

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## **1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS**

### **1.a) SOLVING THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSFERRING ENERGY FROM SEA TO POWER GRID**

Designs for channelling wave or tidal movement vary greatly from producer to producer and have different inherent challenges to solve. Regardless of their design, however, they all have one fundamental challenge; how to reliably transfer the collected power to the mainland.

With its latest orders to the offshore renewable energy industry, Danish based manufacturer MacArtney is proving to be at the forefront of advising on systems and providing solutions to the industry-wide challenge of transferring moving water energy to the onshore power grid.

The range and variation in designs for harnessing the natural power of water movement is enormous, and devices work in vastly different ways. Common to them all, however, is that they need to transfer dynamic energy into energy that can be transferred onshore. This connection must also be able to withstand enormous loads in the harsh, dynamic underwater environment.

MacArtney has developed a number of underwater connector systems designed to link the moving system with the static power cable. At one end, the connector bears the movement associated with the system, and at the other it connects to the large, less flexible high power cable linking it to the mainland power grid. The system is also designed for split-phase installation, where cable is laid out ready on site and the system installed at a later date.

The Danish based company has also been successful with its specialised junction boxes, which are also specially designed for offshore use.

Choosing the right supplier is crucial in ensuring the long term success of a project, and MacArtney's portfolio of underwater technology systems and products has proven itself to be an ideal basis for advising and supplying this new energy sector.

For further information please contact Lars F. Hansen at [lfh@macartney.com](mailto:lfh@macartney.com) or Tel: +45 76132000.

### **1.b) MBT OFFER VALUABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE OF UNDERWATER EQUIPMENT**

MBT, part of the MacArtney Group, recently held an ROV workshop in the historic harbour city of Kiel. The three day event was attended by 36 participants from the industrial, salvage and research community throughout Germany. With a focus firmly on practical knowledge, the workshop gave underwater professionals the opportunity of gaining first-hand working knowledge of ROVs and underwater sonar equipment.

The First Kiel ROV Workshop combined theoretical introduction with practical work in a real maritime environment. After an initial theory session that introduced the companies and systems, focus was definitely on the practical side of seeing what underwater technology can achieve and how to use it in the field.

The workshop was based around the underwater study of a shipwreck. Under guidance from equipment supplier MBT and ROV manufacturer Sperre, participants launched the ROV, which had been mounted with underwater cameras and sonar to investigate the wreck site, and watched the various readings from on board the MS Gotland. They also saw a live demonstration of the DIDSON identification sonar on an outboard rig.

Over the three days, participants gained a good, all-round practical understanding of ROV and underwater sonar and camera set ups, from theory to launch, operating and manipulating.

The products involved in the demonstration included a Subfighter 7500 ROV from Sperre, underwater cameras, a Kongsberg MS1000 scanning sonar and a DIDSON dual frequency identification sonar.

The workshop was a great success. Everyone involved was enthusiastic and positive about what they had gained from the three intensive days. MBT plans to repeat the success of this workshop in 2009 with the Kiel Underwater Technology Workshop, focusing on a new aspect of marine technology.

For further information please contact Lars F. Hansen at [lfh@macartney.com](mailto:lfh@macartney.com) Tel: +45 76132000.

#### **1.c) IXSEA ANNOUNCES RECORD OCTANS MONTH IN THE USA**

IXSEA Inc. received orders for a total of 23 OCTANS AHRS over the past month. This brings the total to over 70 units sold in the USA in 2008. "The latest OCTANS orders show how IXSEA's inertial systems are now accepted as the quality standard in industry and government markets," said IXSEA Inc.'s Managing Director Jean Schwartz. Launched in 1998, OCTANS became the first survey-grade fully integrated gyrocompass to meet IMO (International Maritime Organisation) standards in 2001. It is based on IXSEA's truly solid-state Fiber Optic Gyroscope (FOG) technology.

The OCTANS gyrocompass and complete motion sensor, based on FOG technology, outputs true heading, roll, pitch, surge, sway, heave, speed, acceleration and rate of turn and settles at sea in less than three minutes. In 2006, IXSEA launched the latest generation, OCTANS IV, which pioneered the use of Ethernet and web-enabled user interface in the industry. More than 1,200 units have been delivered for a variety of applications ranging from motion compensation for multibeam echosounders and navigation data for surface ships or ROVs, AUV navigation and subsea construction operations.

PHINS and HYDRINS, IXSEA's Inertial Navigation Systems, are the first INS to meet IMO resolution A424(XI) and A694(17) standards. They received IMO-type approval in 2006. They meet the level of quality and confidence set by the IMO and offer the full benefits of Inertial Navigation Systems (x, y, z positions, attitude and robustness to GPS drop-outs). "We see a huge interest in IMO-compliant INS in the industry, especially with DP operators," said Jean Schwartz.

For further information please visit [www.ixsea.com](http://www.ixsea.com) or Tel: +33 (0)6 13 49 05 66.

#### **1.d) BAE SYSTEMS CHOOSE SEABAT 7123 FOR TALISMAN**

In March of this year BAE Systems launched its new autonomous unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) Talisman. The programme which is fully funded by BAE SYSTEMS was started in late 2004 and is designed to meet the need for a modular multi-role UUV, capable of a wide range of maritime littoral operations.

Its purpose is to find a safe and inexpensive system capable of tackling threats posed by mines and subsurface IED's in coastal waters, estuarine, riverine and port environments.

Talisman can be operated fully autonomously on pre-programmed missions but with capability for the operator to intervene throughout the mission should the operational situation change. The operator is able to react to communication with the vehicle and systems via RF or Iridium SatCom (while the vehicle is surfaced) and via acoustic communications systems (when vehicle is underwater).

For further information please Tel: +1 (805) 886-2791 or Email: [thomas.meurling@reson.com](mailto:thomas.meurling@reson.com).

#### **1.e) DE BEERS MARINE NAMIBIA EXTENDS C-NAV® POSITIONING CONTRACT FOR OFFSHORE DIAMOND MINING**

C & C Technologies (C & C) South Africa (PTY) Ltd. has been awarded an extension of the existing C-Nav® contract for all mining vessels by De Beers Marine Namibia (PTY) Ltd.

C & C South Africa has provided C-Nav® positioning to both De Beers Marine Namibia and De Beers South Africa operations since 2004 and has welcomed the extension of services to its offshore mining operations.

"A number of positioning trials were conducted over a seven month period involving both land-based and seagoing trials and C-Nav® came through strong in all aspects of the trials," said Aubrey Price, general manager of C & C South Africa. "De Beers put us and other vendors through a rigorous series of accuracy and repeatability tests and C-Nav® came out on top".

With the advent of 3D offshore diamond mining, C-Nav® will be supplying De Beers Marine Namibia with precision tools to mine subsurface diamondiferous deposits to centimetre level with full equipment redundancy and signal backup.

C-Nav® offers a wide range of software and quality control tools including C-NaviGator®, C-Monitor™ and C-Setup for simple operation and installation. Customer support is provided through C-Nav® offices in the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, Angola, South Africa, Singapore and the United Kingdom. The C-Nav® support network continues to expand with new dealers and distributors operating worldwide.

For more information about C-Nav® quality positioning products and solutions please go to [www.cnavgps.com](http://www.cnavgps.com), Tel C-Nav® Sales at +1 337 210 0000 or send an e-mail to [cnav@cctech.us](mailto:cnav@cctech.us).

## **2. WHO'S ON THE MOVE?**

### **2.a) NAUTRONIX APPOINT CHIEF SURVEYOR**

Marine Technology solutions providers Nautronix have announced the appointment of Sam Hanton as Chief Surveyor.

Sam joins Nautronix after 10 years at Subsea7 and its predecessors, latterly working as Senior Project Surveyor in both Norway & UK. In this role for Subsea7 he worked on the Agbami project, Offshore West Africa where Nautronix 'underwater GPS' system NASNetR was successfully used to provide the positioning referencing for pipeline laydown on the field.

His appointment to the Nautronix Management team significantly improves the company's internal survey experience and capability.

Sam's role will focus on Nautronix complete survey / navigation activities from tender through to project completion. He will provide NASNetR field layout planning support and expert operational NASNetR specific support to customers through the life of the project. In addition he will provide all NASNetR customer training from the company's new training facility in Aberdeen.

Talking of his new role Sam said "I'm delighted to be joining Nautronix at this exciting time. With the ever increasing number of large scale deepwater developments I look forward to being part of the Nautronix team; developing the success of NASNetR and bringing significant financial and operational benefits to our customers."

Sam will be based at Nautronix headquarters in Aberdeen. For further information on Nautronix please visit [www.nautronix.com](http://www.nautronix.com) or Tel: +44 (0) 1224 775700.

## **3. EVENT, TRAINING & DEMONSTRATION NEWS**

### **3.a) SONISTICS CO-ORDINATE INDUSTRY RECEPTION, MARCH 2009**

Delegates at the NATO Underwater Diving Working Group (UDWG) will benefit from a Cocktail Reception at the famous Hotel Metropole in Brussels as part of their week long policy conference in March 2009. The reception will be hosted by industry with appropriate links to diving and will provide the opportunity of showcasing the latest technology and services available to deep submergence divers.

For further information visit [www.sonistics.com](http://www.sonistics.com) and search the site for UDWG.

## **4. JOB POSTINGS**

### **4.a) GEMS REQUIRE METOCEAN SPECIALISTS, WILTSHIRE, UK**

GEMS Survey Limited, based in Devizes, Wiltshire, is an established, internationally operating, innovative and fast growing marine survey company offering marine geophysical, metocean and hydrographic survey services.

GEMS pride themselves on developing a personal relationship with their Clients and delivering a personalised service to ensure they meet their Client's requirements in an efficient and cost effective way. GEMS are constantly striving to develop service deliverables through a team focused business approach, investing in new technology and the recruitment and utilisation of exceptional people.

GEMS have been awarded the prestigious 5-year London Gateway monitoring contract for which a network of over twenty real-time monitoring stations will be deployed. Data is being delivered from a wide range of instruments from systems including meteorology, waves, current profiles, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Regular survey, ADCP transect, sediment plume tracking, and water and substrate sampling campaigns will be undertaken throughout.

GEMS are therefore able to offer an unprecedented opportunity for successful candidates to establish themselves in a varied, challenging and rewarding role in direct support of the London Gateway contract, or GEMS other commitments in UK and overseas.

If you are interested in developing your career further and meeting new challenges, then GEMS Survey is seeking to recruit a number of highly motivated, exceptional individuals in a variety of key positions within the metocean business. Applicants are sought from all levels of experience, including project managers, electronics engineers and field operatives.

The positions will be primarily based at their new offices in Devizes or London Gateway project office. Work will involve both office and offshore based duties. Remuneration will be based upon experience.

If you are interested in any of the above positions please forward your CV to [maxine.collins@gems-group.com](mailto:maxine.collins@gems-group.com).