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

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## 1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

### 1.a) NAUTRONIX CLINCHES NASNET® DEAL WITH SUBSEA 7

Nautronix have signed a major deal with Subsea 7 Ltd, West Africa Region, for the supply of NASNet® for the Agbami Project in Nigeria.

Nautronix describe the rental contract for the supply of 14 NASNet® sleds and 22 construction receivers as a "major turning point for their technology". Nautronix Managing Director Mark Patterson said "Subsea 7 have been involved with the technology since the NASNet® vision was first released in 2001, attending a number of trials and providing valuable customer feedback. We are delighted they are fully onboard and recognise the operational and technological advantages NASNet® offers"

Patterson added 'our vision has always been that NASNet® will be supplied for the life of field, where the cost benefits to both the operator and all the contractors working on that projects can be significant'. The systems will be delivered at the beginning of July for mobilisations on the Subsea 7 Toisa Perseus. For more details email [info@nautronix.co.uk](mailto:info@nautronix.co.uk) or visit [www.nautronix.com](http://www.nautronix.com)

### 1.b) FUGRO GEOS RISES TO THUNDER HORSE CHALLENGE

The contract to provide real-time full water column current measurements for BP's Gulf of Mexico Thunder Horse PDQ - the largest production drilling quarters semi-submersible in the world – has been successfully operating by Fugro GEOS for nearly a year. The project has involved an extensively detailed system design, calculation, testing and the building of the first self-contained 38kHz ADCP (Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler)" explains Caroline Nicholas, Seasystems Division Manager of Fugro GEOS Inc. "The design included the repackaging of all the electronics into a subsea housing, and the installation of a ruggedized cable to the surface for power and data transmission. Thermal analysis was undertaken to ensure that the electronics did not overheat in the subsea housing."

The 38kHz ADCP, which is capable of the longest profiling range ever achieved, is suspended beneath the surface of the Thunder Horse platform on a custom built frame, measuring down to depths of over 1000m in real-time. The installation of the first cabled mid-water 75kHz ADCP was installed at 500m above the seabed in 1860m of water - the ADCP was contained in the biggest buoyancy buoy ever produced - a 76inch buoy of 4000lb buoyancy.

A cabled seabed 75Khz ADCP was installed in 2000m of water was carried out using an ROV vessel. The ADCPs, were lowered into position from the vessel with assistance from an ROV, which attached the subsea ADCPs to a preinstalled custom mud mat. Data & power connections were then made using ROV wet mateable connectors. To ensure data transmission over such long distances, 5,500m of fiber optic cable was used which runs from the seabed to the Thunderhorse PDQ platform.

The system provides real-time full current data updates every 10 minutes to Fugro GEOS weather monitor software which is then displayed through the Fugro GEOS ADAM (ADCP Data Acquisition and Management) web-based system. For further information on this project, please contact: Caroline Nicholas Fugro GEOS Inc- Seasystems Division Manager, [c.nicholas@geos.com](mailto:c.nicholas@geos.com)

### 1.c) GEOSWATH PLUS USED IN PROJECT TO PROTECT GREY NURSE SHARK

The New South Wales Department of Environment & Conservation (NSW DEC) have been using a 125 kHz GeoAcoustics GeoSwath Plus wide swath sonar system for habitat mapping within the state's network of Marine Protected Areas. The maps produced have proved invaluable in the planning process for two new parks announced last year and that come into effect during the first half of 2007.

The GeoSwath system has been used extensively at Broughton Island, Port Stephens - Great Lakes Marine Park, a site where the endangered Grey Nurse Shark (*Carcharias taurus*) gathers. Prior to formation of the Marine Park the species had been protected by a 500m fishing exclusion zone centred on an area of guttered, high profile reef to the east of the island. The GeoSwath Plus data collected by the NSW DEC has contributed significantly to the inclusion of many reefs to the south and east of the island within Sanctuary and/or Habitat Protection zones for the new Marine Park.

Use of the GeoSwath equipment continues with a new program due to commence in July 2007 and run for the next 2 years. This project involves habitat mapping for the state's coastal Catchment Management Authorities, focusing on sections of the NSW coast to help in the understanding of the biodiversity associated with shallow (<80m) subtidal reefs in coastal waters. For more details email [tom.hiller@geoacoustics.com](mailto:tom.hiller@geoacoustics.com) or visit [www.geoacoustics.com](http://www.geoacoustics.com)

#### **1.d) RECOLLECTIONS OF MMF DATES, HOSTS AND ANECDOTES?**

The next UK Marine Measurement Forum (MMF) will take place on 16 May 2007 where they will be celebrating their 40th event. Roger Scrivens has been invited to celebrate this landmark with a presentation reviewing the history of this popular series interspersed with personal recollections and anecdotes from the previous 39 events. One of the recognised and respected features of the MMF is that there is no permanent organising committee but in turn that means that few statistical records have been kept. Anyone with recollections of the earlier meetings, particularly those between 1984 and 1996 are encouraged to contact [r.scrivens@rsaqua.co.uk](mailto:r.scrivens@rsaqua.co.uk). For anyone wishing to attend the event contact [m.silva@geos.com](mailto:m.silva@geos.com) for more information. [www.mmf-uk.org](http://www.mmf-uk.org)

#### **1.e) VERIPOS OPENS SINGAPORE BASE**

Aberdeen-based Veripos, a leading supplier of high-precision GNSS positioning services to the international offshore oil and gas industry, has expanded its worldwide operations with the establishment of a new base in Singapore as a focal point for meeting rapidly growing user requirements for its services throughout Asia-Pacific regions. Formally opened by Managing Director Tony Leary in the presence of leading customer, industry and management representatives, the new 6,300 sq feet premises comprise administration offices, a specialist workshop and a fully-equipped training centre in addition to a new local reference station for sourcing GPS measurement data. They also include a new additional Network Control Centre (NCC) to provide further redundancy and resilience for its global GNSS reference network; it will also provide continuous monitoring of service availability and performance supported by a 24-hour helpdesk. Headed by Raymond Wong, Veripos' Asia-Pacific Regional Manager, the new base facilities are at 39 Tampines Street 92, #02-00, Singapore 528883 (Tel: +65 6785 4396 Fax: +65 6786 5826). [www.veripos.com](http://www.veripos.com)

#### **1.f) NCS SURVEY INVESTS IN SONARDYNE EQUIPMENT**

Aberdeen-based NCS Survey Ltd has made its first major investment in Sonardyne Wideband LBL subsea acoustic positioning system. Formed in June 2005, NCS Survey has become the fastest growing independent survey company in the sector and has until now utilised acoustic equipment hired in from rental companies to support its activities. The order, announced at the Ocean Business Exhibition and Conference in Southampton, UK means that the company will now be able to use its own Sonardyne equipment when providing survey support for rig moves and also when undertaking other survey projects for clients around the world. The Sonardyne Wideband LBL system chosen by NCS Survey has been used successfully on the most demanding offshore projects around the world. Users enjoy a range of important benefits that include greater positioning accuracy and the freedom to work in the acoustically crowded environments present during major construction operations. <http://www.sonardyne.com>

## **2. EVENTS**

#### **2.a) INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCE UNDERWAY**

The XVIIth International Hydrographic Conference that takes place every five years is underway at the Auditorium RAINIER III in Monaco, and was inaugurated by HSH Prince Albert II on Monday. More than 300 representatives of the international hydrographic community are taking part in not only the conference but also the commercial exhibition of hydrographic, oceanographic, navigational and cartographic equipment, as well as an exhibition of IHO Member States' nautical charts. The event is supported by several survey vessels from different Member States of the IHO berthed in the port of Monaco .

<http://www.iho.shom.fr/>

#### **2.b) SUT ANNUAL SUBSEA ENGINEERING DINNER**

The annual Subsea Engineering Dinner will be held on Wednesday 6 June 2007 at the Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen, UK. A perfect opportunity to invite clients and/or staff to enjoy the evening. Guest Speaker is Mr Willie Allan, reported as undoubtedly the best after dinner speaker in Scotland. Email [info@sut.org](mailto:info@sut.org) for more info.

## **3. WHO'S ON THE MOVE**

#### **3.a) BLUEFIN'S BONDARYK APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

It is the sign of the times for Bluefin Robotics based in Cambridge, MA, USA. A flow of new contracts for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), upgrades, and subsystems are demanding that the MIT spin-off focus critical man-power to its most exciting projects. Today, Bluefin announced the promotion of Dr. Joseph Bondaryk to Director of Engineering. He will be tasked with the primary responsibility of managing all engineering-related work. For more info visit [www.bluefinrobotics.com](http://www.bluefinrobotics.com)

## 4. JOB POSTINGS

### 4.a) CUSTOMER SUPPORT – RS AQUA, UK

Ocean equipment suppliers RS Aqua Ltd, located near Alton, Hampshire, UK, have a vacancy in customer support. Responsibilities primarily involve supporting the Company's sales and marketing activities. The post will be of particular interest to applicants who have recently qualified in an oceanographic, environmental or marine science based subject. A Job Description with application instructions can be found at [www.rsqua.co.uk/vacancies.asp](http://www.rsqua.co.uk/vacancies.asp)

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