. The lithium battery safety approval issued by NOSSA authorizes use and deployment of the BPAUV system from all Navy surface platforms and shore-based facilities.

Dr Richard Wilson, Bluefin's Head of Electrical Engineering shared, "Receiving the approval is a significant step forward for Bluefin. It took years to bring the battery technology from research to production. This approval validates our technical approach and provides a reliable COTS solution to underwater battery power." www.bluefinrobotics.com or contact dabraham@bluefinrobotics.com .

2.c) LINKQUEST ROLLS OUT THE WORLD'S SMALLEST DVL

LinkQuest Inc recently rolled out the NavQuest 600 Micro DVL, the world's smallest Doppler Velocity Log. In its standard configuration with pressure housing, NavQuest 600 Micro DVL is about 12.6 cm in diameter, 17.0 cm in length and weighs less than 1.2 kg in water. In the OEM configuration without pressure housing, the NavQuest 600 Micro DVL weighs less than 0.8 kg. It is by far the smallest and lightest Doppler Velocity Log in the market. The NavQuest 600 Micro DVL is capable of reaching up to 110 meters in maximum altitude (range) with an accuracy of 0.2% +/- 1 mm/s. LinkQuest's innovative acoustic Doppler technology also achieves the smallest minimum altitude of up to 0.3 m which allows robust navigation very close to the seabed. The standard depth rating of the Micro DVL is 800 meters with options for 1500, 3000 and 6000 meters. The NavQuest 600 Micro DVL is an excellent choice for precision navigation and positioning of smaller underwater vehicles with space and weight being a premium. www.link-quest.com

2.d) NAME CHANGE FOR WAVERADAR REX

RS Aqua, Hampshire, UK announce the end of an era as the Saab brand name ceases to be associated with their flagship product "WaveRadar Rex". It was back in 1994 that WaveRadar first came into being as a customised derivative of the Saab Marine Electronics AB product, TankRadar. Since that time WaveRadar and, in more recent years, its successor WaveRadar Rex have borne the Saab prefix. However, back in 2001, Saab Marine became a member of the Emerson Process Management group of companies and, as of 1 March 2007 the license to continue usage of the Saab brand name expired. With immediate effect the Emerson brand name "Rosemount" will replace Saab on all WaveRadar Rex products. The Rosemount WaveRadar Rex is exclusively and globally distributed by RS Aqua Ltd to the offshore oil & gas, offshore renewable energy, coastal and port & harbour markets and has seen year on year unit sales increases of 30% since the introduction of the Rex version. For further details on WaveRadar Rex visit www.rsaqua.co.uk and choose Products/Wave Sensors – Radar.

2.e) SEATRONICS PURCHASES ADDITIONAL SEABAT SONAR FROM RESON

Seatronics has just added another dual head version of the new SeaBat 7125 to their equipment pool. Continuous investment in the latest hardware has resulted in Seatronics having one of the lowest average age equipment pools offering the latest technology available from the world's leading manufacturers. Group Managing Director David Currie, of Seatronics Group, states: "With the new technology, higher resolution and deeper rates, we believe that the new SeaBat 7000 series is the future for portable multibeam systems. Seatronics has now invested in four SeaBat 7125 systems, but we expect to invest in four more systems this year". Seatronics already has a large range of RESON multibeam sonars in their rental pool. This includes the original SeaBat 9000 sonars, which over the last decade have proven to provide a high level of performance and reliability. Last year Seatronics upgraded six SeaBat 9000 aluminium housing systems to titanium. In January 2007 Seatronics also purchased another two complete SeaBat 9000 systems for their equipment pool, which also included a SeaBat 8125 bathymetric sonar and SeaBat 8128 imaging sonar, since these are still very popular among end-users.

www.reson.com

2.f) NEW WEBSITE FOR DSPComm

DSPComm, leading underwater modem partner for OEMs, from Perth Western Australia, have today announced the launch of their new web site for underwater communications systems. www.dspcomm.com provides an overview of some of their new product releases with key customer testimonials along with more useful information.

3. TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION NEWS

3.a) 2007 SUMMER WORKSHOPS FOR FACULTY IN ADVANCED ROV BUILDING

The Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center is holding Advanced Remotely Operated Vehicle Building for classroom projects to be held July 23rd-30th. The week-long workshop will provide educators with the knowledge and skills to support their students to participate in USA, MATE'S regional and national ROV competitions. Educators will work in teams to design and build their own ROVs to complete a set of predetermined mission tasks. The workshop will start off with a representative from SolidWorks leading a tutorial to design a basic frame for their ROVs. The educators will then learn how to program a basic stamp to control sensors and motors on their ROVs. The participants will test their ROVs in a mini-competition with an International Polar Year focus at the end of the week. There is no fee for participation. For more information, visit <http://www.marinetech.org/education/institutes.php> or contact Lani Clough, MATE Faculty Development Coordinator via e-mail at lclough@marinetech.org

4. EVENTS

4. a) 15TH SYMPOSIUM ON UNMANNED UNTETHERED SUBMERSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by the Autonomous Undersea Systems Institute (AUSI), the 15th International Symposium on Unmanned Untethered Submersible Technology (UUST07) will be held August 19-22, 2007 at the New England Center at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire. UUST is a series of symposia focused on unmanned untethered submersible technology. The symposium seeks to provide a mechanism for the exchange of information among members of the research, development and user communities involved in the development of autonomous underwater systems. Historically, these symposia have attracted large international participation, and the broad spectrum of participants results in a unique educational experience for senior researchers as well as students interested in this evolving technology. <http://www.ausi.org/uust/uust.html> or email gentner@ausi.org

5. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?

5.a) PETER BOON JOINS FUGRO SURVEY TEAM AS COMMERCIAL MANAGER

Fugro Survey BV (Leidschendam) announces that Peter Boon has joined the team as Commercial Manager. Peter Boon has previously worked for GeoCom, Nesa/Thales GeoSolutions and Noordhoek Offshore, where he contributed to the successful launch of the Noordhoek Survey department.

6. JOB POSTINGS

6.a) SALES & MARKETING MANAGER - MACARTNEY A/S

Based in the headquarters in Denmark and reporting to the Managing Director, the position involves responsibility for internal sales support & marketing. The Sales & Marketing Manager will be a member of the Group Management team as well as the DK management team. The position requires a person with well read technical skills and at least 5 years of experience as sales manager or from heading internal sales support. We require a broad experience in marketing and a relevant commercial background. Your competences could also be technical engineering with relevant commercial superimposed courses. For further details contact neh@macartney.com

6.b) NAVIGATON BUSINESS UNIT SALES MGR – RD INSTRUMENTS

Reporting to the Business Unit Leader, this position focuses on the overall management of sales processes, strategies and long-term/key customer relationships to increase market size and share. Coordinates with sales staff consisting of Project Managers, sales support engineers/persons, and Field Service Engineers. Qualified candidate must possess a proven track record in successful sales management, bachelor's degree required in technical field and 10 years related business experience. Willingness to travel (domestic & international) up to 30% of time. U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residency required. For additional information, contact rdihr@teledyne.com or visit www.rdinstruments.com/careers.html

6.c) GEOSCIENTISTS REQUIRED – EGS (ASIA) LTD

EGS (Asia) Limited are currently looking to recruit geoscientists for both short-term and long-term contracts. Applicants should be degree holders in earth science related subjects. They shall be mainly involved in marine engineering surveys such as cable route surveys and site investigations for marine construction works. Responsibilities will include data acquisition and quality control (e.g. subbottom, side scan sonar, and magnetic), data interpretation (using digital processing software), geotechnical sampling and report production. Previous survey experience is preferred however EGS encourage all interested persons to send their resumes to personnel@egssurvey.com and visit the EGS website www.egssurvey.com

6. d) SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER – CHELSEA TECHNOLOGIES GROUP Reporting to the Engineering Manager, the senior software engineer will be responsible for the development of new software products plus support for and continuing improvement of existing software. Candidate must have a sound knowledge of C / C++, the Windows API and the Microsoft development environment and tools including version control. Candidate will take a leading role in providing software input to bid proposals across all fields of CTG's operation. For a full job specification email Ellen Keegan putting SOFTWARE ENGINEER in the subject line – ekeegan@Chelsea.co.uk.

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