

# oceanbuzz!

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

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## 1. GENERAL OCEAN NEWS

### 1.a) INNOVATIVE SURVEY SYSTEM HELPS PUSH SEA EYE'S PANTHER PLUS SALES

Egypt based Maridive Offshore Projects have recently bought Seaeye Marine's Panther Plus ROV to survey miles of pipeline of different diameter lying on the seabed in the Middle East, and run along it like a track whilst fitted with camera booms and manipulator for CP inspection. The innovative solution found by Seaeye's engineers was a curved wheeled skid made to fit under the Panther Plus electric work ROV that can be adjusted to run on seven standard sizes of pipe between 18 and 54 inches in diameter.

Simply by repositioning the wheels within the skid's four curved bulkheads, the ROV can land under its own thruster power on the chosen sized pipeline and ride along it monitored by the operator using the two out-rigged boom cameras fitted to the skid, together with the vehicle's on-board cameras. A five-function manipulator is available for CP inspection as needed.

The successful sale to Maridive, a new customer for Seaeye, brings the number of Panther Plus ROVs delivered so far to 23. Add another nine Panthers in the programme for delivery later in the year, and the total deliveries of this best-selling electric work ROV are set to pass the 30 mark by November. For more information go to [www.seaeye.com](http://www.seaeye.com)

### 1.b) AUV MAY LEAD NASA TO JUPITER

NASA is using Mexico's El Zacatan, one of the world's deepest geothermal sinkholes or cenote, to practice for a future underwater exploration of the vast ice capped oceans on Jupiter's moon Europa in about 20 years.

The 1.5 tonne and 2.5 meter diameter battery powered robot 'Deep Phreatic Thermal Explorer (DEPTHX)' has been nicknamed 'Clemantine' for its round shape and orange colour. It is unique among autonomous underwater vehicles in its ability to navigate untethered in complicated, sometimes closely confined underwater spaces.

The goals of the DEPTHX project are: exploration of an unmapped underwater caves and tunnels; three-dimensional mapping of volumetric extent; modeling of environmental parameters and their gradients; characterization of localized site to identify region candidates for biological investigation; automated image and data collection with in-situ analysis for adaptive sampling.

The DEPTHX project is led by Stone Aerospace who designed and integrated the vehicle. Southwest Research Institute has built the science payload for science investigators from the University of Texas at Austin, Colorado School of Mines, and NASA Ames Research Center. Carnegie Mellon is developing the navigation and guidance software to map the cenote and autonomously execute the exploration strategy. <http://www.frc.ri.cmu.edu/>

### 1.c) SCOTTISH POWER AND HAMMERFEST STRØM COLLABORATE ON TIDAL POWER

ScottishPower and Norwegian technology company Hammerfest Strøm have set up a new tidal power company Hammerfest UK. Under the deal, both parties will work together to optimise Hammerfest Strøm's technology including demonstration of a full-scale prototype in Scottish waters, in preparation for deployment of the technology on a wide scale in Scotland and around the globe. Manufacture of the prototype will commence in 2008, with installation during 2009.

The project was an important step towards mass production of still untested tidal power generation technology, a source of energy that if harnessed can cut dependence on fossil fuel-based plants that emit greenhouse gasses responsible for global warming. Hammerfest Strøm in 2003 built the first tidal turbine in the world to supply power to a commercial grid in the Kval Sound near Hammerfest, on Norway's northern tip. The prototype, which provides up to 300 kilowatts of power, is fixed to the seabed, allowing ships to pass overhead, and has turbines 20 metres (22 yards) in diameter. For further information go to <http://www.scottishpower.com/default.asp>

### **1.d) SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW LIFE IN THE ANTARCTIC DEEP SEA**

Scientists have found hundreds of new marine creatures in the vast, deep-sea surrounding Antarctica. Carnivorous sponges, free-swimming worms, crustaceans, and molluscs living in the Weddell Sea provide new insights into the evolution of ocean life.

A key question for scientists is whether shallow water species colonised the deep ocean or vice versa. The research findings suggest the glacial cycle of advance and retreat of ice led to an intermingling of species that originated in shallow and deep water habitats.

Dr Katrin Linse, marine biologist from British Antarctic Survey, says, "What was once thought to be a featureless abyss is in fact a dynamic, variable and biologically rich environment. Finding this extraordinary treasure trove of marine life is our first step to understanding the complex relationships between the deep ocean and distribution of marine life."

Three research expeditions, as part of the ANDEEP project (Antarctic benthic deep-sea biodiversity), onboard the German research ship Polarstern took place with an international team from 14 research organisations investigated the seafloor landscape, its continental slope rise and changing water depths to build a picture of this little known region of the ocean. They found over 700 new species. For further information go to <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/>

### **1.e) FAILING: EARTH'S NATURAL DEFENCES AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**

The earth's ability to soak up the gases causing global warming is beginning to fail because of rising temperatures. Climate change itself is weakening one of the principal "sinks" absorbing carbon dioxide - the Southern Ocean around Antarctica.

As a result, atmospheric CO2 levels may rise faster and bring about rising temperatures more quickly than previously anticipated. Stabilising the CO2 level, which must be done to bring the warming under control, is likely to become much more difficult, even if the world community agrees to do it. The news may give added urgency to the meeting in three weeks' time between the G8 group of rich nations and the leading developing countries led by China, at Heiligendamm in Germany, when an attempt will be made to put together the framework of a new world climate treaty to succeed the current Kyoto protocol. <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/>

### **1.f) AXYS TECHNOLOGIES INC MOORING SECURES WEATHER BUOY IN THE INHOSPITABLE SOUTHERN OCEAN**

Stanford University relied on AXYS' 30 years of marine meteorological buoy mooring experience to support the successful deployment of the Stanford Very Low Frequency (VLF) buoy in the Southern Ocean, more than 1,200km south of New Zealand. The voyage to the offshore station encountered 60 knot winds and 14m seas which ultimately saw the VLF buoy moored in 4,900m of water.

The Stanford VLF buoy is one of the world's most remote buoy stations and will conduct space weather monitoring of the Earth's magnetic field for the next two years. The large 3m diameter, 5 tonne buoy is secured by the AXYS designed and manufactured 6,800m custom synthetic mooring - the equivalent of 70 soccer fields in length. The 8 tonne anchor consisting of train wheels and 108m of heavy chain, took more than 30 minutes to freefall to the seabed.

Design specifications call for a 2 year unserviced operation of the mooring system, capable of surviving seas >13m in height and winds of >70 knots. Staging from the New Zealand capital of Wellington, the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Tangaroa carried 5 scientific researchers and one AXYS Field Service Specialist plus the regular crew of 12. The roundtrip took 13 days, with 3 days spent at the 540 South deployment site. For further information please visit [www.axystechnologies.com](http://www.axystechnologies.com)

## **1.g) HYDROID WINS ITS LARGEST SERVICE CONTRACT TO DATE FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Hydroid, LLC announced today that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has awarded the company a \$26 Million contract for the maintenance, repair, alterations and upgrades of the DoD's Remote Environmental Measuring Units (REMUS) AUV system variants, as well as upkeep of documentation associated with these systems.

There are presently 156 REMUS systems in use by a worldwide customer base, a number of which are being utilized by the DoD for Search-Classify-Map and mine countermeasure operations. Marking the largest service deal in Hydroid's five-year history, this contract will include services and supplies required for the operation and maintenance of these AUV systems, including maintaining the systems in a state-of-the-art configuration. The contract will also provide for procurement of up to 24 additional AUV replacement vehicles/auxiliary support equipment, should any AUVs be lost or damaged beyond repair. Work associated with this contract will be performed at Hydroid's headquarters in Pocasset, Mass., and is expected to be completed by May 2012. For further information go to <http://www.hydroidinc.com/>

## **1. h) AMSI WELCOMES ABOARD NEW MEMBERS AT OCEAN BUSINESS 2007 AND EXTENDS THEIR SPECIAL OFFER**

The Association of Marine Scientific Industries (AMSI) is testament to the outstanding success of Ocean Business 2007, with numerous new members signing up for the many cash and business benefits offered by the UK trade body for marine science and technology. With this popularity in mind, AMSI has extended the special show offer for companies who missed out during the event. AMSI welcomed its respected new members as leading organisations in the oceanographic sector. Amongst the list are: All Ocean Engineering, Gill Instruments, GMT Titanium, PDM Neptec, Quest Geo Solutions, RS Aqua and RUCO.

In the coming months, both new and current members will participate in the deliberations of the Parliamentary Scientific Committee and the Marine Information Alliance, influencing the political and strategic development of the industry. The association also offers an invaluable platform to present its members' products and services to a wider audience. If companies are looking to build an international presence, opportunities are regularly generated through a sophisticated product search on the Society's web site. There is also a very real, current and growing need to resolve issues with government departments and their agencies. Networking and forming alliances with like-minded companies has also proved extremely fruitful for AMSI members. Regular seminars and events help to forge relationships, often resulting in collaborative research or product development. Visit [www.amsi.org](http://www.amsi.org) for further information.

## **2. EVENTS**

### **2.a) EVENT ROUND UP - 40TH MARINE MEASUREMENT FORUM HOSTED BY FUGRO GEOS 16TH MAY 2007**

The 40th MMF looked at how marine scientific measurement activities and technologies have developed over the last 20 years from the start of the MMF series to the present and how they are progressing into the future. The conference room at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel in Wallingford, Oxfordshire was ram packed with attendees all eagerly listening to tales of days gone by and how the industry has developed and will continue to develop. The Forum was kicked off by Roger Scrivens from RS Aqua who entertained delegates with fond memories and anecdotes to celebrate the life of the MMF series. The next MMF will be organised by Intelligent Exhibitions and International Ocean Systems later in the year, further details are available from [info@intelligentexhibitions.com](mailto:info@intelligentexhibitions.com)

### **2.b) DON'T MISS OUT - 7TH ANNUAL ALL ENERGY EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE THIS WEEK 24-25TH MAY 2007**

This week welcomes the start of the seventh All-Energy Annual Series at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre. The UK's largest renewable energy event opens on Wednesday, which is also the day the UK's Energy White Paper is published and two days after publication of the Planning White Paper. For more information go to <http://www.all-energy.co.uk/Home.html>

## **2.c) REGISTER NOW - SEAWORK INTERNATIONAL 2007 12-14TH JUNE 2007**

The 10th Seawork will take place from 12th to 14th June 2007 at The Canary Islands Fruit Terminal, ABP Port of Southampton, UK. Incorporating. Not long left to register! For further information visit <http://www.seawork.com/>

## **2.d) CALL FOR PAPERS - IEEE/OES 9TH WORKING CONFERENCE ON CURRENT MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY. 17-19TH MARCH 2008**

The IEEE/OES/ CMTc ninth working conference is taking place from 17th to 19th March 2008 in Charleston, South Carolina. For further information go to the website [www.cmtc2008.org](http://www.cmtc2008.org) or contact Judith Rizoli White [jrizoli@whoi.edu](mailto:jrizoli@whoi.edu)

## **3. JOB POSTINGS**

### **3.a) OPPORTUNITIES AT EGS INTERNATIONAL, UK**

EGS International Ltd seek Hydrographic Surveyors, Geophysicists, Oceanographers, Marine Scientists and Field Electronics Engineers. They will be involved in both office and site work; this will be roughly a 50/50 split and would provide an interesting variety of work within the oil and gas, utilities, pipe and cable route sectors. Applicants must have a relevant first or second degree, plus a minimum of five years onshore/offshore experience. Apply by enclosing a CV, either in writing or email to Debbie Jenkins, EGS International Ltd, Unit 27 Woolmer Way, Bordon, Hants GU35 9QE, UK Email: [djenkins@egssurvey.co.uk](mailto:djenkins@egssurvey.co.uk)

### **3.b) PROJECT MANAGER VACANCIES AT GARDLINE, UK**

To support their continuing growth strategy, Gardline are looking to appoint a number of Project Managers across the various companies within the GMSL Group. Candidates must be fully autonomous and comprehensible leaders and possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills. For further details and an application form please call the Human Resources Department on +44(0)1493 845600 or email [hr@gardline.com](mailto:hr@gardline.com)

### **3.c) INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING SALES POSITION AT OCEAN NEWS & TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE**

Ocean News & Technology Magazine, has an immediate opening for an independent contractor to handle all advertising sales in an established territory outside of North America. Candidates should have a thorough knowledge of advertising/marketing/publishing, enjoy customer relations, and possess excellent communication skills. Requirements include a proven track record of developing new accounts and growing existing business, an ability to work independently, manage time well and work well under pressure, excellent telephone and computer skills, an energetic personality, and excellent presentation, customer service, written and verbal communication skills. To be considered for this position, please submit your resume to Mj McDuffee, [mjmcduffee@ocean-news.com](mailto:mjmcduffee@ocean-news.com).

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

### **4.a) NEW MARKETING APPOINTMENT FOR OSIL**

OSIL (Ocean Scientific International Ltd.), UK have appointed an in house marketing person to increase their coverage in the marine and environmental sectors. Sophy Gasson has joined the company recently to bring a more focused angle to their marketing approach. Sophy joins OSIL after relocating from London and brings with her several years experience in sales and marketing with high profile clients in the publishing and educational software industries. For further information on OSIL please go to <http://www.osil.co.uk>

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