

SUBSEA UK NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FROM SUBSEA UK

WWW.SUBSEAUK.COM

SEPTEMBER 2010



International Edition

IN THIS ISSUE

Major Contract Announcements
Spotlight on New Technology
International Events

...and more



We Control, Define & Deliver Oil and Gas Projects

EPCoffshore
.... project success

New Developments

Decommissioning

Tel: +44 1224 656990

www.epcoffshore.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)845 505 3535
E-mail: admin@subseauk.com
www.subseauk.com

Member List

20/20 Business Group, Aberdeenshire Council, AC-CESS Co UK, ACE Winches, Acergy, AFT Ltd, AGR Subsea Ltd, AGR Integrity UK, Aker Qserv, Aker Solutions, Allomax Associates Limited, Andrew Palmer & Associates, ANSYS UK Limited, Ashtead Technology, Atkins Boreas Consultants Ltd, Aubin Limited, Baule UK Limited, Beck Prosper Limited, Bel Valves, BG Group, Bibby Offshore Limited, BJ Process and Pipeline Services, Bond Pearce LLP, Bonds, BP Exploration Operating Company Limited, BPP-TECH, Bridge Energy UK, Bruck UK Limited, Buchan Technical Services Limited, C3 Global Limited, Caley Ocean Systems Limited, Castrol Offshore Ltd, Centrica Energy, Champion Environmental Technologies, Chevron Upstream Europe, C-MAR, CodaOctopus Limited, Cognetas LLP, Consub, CorDEX Instruments Ltd, Cosalt, Cranfield University, CSL, CTC Marine Projects, Cutting Underwater Technologies Ltd, Deepwater EU Ltd, DES Operations Limited, DOF Subsea UK, Dominion Gases, Douglas Westwood, DUCO Ltd, Dunlop Oil & Marine Ltd, Dynamic Positioning Services (DPS), E & M ENGENHARIA E MONTAGEM LTDA, E.ON Ruhrgas North Sea UK Ltd, East of England Energy Group, EPC Offshore Limited, eProduction Solutions, Escape Business Technologies, ESS, Expro Group, EXSTO UK Ltd, Exova, Ferguson Modular Ltd, First Subsea Ltd, Fisher Offshore, Flexlife Limited, Framo Engineering UK Ltd, FTV Proclad International Limited, Fugro impROV, Fugro Rovtech Limited, Furmanite International Limited, Galathea, GE Sensing, General Robotics Limited, Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants, Global Energy Group, Global Marine Systems Limited, Granherne Limited, Buchan Technical Services Limited, Helix Esg - Well Ops, HTL, Hydrasun Limited, Hydratight, IHC Engineering Business, Imes Systems, Infield Systems Limited, Inspectaire Inst. Co. Limited, INTECSEA (UK) LTD, Integrated Subsea Services Limited, International Power plc, IPWL Limited, iSea Limited, J + S Ltd, J P Kenny Engineering, J. Ray McDermott, K.D. Marine Limited, Kongsberg Maritime Limited, L&N (Scotland) Limited, Lankhorst Mouldings, Liquevision, Marine Subsea, Marlin Engineering Limited, Master Flo Valve Co (UK) Limited, MCS Kenny, MODUS, Molecular Products Ltd, National Hyperbaric Centre, National Oceanography Centre, Nautronix PLC, NCA - Norse Cutting & Abandonment Ltd, NCS Survey Limited, Neptune DeepTech, NETmc Marine Ltd, Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd, NGP UK Ltd, Noordhoek Offshore B.V, NSIG (Northern Scotland Industries Group), NSRI, NSW Technology Ltd, Nylacast Ltd, Oceaneering, Oceanlab, University of Aberdeen, Offshore Installation Services, Offspring International Limited, OMB Offshore Applications Limited, Online electronics, Optical Metrology Services Ltd, Optimus Safety Management Limited, Pan-Ocean Engineering Limited, PDL Solutions (Europe) Limited, Perry Slingsby Systems Limited, Petro-Canada UK Ltd, Photosynergy, Pipe Coil Technology Ltd, Polar Media, Poseidon International, Presens AS, Project Development International Ltd, Proserv Offshore, Prospect, Quest Offshore Resources Inc, Quest Project Personnel (UK) Ltd, RBG Limited, Reson Offshore Limited, Robert Gordon University, Rotech Subsea Limited, Roxar Limited, RRC Controls Services Limited, Saab Seaeeye Limited, SAIPEM, Schilling Robotics Ltd, Schlumberger Subsea Surveillance, Score Subsea and Wellhead Limited, Scottish Enterprise, Seal-Tite UK LLC, SECC, Seabyte Ltd, Shell UK Ltd, Simmons & Co International Limited, SMD Ltd, Smit Subsea Europe BV, Society for Underwater Technology, Solstad Offshore (UK) Limited, Sonardyne International Limited (Aberdeen), Sonavision Limited, Sonomatic, Speciality Welds Ltd, Splash Offshore Engineering Limited, Strategic Resources European Consultants Ltd, Stronachs LLP, Sub-Atlantic Limited, Subocean Group Limited, Subsea 7, Subsea Integrity Group (SIG), Subsea Supplies Limited, Subspecion Ltd, Sulzer Pumps (UK) Ltd, Technip UK, Teijin Aramid BV, The Underwater Centre, Total E&P UK plc, Tracercor, Transvac Systems Limited, Trelleborg Offshore, Tritech International Limited, Triton Group, UKPS/SUBCO, UnderSea Sense Ltd, Underwater Engineering Services Ltd, Univation, Universal Pegasus, University of Aberdeen, University of Strathclyde, UTEC Survey, Valeport Ltd, Vector International, VerdErg Connectors Limited, Vetco Gray UK Ltd, Visualsoft Limited, Webtool Subsea, Welaptega Marine UK Ltd, Wellstream International Limited, Wilton Group, Wireless Fibre Systems, Worldwide Business Portfolios, Xodus Group Limited

International Ambitions Spur on Subsea UK Members

by Trish Banks, Operations Manager at Subsea UK



Subsea has never been a more global business than it is today. The activity of our members is certainly testimony to that, with ambitions of even higher growth. With the help of UK Trade and

Investment and Scottish Development International, companies have taken up the challenge to exhibit and/or to present to international conferences the world over.

At our flagship event in February we welcomed an inward mission to the event facilitated by UKTI which will be repeated at Subsea 2011; companies had the opportunity for one-to-one meetings with representatives from NOCs visiting Aberdeen. At Australian Oil and Gas in Perth, Subsea UK ran two sessions of the conference in collaboration with the SUT and Subsea Energy Australia. At MOC in Alexandria, Subsea UK had a joint stand with SDI and Subsea Asia in Kuala Lumpur gave companies the opportunity to exhibit in this important hub for business in the region and also to present at the conference. At the end of June, Subsea UK hosted a reception at the Houses of Parliament giving members a platform to lobby their MPs; we were pleased to welcome Michael Moore, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Charles Hendry, Energy Minister, who both spoke in support of our sector.

Looking ahead, we are planning three regional dinners for London,

Newcastle and Edinburgh and five companies will share a stand at Rio Oil and Gas. The next major event is Subsea Europe at the end of October, offering the chance to exhibit in the business centre of Paris, La Defense. The end of the year will bring an opportunity to join Subsea UK at DOT in Amsterdam and at a Pipeline Integrity event we are organising in collaboration with the Pipeline Industries Guild and the SUT in London.

Subsea UK is an Approved Trade Body and as such can offer eligible companies funding via the Trade Access Programme for key events.

Please make contact for more information or visit the website.



Rotech Subsea exhibiting at Subsea Asia 2010

Hot News

Visit our website for all the latest hot news on everything subsea:

www.subseauk.com

Forthcoming Events in 2010/2011

13th September **Rio Oil & Gas**
Rio de Janeiro

27-28th October **Subsea Europe Paris**
Paris

30th November - 2nd December **DOT Amsterdam**
Amsterdam

9-10th February 2011 **Subsea 2011**
Aberdeen

Please visit our website for details of forthcoming events.



Investment in Skills Crucial for Subsea Sector Growth

by Alistair Birnie, CEO at Subsea UK

We never seem far away from skills issues and we are already seeing visible signs of strains in the resource market, as businesses vie for potential recruits.

A skills and people development survey just completed by Subsea UK has identified critical areas that will without doubt shape the sector for years to come.

This member survey attracted responses from SMEs (75% of survey respondents) in addition to major contractors and represented a range of services including design, manufacturing, consulting engineering, research & development.

The findings are clear and unambiguous and point to a very bright future for the industry. But there is a clear need for a significant increase and sustained commitment to investment in skills for the industry to deliver on its ambitions.

Key findings of the report include:

- 92.4% of respondents said their business would grow in the next 5 years
- 96.3% said that their growth is or would be focused internationally
- 86.5% said they were actively seeking new talent
- 66.7% had additional needs for technician level resource
- 74.4% were looking for additional professional engineers
- 56.8% said more apprentices were needed
- 66.7% said they needed more skilled/experienced people

Learning strategies varied across the sector, but 61.6% saw opportunities for distance and e-learning as a means of delivering individual development. However, only 18.9% said they regularly used external training bodies or services.

These statistics reveal some major skills gaps that could, if not responded to, significantly constrain the sector's ability to retain its global market share.

There is at least growing recognition that skills issues need to take high priority and that the solution has to lie within pan-industry initiatives. And that is where it starts to get a bit tricky.

As an industry sector we are simply not very good at working together on initiatives, and while there have been a number of attempts over the last 10 years to do things on a wider basis, the willpower to take this on has been at best limited.

We all recognise the issues in managing a cyclical industry, and in the high cost of resource. But skills development and retention is a long term strategy, and if we are to make a significant impact, we have to ensure we have such a strategy that will develop enough people to do what the industry plans to do.

How many companies have as their agenda items on their board agendas, skills development alongside growth planning?

An alarming finding of the survey was that 2/3rds of the companies surveyed were looking for experienced and skilled people to join their organisations. This cannot be sustainable, and this way of looking at the skills market serves to push up day rates to a level where we become uncompetitive in a global market with fierce competition.

A further warning sign from the survey was that some 59.5% of respondents felt that there was insufficient time made available for personal development.

One only needs to search the internet to find that companies are predominantly seeking experienced personnel. It is good to see that skills are in demand, driven by immediate contracts that will create revenue.

We are however paying a high price both in immediate day rate terms, and in the longer term, as we are in so many cases denying the opportunity existing staff and newcomers alike who can contribute immensely to the sector's long term growth ambitions.

Now that most believe the worst of the downturn is now behind us, the time is right to put this matter to rest and for us all to work as an industry sector, to encourage commitment at all levels to build our industry's future.

So let's get on with it!

Sonomatic Leads the Way with Collective Asset Integrity Management

Finding new ways to improve safety and integrity performance is increasingly becoming a major challenge with the transfer of many declining North Sea assets and the inevitable conflicts flowing from the fusion of old and new systems.

There are single-source solutions, and Sonomatic – as a leader in the field of ultrasonic inspection, design and application – has had great success implementing systems and practices provided by asset management peer groups, such as PAS 55 from the Institute of Asset Management.

But an alternative and often more successful approach is for a collection of experts in their respective fields to join forces, combining complementary skills and strong track records to create a single point of access to a broad range of subsea inspection and maintenance services.

Behind this approach lies the logic that no single company can be at the leading edge of a full range of services. A properly functioning alliance or JV instead provides the right environment for innovation and creativity on all levels. This ranges from, for example, in-house development of 'smart' inspection technologies to Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) planning, data management tools and statistical analysis of pipework systems, all of which enhance and streamline asset management processes.

Sonomatic is a founder member of the Expert Alliance (www.theexpertalliance.com), a venture bringing together four companies which have in the past regularly worked on the same projects for the same clients. The other members are: Atkins, an engineering consultancy service with wide fitness-for-service experience both offshore and onshore; Innospection, which specialises in advanced electromagnetic inspection solutions for defect detection and fast corrosion scanning; Proserv Offshore, specialists in advanced cleaning and coating removal and cold-cutting technologies.

Since the alliance was formed in early 2009, the partners have collaborated on a range of projects – predominantly topside inspection work – for both UK and international clients, including several in Australia.

Apache II - Technip's Newest Vessel Officially Named

Technip has unveiled the Apache II, its new state-of-the-art pipelay vessel.

She was officially named on Thursday, July 22nd by vessel godmother Margaret Forrest, wife of John Forrest, Talisman Energy UK vice-president, at a special ceremony in Invergordon, Scotland, close to Technip's spoolbase in Evanton, where she will mobilise for future projects.

In keeping with marine traditions, Mrs. Forrest was invited to take the role as godmother, since the Apache II's first operational project was for Talisman in the UK.

The completion of the Apache II involved the rejuvenation of Technip's old Apache. The existing pipelay equipment from the vessel was transferred onto a new hull manufactured in Vigo, Spain. Construction work was carried out at Technip's fabrication yard in Pori, Finland.

Ron Cookson, Managing Director of Technip UK, said: "We've had a great reaction to our new pipelay vessel Apache II, which has successfully completed four projects since she joined the fleet in May. I'm delighted that she is already committed for much of the 2011 season.

"Apache II offers clients a faster, more modern version of the original Apache, a true 'stalwart' of the industry. The combination of the pipelay platform of the original Apache

and the new hull results in one of the newest and most advanced pipelay vessels operating in the industry and further strengthens Technip's reputation as a market leader."

Since she joined the Technip fleet, Apache II has already completed three separate projects in the North Sea employing three different modes of pipelay operation, and one project in offshore Trinidad & Tobago – an impressive and busy start to her operational life. Now officially named, Apache II will transit to Orkanger, Norway to execute her next projects.



C-Tecnics Appoint New General Manager

C-Tecnics is pleased to announce the appointment of Andy McAra as General Manager of the Aberdeen based Underwater Video and Communications supplier.

Mr. McAra brings with him 18 years of subsea industry experience in the fields of diver communications and subsea positioning (most recently as Sales Manager for Nautronix), having performed various



technical and commercial roles for the company since their acquisition of Helle Engineering in 1995.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. McAra said: "C-Tecnics' brilliantly engineered and innovative products attracted me to the company straight away, and I look forward to raising the profile of those products within the inshore and offshore diving markets worldwide. The enthusiasm and dedication of the team at C-Tecnics is immediately evident and this will contribute greatly to the success of the company going forward."

C-Tecnics recently launched the C-Vision System, a Portable Two Diver Underwater Video system with inbuilt light control and communications. It can record up to 30 hours of video footage and captured video can be easily converted and downloaded.

SMD Awarded Major ROV Contract by i-Tech

SMD has been awarded a contract by i-Tech (a division of Subsea 7) to supply 20 (with options for up to a further 10) QX-Ultra work class ROVs. The ROVs will be used by Subsea 7 in Brazil, working for Petrobras. The award is SMD's single biggest ROV order to date and positions the company as the leading supplier of Work Class ROV (WROV) systems in expanding international markets.

Commenting on the award, Andrew Hodgson, CEO at SMD said: "SMD has been Subsea 7's WROV manufacturer and supplier for over four years. This contract was won through competitive tender designed to ensure i-Tech's WROV equipment remains at the forefront of technology. Having evaluated the market I am delighted that i-Tech has chosen to continue its long standing relationship with SMD."

The QX-Ultra is an evolution of the successful medium size Centurion QX WROV designed and built for i-Tech by SMD. Utilising the latest Curvetech components and technologies, many from SMD's newest vehicle Atom, QX-Ultra offers the flexibility to undertake a wide range of tasks whilst being easy to use and maintain.

In addition to the WROVs, SMD will design and manufacture the A-frame and winch systems to create a complete turnkey package. SMD remain the only Work Class ROV manufacturer with the ability to design and manufacture WROV launch equipment.

SMD has invested heavily in both its production facilities and people over the past two years to enable it to produce up to 3 complete WROV systems (including launch equipment) per month. The first twenty QX Ultras will be delivered over an 18 month period. SMD will also open a service office in Macae in Brazil and is committed to further developing its supply chain in Brazil.



New Orders for Trittech's Excavation and Jetting Pumps

Trittech, the innovative underwater technology company, has recently supplied a significant number of its Merlin subsea pumps to South America.

This order follows local delivery of a Boost Pump, a higher capacity pump from Trittech's ZipJet family, specially designed for a global upstream technologies company.

The Merlin pump has been efficiently designed to avoid blockages or jams, as there are no moving parts in the suction flow path. Compact yet powerful, it is ideal for ROV use. A flow reversal valve can be operated to back flush the suction nozzle, should there be an obstruction. This allows the operator to break up heavy and cohesive seabed mud and sand prior to excavation. Power is derived from a stream of high-velocity fluid creating a low-pressure region behind the suction nozzle. With three modes of operation, Merlin may be rapidly switched from suction to jetting or be configured to allow jetting and excavation to be carried out simultaneously.

The Merlin pumps, named after the famous Lochs of Scotland, are hand built to an exacting standard at Trittech's Aberdeen site.

Sam Barrett, Technician, Trittech International, comments on Trittech's hydraulic range: "We take pride in the efficiency and reliability of our pumps. Merlin is just one of a very successful family of ZipJet pumps, all of which are built and tested to the highest possible standards."

ANSYS and Cognition Announce Affiliation

ANSYS and Cognition Ltd have signed an affiliation agreement where Cognition will use ANSYS engineering simulation software as part of their consulting services. Cognition delivers specialist mechanical design and advanced finite element analysis (FEA) to the Energy Industry. The suite from ANSYS enables customers to optimise designs throughout the product development process, especially in the early stages when changes can be efficiently and cost effectively implemented.

Robust analysis is at the core of Cognition, and advanced simulation is offered as a standalone service or in conjunction with mechanical design projects. Cognition is currently working with Singapore based Managed Pressure Operations to design and develop a new range of downhole equipment for the managed pressure drilling market, and the technical challenges presented by this project allow Cognition to fully exploit the benefits of ANSYS virtual prototyping and advanced simulation.

Rae Younger, Managing Director of Cognition, said "We are very pleased to have signed an agreement with ANSYS, which we believe offer the best-in-class simulation tools for product design and optimisation. We are particularly excited by the recent developments made by ANSYS in high performance computing (HPC) and parallel solvers. ANSYS HPC will enable us to deliver superior designs and accelerated analysis to our clients in the shortest possible timescales."

Gary Panes, Regional Sales Director of ANSYS UK Ltd., said "We at ANSYS are delighted to be working with the high calibre engineers and analysts at Cognition. I believe that the unique engineering challenges faced by the Energy Industries can be capably resolved with the extensive capabilities that ANSYS offers, which Rae and his team will be utilising. I have confidence Cognition will do an excellent job of leveraging the unparalleled depth of technical solution that ANSYS offers the Energy industry."

Cognition's business plan is for rapid growth and expansion as they seek to exploit the niche for advanced mechanical design to the Energy industry. The flexible software license options available from ANSYS are a key enabling factor in supporting this business plan.

Record Breaker Ready for More of the Same

The concept behind the development of Cutting Underwater Technologies' (CUT UK) new range of "Modular" Diamond Wire Cutting Machines (DWCM) was twofold; one to minimise deck space whilst maximising cutting capacity and, secondly, to incorporate all the latest technology into one single package.

The modular DWCM has a cutting capability in its first mode of some 60 – 84in whilst in the second, cuts of between 85 and 120in diameter can be carried out

The cutting capacity can be changed by altering the centre section of the modular machine. This procedure can be carried out easily offshore in around 60 minutes without affecting either the efficiency or capability of the machine.

Of particular interest is the capability to execute the CUT developed "Castellated" cutting profile. This capability allows the target to be severed but still retain its structural integrity in all vertical and horizontal planes following cut completion.

This capability would allow some major cuts to be carried out prior to the arrival, on-site, of the heavy lift crane barge, thus offering considerable financial benefits without compromising safety.

However, prior to the first operational deployment, the client requested that a test piece mimicking the offshore target was to be cut to validate the modular machine and its capability to perform such an intricate cut profile.

Therefore a test piece 120in in diameter, with a wall thickness of 2.75in, complete with 13 internal pipes of varying diameters and wall thickness was manufactured before being installed in a CUT designed and built test rig. Thereafter in early 2009 the world's first cut of this type



was performed under a centrally located compressive load of some 550 tonnes (which remains a record for this size of cut).

The cut was performed in one operation taking some 727 minutes, or just over 12 hours to complete.

During these trials the opportunity was also taken to test the Automated Wedging System (designed to prevent wire jamming) and the various electronic systems fitted to the modular machine. These trials were completed successfully though the wedging system was not required during the actual cutting operation offshore.

A total of eight cuts were executed as part of the offshore decommissioning project, all on the main jacket legs: four were at 84inch external diameter and four at 120inch. All the cuts were carried out successfully.

With these capabilities now proven through both onshore testing and offshore experience, the sophisticated electronics, and additional advanced features, mean that the CUT Modular DWCM can truly be said to be "the cutting edge" of Diamond Wire Cutting Technology.



Corporate Finance Industry & Technology Team Strengthened with Latest Appointment

Simmons established its innovative Industry & Technology team to provide real technical knowledge and industry experience to its clients during transactions.

The team underlines Simmons' position as a leading corporate finance advisor to the energy sector.

"Anthony's appointment adds geosciences to our list of deep technical capability that includes drilling, completion and production, land, offshore and subsea operations. Our specialist team aims to drive value for our clients during a transaction. This first-hand knowledge gives clients confidence that we understand their products and services and therefore their business, its market potential and value now and in the future," said John Donachie, Vice President of the Industry & technology team at Simmons.

The core functions of the team are new opportunity identification, deal creation and supporting ongoing transactions with technical and

market expertise.

Commenting on his new role, Mr Cooke said: "The team gives Simmons a real edge in the corporate finance arena and I am excited about the potential. There are huge opportunities in the oil and gas marketplace at the moment and our role is to identify opportunities for companies whether they are buying, merging, selling, investing or growing.

Alan Dick, Associate of the Industry & Technology Team, said "The combined expertise in the team enables Simmons to help clients realise value in their business by quickly targeting the right acquirers or to build value through acquisitions that are in line with their strategic goals. We also identify technology trends to spot opportunities that may otherwise go unnoticed."

Mr Cooke's arrival follows the recent appointment of ex-Weatherford Chief Technology Officer, Stuart Ferguson, as chief technology adviser to the firm.

Simmons & Company International, specialist corporate finance advisors to the energy industry, has appointed Anthony Cooke as an associate within its Industry & Technology team.

A petroleum geologist with 10 years experience, Mr Cooke has joined Simmons from Schlumberger where he was responsible for business development, technical marketing and sales for reservoir characterisation, geomechanics and reservoir engineering products and services.

CTC Marine Projects Commences Cable Load out for the Wave Hub Project

CTC Marine Projects has now commenced the load out of the 25 kilometre armoured power cable and its hub as part of the Wave Hub project, which will go offshore at the beginning of August.

The Wave Hub project has been developed by the South West RDA (Regional Development Agency) and will create the world's largest test site for wave energy technology and consists of a grid-connected socket in the seabed, 16 kilometres off the coast of Cornwall. The site will allow Wave Energy Converter (WEC) developers the opportunity to test WEC arrays over several years in a fully monitored marine environment, and export their generated electricity to the local grid.

The chartered cable laying vessel, MV Nordica, has transited to JDR Cables in Hartlepool where the cable was manufactured. It is here that the cable will be loaded onto the vessel in an operation which involves spooling the tensioned cable directly from the JDR factory onto a 2000 tonne capacity carousel. The Wave Hub has been

connected to the cable and was loaded onto the vessel first, followed by the 1,300 tonnes of cable.

Following this procedure, which should take approximately 4 days, the Nordica will transit to north Cornwall where the offshore operations will commence. The beach pull will take place first, followed by the cable lay, deployment of the hub itself and burial of part of the cable route. It is expected that the CTC workscope will be completed in August.

Daryl Lynch, Managing Director of CTC Marine Projects says: "CTC recognises the importance of renewable energy to the UK and believes the Wave Hub project is a significant milestone and opens up another avenue in the renewable market.

"CTC is pleased to be participating in what we hope will be the start of many such developments. We believe we can bring a significant contribution and become a major provider to this emerging business."

Granherne's Multidiscipline Approach Beneficial to Subsea Processing

Granherne has recently completed a confidential multidiscipline study of subsea processing technologies for a deepwater oil field development. The study reviews the maturity of technology of the different subsea separation systems currently available, discusses their readiness level and technology gaps and provides preliminary cost indications.

Subsea processing is a heterogeneous group of technologies inspired by the attractive idea of moving surface operations to the seafloor, namely subsea boosting and metering; gas-liquid separation; gas compression; produced water re-injection and seawater treatment/injection.

After decades of qualification and testing, these technologies, albeit with different levels of maturity, have gained a wider acceptance in the oil industry and are now considered as major building blocks for subsea projects.

Subsea separators have only reached technical maturity more recently. Accordingly their applications

are still rare. To date full-scale subsea separators are part of Statoil Tordis, Shell Parque das Conchas and Shell Perdido.

Subsea separation will be also used on Total Pazflor and Petrobras Marlim projects, among others. This trend is expected to continue to unlock future developments, especially in deepwater environments.

Subsea gas compression has also attracted the industry interest. Wet gas compression is a potential enabler of the exploitation of large gas fields located far from the shore (subsea-to-beach developments) or in extremely harsh environments such as the Arctic.

The subsea reinjection of produced water was first accomplished by the pilot that Norsk Hydro tested in Troll C a decade ago. Seawater treatment/injection is a relatively younger discipline but, thanks to the progress made by the other subsea processing technologies, is rapidly catching up.

The results obtained so far are remarkable but subsea processing still poses design and operational

challenges that should not be underestimated.

The design of the subsea production system must take into account subsea processing and ensure its proper integration with reservoir, well and topsides facilities, and enhanced-oil-recovery techniques. Different subsea processing technologies used together need careful optimisation, as when subsea separation is coupled to subsea pumping.

Operational challenges are due to the changes in wellstream composition during the field life; to the behavior of the hydrocarbons when commingled in a multi-well separator and to the handling of produced sand.

To effectively manage all of these challenges requires a multidiscipline approach. The close interaction of well completion, flow assurance, subsea engineering, high voltage power distribution, subsea controls, topsides design, and R&D as provided by Granherne is beneficial to the successful application of subsea processing to the ever-demanding development of subsea fields.

Forthcoming Subsea Events

www.subseauk.com

Subsea Europe 2010
27-28th October 2010
Paris

DOT 2010
30th November - 2nd December 2010
Amsterdam

Subsea 2011
09-10th February 2011
Aberdeen



Changes to UK Anti-Corruption Laws

Significant changes to UK Anti-Corruption Laws are due to be implemented in October this year when the Bribery Act 2010 comes into force. The Act will replace the existing antiquated anti-corruption laws in the UK and are designed to bring its laws into line with the requirements of the OECD Convention on Bribery. The Act makes wide ranging changes which are likely to affect many businesses.

It introduces criminal offences of offering or giving bribes and accepting bribes (in both cases in the public or private sectors) and bribing a foreign public official.

In addition, and of great significance to many companies, the Act also makes an offence for a commercial organisation to fail to prevent bribery. The offence is not limited to circumstances where a commercial organisation actively encourages or procures bribery but applies where a commercial organisation fails to prevent a person associated with it from bribing another person on its behalf. This will apply to employees, agents, subsidiaries and other parties to the extent they perform services for the commercial organisation.

The failure to prevent bribery offence is not limited to acts of bribery in the UK and will affect many businesses with international operations. The offence can apply even where the intermediary's actions are not illegal in the territory in which they take place if the actions would have been illegal if they had taken place in the UK.

There is a defence available to the failure to prevent bribery offence. It is that the commercial organisation has taken "adequate procedures" to prevent its intermediary from making bribes. The Government is yet to publish guidelines on what constitutes "adequate procedures" but it is recommended that businesses review their procedures and take the necessary steps in advance of the Act coming into force so that they can be confident they can rely on the "adequate procedures" defence. This process should involve a number of actions including reviewing codes of conduct, employment contracts, contracts with agents and suppliers as well as introducing accounting policies to ensure payments can be identified and carrying out proper diligence when entering a new market or territory.

Simmons Reports Total Deal Value of \$1billion at End of Financial Year

Simmons & Company International Limited closed 20 deals with a total transaction value of \$1 billion in 2009/10. The number of deals was up by more than 50% against the previous financial year.

The Aberdeen-based specialist corporate finance advisers to the energy industry announced the healthy deal figures despite a financial year which suffered from the global economic crisis and a collapse in the oil price.

Around a third of the deals were centred on the local Aberdeen market which also acts as a hub from which Simmons accesses its international market, while more than half of the deals were cross-border involving parties from Europe, North America, Middle East and Australia.

The firm is predicting a significant improvement in dealflow as confidence in the long-term prospects for the energy industry grows and is entering 2011 with a strong back-log of new projects.

Simmons has retained its full complement of people during the financial year and strengthened the

team in specific areas through new appointments and promotions.

"It's by no means a record year, but bearing in mind the previous state of the oil price, economy and banking sector this time last year we are very satisfied with the outcome, which highlights the performance of our team and the resilience of the energy sector," said Colin Welsh, CEO, Simmons & Company International.

"Our completed transactions list includes a good balance of acquisitions, sales and finance raisings across the oil service sector, from drilling and completions to pipeline, process and general oilfield services. The subsea space features predominantly with successful transactions for Nautronix, SubOcean Group and Acteon."

The successfully completed transactions include the acquisition of Norson by Enermech, the sales of Serimax to Vallourec and Cyclotech to MI-SWACO and finance raisings for International Tubular Services and Red Spider.



Outstanding Environment for Learning



Some of BEL Valves 2nd year Apprentices. From left to right: Andrew Jobling, Steven Givens, Ross Read, Mark Knights, Adam Bennett

Students and Apprentices

Promoting Engineering & Manufacturing as a positive and exciting career for students, BEL Valves Ltd, a British Engines group company, has maintained a long and proud record of work experience developed with local schools and colleges dating back to the mid 1960s.

Many of the students originally visiting with their school have gone on to join the BEL's technical modern apprenticeship programme which prepares trainees for their first appointment in a position of responsibility in engineering.

Learning takes place both on and off the job and provides valuable hands-on training specific to BEL Valves manufacturing methods and resources as well as parallel academic study through a structured day release programme.

Apprentices are involved in developing their key skills, traditionally included through NVQ study. But uniquely also develop other important skills such as personal and teamwork development through a series of residential courses.

This year BEL has taken on 12 new apprentices who start on their 3 or 4 year programme depending on entry qualifications. BEL would typically therefore have 30 to 40 apprentices going through the scheme at any one time.

The Business has been instrumental in the development of the Subsea Foundation Degree offered by Newcastle College and the Subsea Engineering and Management Masters Degree at Newcastle University. These have been developed alongside the Subsea Future talent project which has been well advertised within this publication. Both courses are extremely valuable in the progression of the academic learning of apprentices as well as advancing the continued and professional development of the existing employees.

Higher Education

Development of their in house talent doesn't stop with the end of the apprenticeship. BEL Valves training and development is intrinsically linked with its business strategy and as such employees are encouraged to continue their studies into higher education.

A great example of the success of this strategy lies with two recently qualified engineers, Gary Burns and Andy Plews. They have both gained



Gary Burns and Andy Plews. 1st Class Honours

First Class Honours degrees in Mechanical Engineering this year from Northumbria University. A worthy achievement in its own right, but even more commendable when you consider that they studied part time and also gained recognition by achieving the Institution of Engineering & Technology prize for overall academic achievement and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering project prize.



Ron Dodd Receiving his MBE

A Foundation for Learning

Mr Ron Dodd, previous BEL Managing Director created an environment for learning within the group and his legacy is paying dividends now. Since 1966 the business has trained over 600 individuals through the apprenticeship scheme and those graduating now make up over 25% of the current workforce.

Ron's drive for excellence in skills development wasn't limited to the BEL Valves in house scheme. He went on to establish TDR Training Ltd, a charitable organisation designed to promote Engineering and Science based careers to the North East's students through planned and structured work experience with local businesses. Again recognition came this year when Ron was awarded an MBE for his contribution towards skills development.

Many businesses now recognise the need for closer integration of learning and development within their business practices. BEL Valves has invested heavily in their most valuable asset, their people, and for many years have created an outstanding environment for learning.

Tritech Commits to Future Subsea Talent

Tritech, the innovative underwater technology company, continues to harness the skills of the next generation of subsea engineers.

Across Tritech's two sites in Ulverston, Cumbria and Westhill, Aberdeenshire, the company has been nurturing the potential of five student apprentices.

At Westhill, a student and a graduate from Aberdeen University have been employed as Student Engineers. Gregor Will and Ben Bird are working under the guidance of the Customer Support Team and will be on placement until mid-September. The students are obtaining hands on experience in quality control and design as well as gaining an appreciation of the various subsea applications that Tritech products are used for.

Tritech's Ulverston site has three Electronic Technician Apprentices; in conjunction with apprentice engineering and technology training provider GEN II, who are at various stages in the four year placement. Chris Ronson has recently just completed a work-based portfolio as part of his final year to achieve an NVQ level 3+ alongside completing his HNC in Electrical & Electronic Engineering. Whilst two apprentices are nearing the end of their second year, Sam Simpson and Jake Holmes have been receiving onsite training, spending the last year working towards their NVQ level 3 and completing their ONC in Electrical & Electronic Engineering in preparation for starting their HNC this year.

Knowledge and competency undoubtedly go hand-in-hand with selecting the right individual to work at Tritech. As Bill Jaffray, Process and Improvements Manager comments, skills, commitment and teamwork are at the heart of Tritech:



Technical Team Leader Chris Stebbens (middle) and apprentices Sam Simpson (left) and Jake Holmes.

"Establishing student placements within Tritech has allowed us to attract the best calibre of individuals. The programme we offer allows the students to interact with their peers as we create a learning environment which necessitates teamwork."

Craig Thorburn, Customer Support Engineer comments on the placement opportunities Tritech provides:

"We are able to provide industry leading products for the subsea market as a direct result of our dedicated world-class team. Part of this success comes from our ability to take in student graduates,

apprentices as well as placement students and give them their first chance of working in an industrial environment. We aim to help them develop key personal skills, such as teamwork and communication, which they will come to rely on in their future careers."

Ben Bird, Tritech Student Engineer, describes his experience:

"Working for Tritech has enabled me to put my knowledge and skills into practice, providing me with an exciting insight into the world of subsea engineering and technology."

CSL Launches Decommissioning Introduction Course

Engineering and project management company, CSL, has introduced a one-day Decommissioning Introduction course to its training portfolio.

The course is designed to provide managers, engineers and non-technical personnel with an overview of the process involved in decommissioning offshore oil and gas installations, with a focus on the environmental, safety and financial issues.

Neil Knowles, CSL's Managing Director, says, "With more than 800 facilities in the North Sea that will eventually require decommissioning, demand for knowledge in this area is on the increase."

Topics covered in the course include; decommissioning regulations and legislation; decommissioning options; well abandonment process; subsea structure removal; pipeline recovery; management of decommissioning waste; re-use of offshore facilities, structures and pipeline; abandonment in-situ; costs associated with decommissioning; and case studies.

"By demonstrating the challenges and lessons learned from past decommissioning projects, delegates gain an understanding of the decommissioning process from a real-life perspective which is invaluable," adds Neil.

CSL's training courses are offered as both in-company and public courses.

Subsea Firms Support Future Talent

Subsea firms in the North East of England have been celebrating recently, after their part in establishing subsea courses in partnership with Newcastle College and Newcastle University.

A Foundation Degree in Subsea Engineering Technologies was launched at Newcastle College in September 2009 and saw 23 students enrol in its first year. The MSc in Subsea Engineering Management has seen similar success at Newcastle University, catering to both international students and to subsea employees living and working in the region, with over 60 applications already received for the 2010 intake. Both programmes were developed in liaison with industry and firms continue to support the courses through employee sponsorship, provision of invaluable student projects, acting as external lecturers and providing a substantial amount of capital equipment to enhance the learning experience.

The Subsea Future Talent Project, part-funded by One North East, the Regional Development Agency, was intended to provide subsea-specific courses and training with a view to maintaining world-class engineering skills in the region, as well as attracting new talent to the subsea sector. The partnership, between Newcastle College, Newcastle University and Subsea NE, a cluster of leading subsea firms operating in the North East of England, has been deemed a huge success with over 60 firms engaged and 277 individuals accessing training and CPD opportunities through the project.

In April, the partners were presented with an award for Collaboration in Higher Level Skills, at the region's Celebrating Learning and Skills Success (CLASS) Awards, sponsored by One North East and Business and Enterprise North East (BENE). Over 1,200 guests came together to celebrate the achievements of those at the cutting edge of skills development, where the collaboration between Subsea NE, Newcastle University and Newcastle College was cited as an exceptionally broad and

innovative example of employer engagement. Dr Fiona Whitehurst collecting the award, alongside colleagues from Newcastle College and Subsea NE says: "The support the University and College have received from the subsea firms has been excellent and we look forward to strengthening the relationship through further collaborative activities including our participation in the National Subsea Research Institute"

Far from being a short-term effort, Subsea NE is keen to maintain the position of the North East of England as a world-renowned, centre of subsea engineering, as Neil Kirkbride, Chief Executive Officer of BEL Valves, a division of British Engines Limited, and a key supporter of the project explains: "The establishment and success of these new courses in Newcastle sends a strong message about the strength of our regional sector. Firms in North East England will continue to invest in staff and attract new learners in order to maintain the world class skills this region can currently boast."



Subsea firms who have contributed to the project are recognised at a celebratory event at Newcastle College. (l-r): Gary Ormiston of SMD, Jerry Baker of Atkins Boreas, Michelle Unger of Penspen Integrity, Alison Ennis of BEL Valves, Nick Lee of CTC Marine and Jon Greenwood of IHC Engineering Business. Image by Gavin Duthie.

NCS Survey's Low Flying AUVs

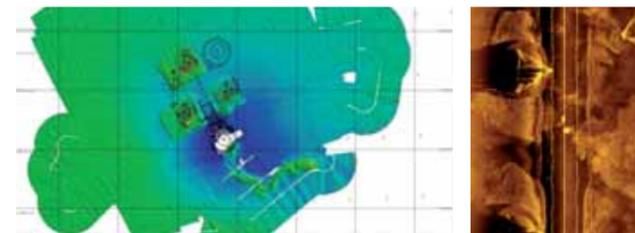
NCS Survey recently performed some restricted access data acquisition with one of their Gavia Offshore Surveyor AUVs for Shell Upstream International Europe.

The primary reason for the survey was to observe any possible scouring around the spud cans of the jack-up drilling rig located alongside a platform. The AUV flew several lines between the legs of the jack-up drilling rig, as well as a couple of lines between the stern legs and the fixed platform. As can be seen from the accompanying images, the MBES and SSS image are both very high resolution. The SSS is a 900kHz Marine Sonics system and the MBES is a 500kHz Geoswath interferometric system. The data was acquired in a single dive in water depths of less than 10m.

Previously, to perform such a survey required the drilling rig to suspend drilling operations, lift up the hoses deployed over the side and sail a small vessel under the drilling rig, which obviously had safety implications. By using the AUV, NCS Survey were able to deploy and recover the vehicle from the standby vessel whilst located outside of the 500m zone, thus allowing safer operations and removing the need to suspend drilling.

The survey is expected to be repeated on a regular basis to monitor any scour developing around the spud cans. The vehicle can be mobilised in just a few hours and the data acquired within the endurance of a single battery pack which lasts 4 hours. The option to utilise 2 battery packs is also available for longer scopes.

The systems have been used on a number of different types of projects including pipeline inspection, harbour surveys and decommissioning.



Marine Companies Benefit from Semta Expertise in Improving Skills & Training

Devon based Babcock Marine has increased productivity, reduced costs, increased sales and profits after working with Semta, the Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies.

The UK's leading naval support company needed the right people with the right skills to complete the development of the HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier and to be prepared for work on the second warship, HMS Prince of Wales, due to begin in Appledore in January 2012.

In the last 18 months Semta has supported 71 UK Marine companies across the UK and as a result 668 employees have embarked on a qualification; marine companies have accessed £1.2m worth of funding with Semta's support.

Babcock Marine called upon Semta for assistance in developing appropriate training programmes for its employees. Semta worked with the company to develop a robust Management and Leadership programme, delivering high level industry approved National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). Prior to Semta's involvement, the company did not have training plans in place for its senior level employees but since doing so, Babcock has already seen significant benefits; employees are now re-evaluating how products are categorised, and introducing additional modular approaches to variations in each package.

Philip Whiteman, Chief Executive of Semta comments: "There are significant skills shortages in the marine sector that need to be filled. So we urge marine businesses like Babcock Marine to take advantage of Semta's service and our National Skills Academy programmes, as the benefits are clear, quantifiable and can have a huge impact on the bottom-line of small to medium sized businesses in particular."

Semta's role is to raise skill levels and competitiveness in the sectors it represents. Semta and its National Skills Academy for Manufacturing can do this by helping you understand your company's skills needs and providing solutions to tackle them.

GE Oil & Gas Launches New VetcoGray D-Series Deepwater Subsea System

Expanding its advanced technology portfolio for the deepwater drilling and production sector, GE Oil & Gas has officially launched the new VetcoGray DHXT deepwater horizontal tree and integral control system at the 2010 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) taking place from May 3-6 in Houston, Texas, U.S.

The DHXT is designed to operate in water depths up to 10,000 feet and at pressures up to 15,000 psi. The streamlined design reduces standard industry horizontal tree footprint by 12% (to 4.5M x 4.4M) and weight by 10% (to 43.7 tonnes), delivering significant installation, maintenance and cost benefits for operators.

The D-Series package includes the integral VetcoGray ModPod, a subsea control module that is powered by SemStar5™, representing a new generation of ultra-reliable, open architecture subsea control and instrumentation systems.

Designed and manufactured in Houston, U.S. and Aberdeen, Scotland, U.K., the newest member of GE's modular, short-delivery subsea tree systems, and the first of the Deepwater D-Series to be launched, the DHXT



horizontal tree builds on more than 25 years of design heritage and subsea experience.

As with the new VetcoGray SVXT S-series subsea tree (for shallow-waters) that GE launched at Offshore Europe 2009, the new VetcoGray DHXT is a flexible solution, and design-engineered as the result of continuous consultation and input from both major and independent oil companies. This approach delivers improved functionality and flexibility by incorporating common project requirements to meet a wide range of customer standards.

The new D-Series package includes the integral VetcoGray ModPod, powered by the VetcoGray SemStar5, a fifth generation subsea electronics module, for first deployment next year by Statoil's Tordis Vigdis Controls Modification (TVCM) project in the North Sea, west of Norway.

Featuring a modular design approach, SemStar5 offers new levels of open architecture IP-enabled communication capabilities and infrastructure to support the higher bandwidth requirements of modern instrumentation, while also offering high reliability.

The VetcoGray SemStar5 is being developed and manufactured at GE Oil & Gas' facilities in Nailsea, U.K. along with VetcoGray ModPod subsea control modules, and will be shipped to the project site in Norway for installation offshore shortly. The VetcoGray SemStar5 was awarded a 'Spotlight on New Technology Award' at last year's Offshore Technology Conference.

In addition, the new DHXT and subsea system can be monitored remotely from GE's new SmartCenter (Subsea Monitoring and Remote Technology Center) a state of the art remote-access data hub connected to subsea field control and instrumentation facilities around the world. Officially opened in October 2009, the new SmartCenter facility offers assistance and services to the field at every stage of development - from installation and commissioning, through field start up and onwards into routine operation for operational support, condition monitoring, diagnostics, and production optimisation.

The DHXT deepwater tree with integral control system also features the option for a SemStar5-R, which is a freestanding subsea data hub package designed for installation on subsea trees, manifolds and process facilities. The unit is deployed and retrieved by ROV, with connections to the subsea control and instrumentation system made with wet-mateable ROV-deployed jumpers - using either electrical or fiber-optic connections. The external package is fully marinised for long-term subsea immersion, and the internal data-hub multiplexing unit is an application-specific configuration of the innovative VetcoGray SemStar5™ subsea electronics module.

Maersk Oil Extends GE Oil & Gas Frame Agreement for North Sea Projects

GE Oil & Gas is pleased to announce the signing of a new frame agreement with Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited. The new agreement runs for a five-year period.

Under the new agreement GE Oil & Gas will continue to supply subsea wellheads, trees and tubular products for exploration and developed projects in the North Sea. GE Oil & Gas estimates the total value of the agreement to be in excess of \$80M.

Frame agreements provide a standardised scope of supply designed to enhance manufacture and minimise down time and cost for the duration of the agreement.

GE Oil & Gas is a major supplier of subsea hardware to the Oil & Gas Industry and looks forward to supporting Maersk Oil in its ongoing development requirements over the next five years.

Success for Wilton as SAIPEM J Lay Tower Sets Sail

Awarded to Wilton Engineering Services (part of the Wilton Group) by IHC EB, the contract encompassed the fabrication and construction of a giant 1500 tonne top tension J Lay Tower plus ancillary equipment for Saipem's new Pipelay vessel, FDS2.

The Wilton Group, who are located at the Port Clarence Offshore Base Middlesbrough, received the two year multi million pound contract at the end of 2008. It was a proud moment for all the construction team when the huge structure was finally complete, and safely loaded onto a transport vessel heading for Korea, to mate up with the FDS2 vessel in June 2010.

The J Lay Tower when erect has a height of approx 80 metres and 16m wide, Weighing in at approx 1800 tonnes with a top tension capacity of 1500 tonnes, this makes it one of the world's most capable pipelay systems.

The load out was no easy task. But utilising both Wilton's RoRo angled quay and its main quay with heavy lift equipment to hand, the structure was safely and steadily loaded out onto the transportation vessel which would be delivering the load to Korea.

Wilton Group Global Business Ambassador - Des Hatfield comments: "With all the doom and gloom currently surrounding the world's economies, it's very rewarding at this time for a company like Wilton, to still be producing high quality, high specification structures and equipment for the world's largest and best offshore contractors like Saipem, Technip and Acergy. With new contracts of a similar type now in production we look forward to expanding our expertise and services in the UK and Overseas."



Ace Winches Presented with Queen's Award at Special Celebration

ACE Winches, a leader in the design, manufacture and hire of hydraulic winches, marine deck machinery and provision associated personnel for the offshore oil and gas, marine and renewable energy markets, was presented with the coveted Queen's Award for Enterprise 2010 International Trade by Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell at a special celebration.

ACE Winches was awarded the prestigious accolade by demonstrating its international growth in overseas earnings. Since 2003, when the company had 25 employees and a turnover of £1.8 million, it has focussed on its main objective to achieve sustained growth, success and profitability. The company now employs over 150 staff with a projected combined turnover of £16 million by October of this year, 75% of turnover realised from international activities and sales.

Winning the Queen's Award is testament to its policy of long-term organic growth, careful cash management, an avoidance of high-risk expenditure and re-investment of profits back into the business.

Valerie Cheyne, Chief Financial Officer of ACE Winches, said: "We are extremely proud to have received the Queen's Award. This acknowledges the hard work, commitment and professionalism of our employees across the company. The award is also a testament

of our efforts within the north-east economy to export skills and products to the global market.

"We will continue to invest in developing our people and growing our service offering to ensure that ACE Winches continues to provide tailored-made solutions for our clients in the manufacture and hire of deck machinery and heavily invest and grow a strong hire fleet division."

Scottish singer, Robert Lovie was the Master of Ceremonies for the event, which recognised 12 of its employees with a long service award. Scott Still, Steven Smith, Jacqueline Henderson and John Barron were among the longest serving members of the team, who have collectively been with the company for 46 years.

As part of the celebratory event, the company also awarded 16 apprentices with Modern Apprenticeship Certificates and two Trainee Engineers Certificates, before the Lord Lieutenant opened the ACE Highland Games, which included tug of war, whisky keg, caber tossing and lots more.

Mrs Cheyne continued: "It was a fantastic celebration for both the company and individual members of staff who have been recognised for their achievements. Our employees are very important to us and our main objective is to secure the long term future for all our staff and families."

Saipem Graphic Designer Wins Award for 3D Technology Innovation

Saipem Ltd Sonsub Division 3D graphic designer Kevin Ho has recently been named as a Young Professional of the Year by the European Construction Institute (ECI) for his efforts in developing and implementing 3D stereoscopic animation technology into the Saipem project lifecycle.

Taking inspiration from the science-fiction film *Avatar*, Aberdeen-based Kevin, along with engineering colleague Neil Millington, decided to investigate if the 3D effect could be recreated in Saipem's own animations which were being produced to accompany commercial bids, for project HAZID meetings and for offshore project briefings.

Kevin commented: "We have constantly strived to upgrade our animations to keep pace with current technology, incorporating sound, realistic sea and skies, human motion, etc. But these advances are different - the entire screen has depth, taking on the appearance of a window through which the viewer is watching a 'world' on the screen, with a distinct foreground and background, rather than a flat, moving painting. Hopefully end users will find some benefit in the new depth perception that stereoscopic imagery can provide."

The judges at ECI, a learning and improvement network covering the entire project cycle for engineering construction, remarked: "Kevin is an excellent example of the breadth of talent required by the



3D glasses at the ready: An example of 3D stereoscopic animation

engineering construction sector in order to be competitive. Kevin joined Saipem straight from graduating in a course in Product Design from Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University in 2006. His first role was as a CAD draughtsman where he rapidly gained skills and knowledge. Kevin's technical expertise in the development and use of 3D modelling has enabled Saipem to offer its field engineers and its clients a unique competence in using stereoscopic 3D in computerised animations. Kevin's enthusiasm and meticulous commitment were instrumental in

getting these technologies adopted by Saipem."

Sonsub Division methods manager Vibor Paravic also offered his congratulations, adding: "Kevin's dedication to his job has been integral in developing our 3D animation capacities, which further complements our existing SIMPL (Sonsub Integrated Management of the Project Lifecycle) philosophy. The work of the 3D group has made us a recognised industry leader in the field and I am certain that both Kevin and Neil will continue to keep us ahead of the curve."

AC-ROV 3000 Fly-Out ROV Revealed to the Market by AC-CESS Co UK Limited of Aberdeen, Scotland

Working in conjunction with their engineering partners ALL OCEANS, the 3000m rated fly out offers visual inspection support for host vehicle operations in busy, congested and high risk operating environments. The support this provides can be categorised into two vital roles:

As a BUDDY the AC-ROV 3000 can keep a watching eye on the host vehicle. Duties include checking the tether, giving added perspective on any tool deployments and generally providing an overview of operations. This adds up to reducing risk, limiting host vehicle movement and increased productivity.

As a SCOUT it can be advanced into areas where the host vehicle cannot go, or the risks for it are too great, IE: pipe work, wreck inspection, thermal vents etc. Insurance cover for high risk operations can be difficult to obtain or prohibitively expensive. This is where a less expensive asset comes into its own, which was one of the design drivers for the AC-ROV 3000. The vehicle is

small, simple and robust thereby minimising the value and maximising the durability of the part exposed to the greatest risk.

Inline with the AC-CESS ethos of mobility and robustness, the AC-ROV 3000 retains the clean, snag free shape and orbital mobility of the original AC-ROV underwater inspection system. The vehicle is garaged on the host ROV and is deployed and recovered by an electric Tether Management System (TMS), another All Oceans specialisation.

AC-CESS business development manager, Callum Magee, explained that the AC-ROV 3000 fly-out is a further milestone in AC-CESS's history:

"The AC-ROV 3000 is testament to the original AC-ROV design and is a clear statement of intent. It further demonstrates the forward thinking and industry commitment of both AC-CESS and ALL OCEANS which keeps us where we want to be - at the front."

World's Largest Mono-hull Well Intervention Vessel Docks in Peterhead

The largest mono-hull well intervention vessel ever built made a rare visit to the North-East recently.

The 157 metre long Skandi Aker berthed in Peterhead harbour, during a brief stop-over while en route to Norway, after completing deep water trials in the West of Shetland.

It was the first time the ship, which is operated by Aker Solutions, had docked on the UK mainland, weighing in at 16,000 metric tonnes and with a breadth of 27 metres and an 8.5 metre maximum draft.

Around 100 invited guests from across the oil and gas industry were taken on a tour of the Skandi Aker during its one-day stay in the port.

Designed and built to conduct deepwater well intervention, subsea construction and installation in the toughest offshore conditions in the world, the ship can carry a crew of up to 140 people and comes equipped with deck skidding systems and a 54 metre tall derrick for handling well intervention equipment above subsea wells.

With on-board moon pools for launching remotely operated vehicles and two active heavy compensated cranes with lift capacity of 100 metric tonnes and 400 metric tonnes respectively, she has a cargo area the size of half a football pitch and is capable of reaching speeds of up to 18 knots.



Alan Brunnen, managing director of Aker Solutions' subsea business in Aberdeen, said: "This was a unique chance to see one of the most advanced vessels of its kind and there was a great deal of interest in

the Skandi Aker when she berthed in the North-East.

"It is the first opportunity the industry has had to see this brand new generation of vessel."

Bibby Offshore Appoints Managing Director



Bibby Offshore Limited, the provider of turnkey subsea construction/IRM and offshore management services, today announced changes to its board of directors to support the company's ongoing growth.

Effective from 1st July 2010, Fraser Moonie, who previously held the position of commercial director for the Aberdeen-based contractor, has assumed the role of managing director of Bibby Offshore, whilst Howard Woodcock moves from the role of Bibby Offshore's chief executive to chairman, retaining the role of chief executive of the holding company of the Bibby Offshore group of companies.

Commenting, Fraser Moonie said: "As managing director I have responsibility for all our trading activities and most importantly project execution. This brings a real focus to maintaining the maximum level of reliability and service delivery and as such I will be working closely with our operations and asset management teams. I am delighted to have taken over this new role."

Howard Woodcock said: "Having further developed our service offering and expanded our business internationally we have reorganised our management team to ensure we maintain operational excellence for our clients whilst continuing to drive the business forward through strategic growth. Fraser's appointment as managing director of all our trading activities allows me to concentrate on the long-term development of the business."

A chartered quantity surveyor, Fraser Moonie joined Bibby Offshore in 2003 as commercial manager and was promoted to the position of commercial director in 2006.

Meet us on Stand 7
in Tent 3/4 at Rio Oil & Gas



Riding the Next Wave

Global Business • Innovation • Networking

Forthcoming Subsea Events

Subsea Europe 2010

27-28th October 2010
Paris

DOT 2010

30th November - 2nd December 2010
Amsterdam

Subsea 2011

09-10th February 2011
Aberdeen

For further information please contact

Email: admin@subseauk.com

Tel: +44 (0)845 505 3535

www.subseauk.com



WWW.SUBSEAUK.COM

Subsea UK The Innovation Centre, Exploration Drive, Aberdeen Science and Energy Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX Tel: +44 (0)845 505 3535 Email: admin@subseauk.com www.subseauk.com

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented in this newsletter is accurate, Subsea UK assumes no responsibility for errors, omissions, or out of date information and shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, or punitive damages resulting from the availability of, use of, access of, or inability to use this information.

ADVERTISE IN SUBSEA UK NEWS

The Subsea UK Newsletter is a very effective medium for communicating with your customers. If you are interested in advertising in the next newsletter, email daniel@subseauk.com