



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

news|etter
October 2002

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Americas Deepwater Section

Council and Overall Management Committee decided in May 2002 that a new geographical section was required for members active in the Americas. Until now, members have had to travel to meetings elsewhere and have been unable to get together to discuss common issues. Election procedures and the necessary notice required for meetings mean that a few months have passed by, but now the key building blocks are in place.

- A steering committee has been elected to be chaired by John Reed of Heerema Marine Contractors with Dick Martin of Subsea 7 as Honorary Secretary and four other members. It met for the first time in September.
- The first section meeting will take place in Houston on 23 October.

The section has a remit to maintain, promote and exchange information on good practice. Members in the region are mostly involved in deepwater activities – hence the section name - and so the focus will be on Marine, Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROVs. Sub-groups are being formed for SEL, TCPC and each of these technical divisions.

There has been great encouragement for this new move from members world-wide together with a number of new applications to IMCA from companies in the Americas. Members are asked to support the new section and to ensure that their colleagues in the region know about it and get their names on the contact list. The importance of the region cannot be underestimated given the huge number of projects, both ongoing and planned, including those managed from the region but carried out elsewhere, for example in West Africa. The numerous contractors supporting these provide a very important raft for sharing good practice.



Giving the proceeds from IMCA fundraising efforts to the International Maritime Organization's Seafarers Memorial Trust Fund (L-R) Admiral EE Mitropoulos (IMO Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Maritime Safety Division), Tony Read (IMCA), William O'Neil (IMO Secretary-General) and Hugh Williams (IMCA Chief Executive)

Fundraising for IMO

As a result of fundraising activities undertaken at IMCA's Midsummer Charity Ball, held last June in Aberdeen, a £1500 cheque for the International Maritime Organization's Seafarers Memorial Trust Fund was presented to William A. O'Neil, IMO Secretary-General on 24 July (see left).

"We are delighted to have raised this handsome figure in just one evening and thank members for their generosity," said Hugh Williams. "The money is going to a worthwhile charity - we look forward to organising other events in the future to help swell the Fund." The Seafarers Memorial Trust Fund is marked by a dramatic sculpture - a seven-metre high, ten-tonne bronze representation of the bow of

continued overleaf

Deep Offshore Technology

IMCA will have a stand at this renowned annual offshore industry trade conference, to be held this year in New Orleans on 13-15 November.

'DOT' is famous for its attendance of senior engineers and for the sharing of technical knowledge from ground-breaking deepwater projects which, by definition, are in the midst of IMCA members' interests.

This year IMCA will have a dual purpose for being at this event - to learn some more about the new technologies for deepwater operations and the Americas market, together with promoting IMCA and its new Americas Deepwater Section.

Members who are attending DOT will be welcome on the IMCA stand (no. 310) and are encouraged to help direct other friends and colleagues towards us.

e-Developments

Updates for both the public and members-only websites took place in September and saw the first public display of the new IMCA logo.

Alongside this the look and feel of each site has been improved by simpler navigation through the large amount of content covering each area of IMCA's activities. Colour-coding added to the members-only website now makes clear what documentation is available and to whom. (The site contains over 600 documents, including guidance, safety flashes, information notes and recent committee minutes.)

Following its launch each member company's 'IMCA representative' has received information about the member's only site and almost two-thirds have now signed up under the system. Publicity has also gone deeper within member companies, encouraging more registrations.

IMCA is also adding new material to the site, including copies of this newsletter (in PDF format) and a brand new section containing factsheets and articles to help you explain and promote IMCA to your colleagues, clients and other interested parties.

For more information please contact Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com

New Logo

By now we hope you've spotted IMCA's new badge on the cover of this issue.

IMCA is lucky to have a well recognised acronym because its full title is a bit of a mouthful. Bearing that in mind, IMCA has revised the logo to depict IMCA's world-wide marine, engineering and underwater responsibilities.

Demonstrating another competence Adam Hugo, IMCA's IT Operations Co-ordinator came up with a design that sets the existing typeface (in a slightly darker shade of blue than used previously) beside a cog and globe motif beneath a wave. This proposal quickly won universal approval with both Council and OMC recording their thanks to Adam for his work.

IMCA will gradually apply the new logo to all material as part of ongoing efforts to raise its profile among members, potential members, clients and regulators.


The revised logo is also available in a variety of graphical forms and as a font, to make it as easy as possible to reproduce. Please see the members-only-website for some brand new link graphics for your own site, or if you would like to download a copy of the logo for your letterhead or promotional material.

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a cargo ship with a lone seafarer on the deck - sited at the front of the IMO building on the south bank of the River Thames in central London.


It was in 1998, the year of IMO's 50th anniversary, that William O'Neil proposed to the IMO Council that a trust fund be established dedicated to the training and education of seafarers.

Projects include the establishment of an additional teaching chair at the World Maritime University in Sweden and fellowships for training seafarers as well as financing the creation of the sculpture, by Michael Sandle, to provide a lasting memorial to seafarers past, present and future throughout the world.



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We are proud to announce the commissioning of our new training centres in Johor (just across the causeway from Singapore). The centres comprise of:



Purpose built training barge



Fire & Emergency response centre

Andy Paterson
Training & Operations Manager
MSTS ASIA SDN BHD
Waterfront Jetty
Johor Port 81700, Pasir Gudang
Johor, Malaysia
Tel: +60 7 2522108
Fax: +60 7 2522081
e-mail: info@msts-my.org
website: www.msts-my.org

October 2002 and my 2 year term as President is almost up. Jane has tracked me down for one last time to make the newsletter deadline and next time it will be over to Steve Preston. It's hard to believe that the time has gone so quickly. This is my last opportunity to reflect publicly on the role of IMCA and the state of the industry, so I'll do my best to make it count.

We're in a period of extreme political instability, economic uncertainty and a prolonged period of relatively high oil prices. This week it nudged above \$30 and the operators with portfolios which were deemed profitable at \$12 and below are generally generating good returns. Despite the slow economic growth, demand is rising and one would expect the political instability in the Middle East to focus investment in more stable arenas where subsea production is the preferred technical solution.

IMCA has made good progress, membership is substantially up, the Americas section is off the ground, a revised structure with a true global focus is in place and we have a new, talented and energetic CEO at the helm.

Sound fundamentals one would think for an improving situation for our membership, in particular the international contractors. Sadly, not the case!

Instead we've seen a stream of profit warnings, tumbling share prices and senior management re-shuffles. All at a time when the role of the marine contractor is more important than ever to the production of oil and gas and the generation of profits for the operators. Why?

By necessity this is a capital investment and technically advanced sector. The international contractors all have a major commitment to technology, vessels and equipment. There has been a substantial re-equipment of the industry, third party vessel owners, thirsty for new tonnage, have built aggressively and much of the old kit is still there.

Most of the international contractors have developed EPIC capability and the operators are keen to utilise this but, on a fixed price basis, shedding risk as they go, taking advantage of the over-capacity.

Like any business with high fixed costs, for success the international contractors need to both perform projects flawlessly but also maximise utilisation. This need for utilisation has pushed margins down and this combined with EPIC lump sum contracts on more and more onerous contract terms secured by more expensive, less comprehensive insurance has proven to be, at best, an unhealthy combination for many. For some disastrous!

The atmosphere in the industry is as turbulent and challenging as it has ever been, as evidenced perhaps by the continuing stream of poor results in the annual reports of the contracting fraternity. Clearly both contractor and operator need to strive for a more sensible alignment of risk and return that will sustain a healthy sector, capable of providing the technology and service skills to allow developments to continue in ever more demanding arenas.

Consequently, there has never been a more important time for IMCA. The oil and gas industry needs strong marine contractors and the industry needs IMCA as its common and public voice.

The underlying fundamentals are sound, the expertise is there and it's up to us to get the message across and create our own future.

Over to you Steve.



IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: John Smith, Subsea 7

Chairman Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Chairman Marine: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group

Chairman ROV: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International

Chairman Offshore Survey: Alf Parker, Subsea 7

Chairman SEL: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Cont.

Chairman TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip-Coflexip

Vice Chairman Diving: OC Andersen, Stolt Offshore AS

Vice Chairman Marine: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Vice Chairman ROV: Dave Walker, Technip-Coflexip

Vice Chairman SEL: Mike O'Meara, Subsea 7

Vice Chairman TCPC: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering Int.

Chairman, Americas Deepwater Section:

John Reed, Heerema Marine Contractors

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Section:

Andy Bolton, Technip-Coflexip Oceania

Chairman, Middle East & India Section:

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Diving Div.

IMCA Technical Director: Jane Bugler

IMCA Chief Executive: Hugh Williams

Competence Workshop

IMCA is holding a Competence Assurance & Assessment Review Workshop in Aberdeen on 13 November. Coming almost four years after the launch of this key IMCA guidance this event aims to help members resolve any issues/ barriers to implementation that may still remain and to review the draft revised guidance in light of members' experience.

To commence the review, a questionnaire exercise is underway seeking to gather details from members of their experience implementing schemes using the guidance, their clients' and regulators' requirements, and how they have found working with the IMCA documents, including the updated phased implementation arrangements for the Marine Division and the performance criteria issued by the Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV Divisions.

All contractor members are asked to complete the questionnaire – and to distribute it to colleagues around the world implementing each company's competence scheme.

All respondents will be entered into a prize draw at the workshop to win one of five bottles of whisky (attendance not essential – last time we delivered to Australia!).

Please complete your questionnaire and return it to IMCA by 1 November 2002.

Draft revised guidance documentation will also be made available in advance of the workshop.



IMCA welcomes John Greensmyth as Chairman of the TCPC core committee.

Now in his 20th year in the offshore business John started off as a diver with Comex in the early 1980s. This was followed by a spell as an ROV pilot before he returned to diving with Oceaneering and later KD Marine. Due to a succession of takeovers/mergers, John subsequently moved to work onshore with Stena Offshore in 1989. Here John became involved in onshore project work and gained experience on one particular project all the way from front-end engineering right through the project lifespan to as-built and contractual close out! In recent years John's role has concentrated on the personnel side of the industry and his responsibilities for recruitment, personnel allocation and training will help focus his activities as Chairman of the TCPC Committee. Whilst he acknowledges that following in Terry Hirst's footsteps will not be easy, John looks forward to the challenges of balancing IMCA members' needs with the regulatory and industry pressures.

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman John Greensmyth,
Technip-Coflexip

Vice Chairman: Brendan Kelly,
Oceaneering International

Monique Laros, Allseas Group
Ed Danson, Fugro-UDI
Donald Beezer, Global Marine Systems
Eric Law, Subsea 7
Mike Lloyd, Technip-Coflexip
Brian Robertson, Technip-Coflexip
Sarah Willetts, Thales GeoSolutions

Vicki Graham, IMCA Schemes
Administrator

Secretary: Hugh Williams

ISO 9000:2000

A recent meeting of the TCPC core committee considered the role of IMCA in helping members to meet their obligations under ISO 9000:2000, a series of documents on quality management systems that include:

ISO 9000:2000 – Quality Management Systems – Fundamentals & Vocabulary. This sets out the basics of QMS and specifies terminology for them.

ISO 9001:2000 – QMS-Requirements (for a QMS where an organisation must demonstrate its ability to provide products that fulfil customer and regulatory

requirements while enhancing customer satisfaction). In particular, section 6.2.2 of this standard covers the need for organisations to determine necessary competence for personnel performing work affecting product quality.

ISO 9004:2000 – QMS – Guidelines for Performance Improvements (that consider both the effectiveness and efficiency of the QMS as a means to improve performance of the organisation and satisfaction of customers/other interested parties.)

The question of whether the IMCA guidelines should be expanded to include the broader aspects of the ISO code was discussed. The TCPC committee agreed that at present IMCA should restrict itself to personnel in safety-critical roles.

Revision of Documentation

The IMCA Competence Assurance & Assessment Scheme guidance document was launched nearly four years ago, when the scheme was launched. As part of its work programme, the TCPC committee has been working on revising the guidance document.

The draft text, which has been updated to set out how the scheme now works, post grandparenting, will be sent out in advance of the 13 November workshop. It is proposed to review the draft text as part of the workshop discussions.

TCPC Information Notes *published since Issue 24*

TCPC 12/02 ISO 9000:2000 series
TCPC 13/02 Competence validity periods
TCPC 14/02 IMCA documentation

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IMO Developments

Things have been busy lately at IMO, most especially in the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), which has had to cope with the extensive debate arising from the terrorist actions of 11 September 2001. IMCA will be attending the MSC meeting in early December, as reported in a previous newsletter, and has already attended Inter-Sessional Work Group meetings in support. IMCA also recently attended IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee where many environmental issues were debated including:

- The inadequacy of waste reception facilities internationally. IMO has now required all parties to the 73/78 MARPOL convention to provide details of the facilities they are meant to have at their ports in accordance with that convention.
- The final draft of the revised 1988 edition of the Manual on Oil Pollution, dealing with oil spills. This has now been presented and is expected to be published shortly.
- Noting the work of other bodies, the committee discussed work done by the IMO Facilitation Committee on harmonisation of ship certificates and the difficulties arising from this. This item will be further discussed by the MSC.
- The International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) raised the importance of procedures involving ISM non-conformities. The group believes the status of the standards should not be undermined by proposals to seemingly allow a ship's safety management system to remain valid when its document of compliance is not.
- The committee also considered the introduction of a voluntary model audit scheme to assess member states' performance in terms of implementing enforcement of safety and pollution prevention standards.
- A German paper described a homogenising technology for the reduction of oil sludge formation during fuel treatment.

For a full list of items debated and further information contact Phil Wiggs at IMCA

SEL Information Notes published since Issue 24

- SEL 30/02 Anti-fouling paints (TBT): Move by European Commission to ban use
- SEL 31/02 Proposed EU directive on fuel taxation arrangements
- SEL 32/02 US Environmental Protection Agency proposed rule for emissions limits for commercial diesel engines
- SEL 33/02 Working Time Directive: Draft amendment to include offshore workers
- SEL 34/02 USA waters: New spill prevention control and countermeasure
- SEL 35/02 UNESCO Convention about protection of underwater cultural heritage
- SEL 36/02 IMCA documentation

Working Time Issues

A recent information note IMCA SEL 26/02 confirms that the ILO convention implementation date was 15 August. The ILO Convention (N180) defined a 'seafarer' as "any person defined as such by national laws or regulations or collective agreement who is employed in any capacity on board a seagoing ship in which this convention applies".

With this change in definition for a 'seafarer', offshore project personnel are now covered by this term. The UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) recently brought in new regulations regarding seafarer medicals, requiring all personnel over 18 years of age to have an Eng1 medical. Responding to this change IMCA wrote to ask the agency if it would consider recognising a UKOOA medical. In reply the MCA explained that the only medical certificates accepted as equivalent by MCA are those issued by a restricted number of countries' maritime administrations which were also in compliance with the conventions.

The UK government's Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) also recently circulated its draft proposals for the implementation of the Working Time Directive for offshore workers. This would cover certain personnel working from installations. IMCA has contributed together with other contractor trade associations to a joint response for the DTI on the offshore worker's regime. DTI has promised to issue a formal consultation document on revised proposals later in the autumn.

An information note setting out the full current working time directive situation will be issued to members shortly.

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Chris van Beek,
Heerema Marine Contractors
Vice Chairman: Mike O'Meara,
Subsea 7

Wayne Seelbach,
Cal Dive International
Richard Curtis,
Diamond Offshore Drilling
David Rankin, Global Maritime
Mat Schreurs,
Heerema Marine Contractors
Andy Cruickshanks, Promarine
Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Ken London, Stolt Offshore
Allan Hannah, Technip-Coflexip

Secretary: Hugh Williams

2003 Safety Seminar

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, plans are now well underway for the next safety seminar to be held on 6-7 February 2003 at St James Park, Newcastle United's football ground.

Planned over two days, the event will include presentations from member companies (both from the offshore and onshore perspectives) as well as from clients and regulators on their own approaches to behavioural-based safety issues. The agenda also includes group sessions to allow delegates to contribute to the discussions.

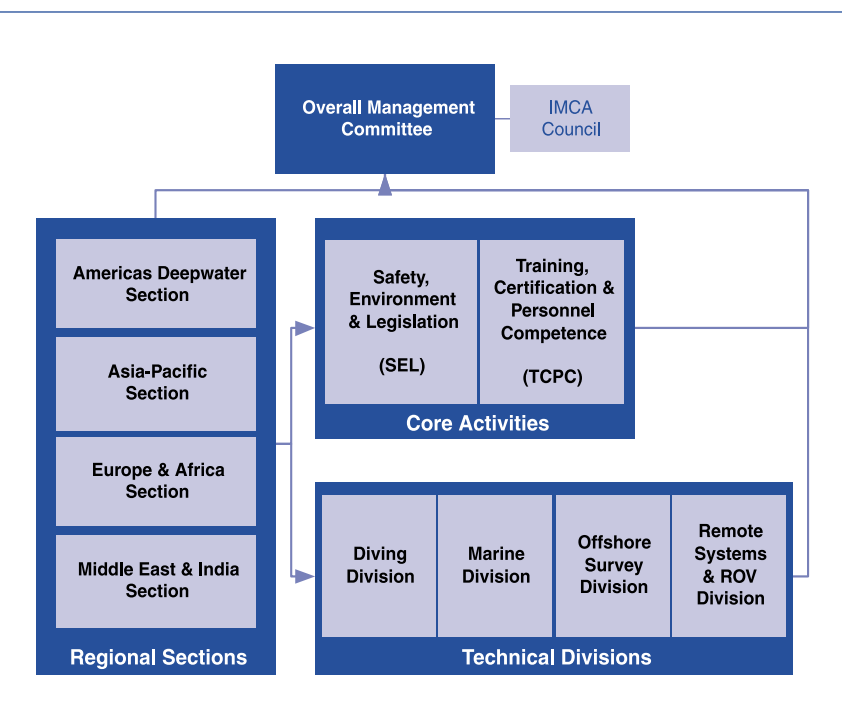
The programme and the registration forms will be circulated during November.

IMCA Reorganises Regional Structure

The new organisation chart of IMCA printed here shows the four IMCA sections (Americas Deepwater, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Africa (proposed) and Middle East & India) reporting on technical issues to the IMCA divisional and core committees and on policy/organisational issues to the Overall Management Committee.

The regional sections split the globe into time zones, providing world-wide coverage. It is envisaged that these sections will set up ad-hoc sub-groups to deal with local issues arising in/pertinent to a particular region. The four sections will cover all areas of the world in which IMCA members are active.

To ensure global representation the Chairman



of each regional section is or will be an ex-officio member of the Overall Management Committee. Each section will also be entitled to a representative on the

technical division management committees.

It has also been agreed, following successful trials, that teleconferencing should be used in all committee meetings,

where possible, to involve the representatives from IMCA sections and to help ensure that those nominated, standing and elected in all elections accurately reflect the regional diversity of IMCA members.

Diving Diseases Research Centre TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Approved for:

HSE First Aid @ Work
IMCA Diver Medical Technician & renewal
IMCA A/LST

Other courses:

Inland / Inshore diving supervisor
Basic Chamber operator
Dive planning & risk assessing
Oxygen Administration
Gas mixing
Hyperbaric Medical Technicians

DDRC Undersea & Hyperbaric Training

Research Way, Tamar Science Park, Plymouth. PL6 8BU
Tel: +44 (0) 1752 209999 Fax: +44 (0) 1752 209115
E-mail: training@ddrc.org

Regional Section Officers

Middle East & India Section

Chairman: Steve MacMillan,
J Ray McDermott Diving Div.
Hon. Secretary: Charlie Rogerson,
Consolidated Contractors Co.

Asia Pacific Section

Chairman: Andy Bolton,
Technip-Coflexip Oceania
Hon. Secretary: Des Power,
Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

Americas Deepwater Section

Chairman: John Reed,
Heerema Marine Contractors
Hon. Secretary: Dick Martin, Subsea 7

Steering Committee Members:

Roy Sijthoff, Allseas
Mark McWatters, Cal Dive
Philip Keaton, Diamond Offshore
Norb Gorman, Oceaneering

Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee

Chairman: Kevin Kerins,
Oceaneering International

Vice-Chairman: Dave Walker,
Technip-Coflexip

Bob Gillespie, Fugro-UDI
John Davies, Global Marine Systems
Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech
Keith Robathan, Sonsub
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Paul Brain, Subsea 7
Karl Erik Selvig, Subsea 7 Norway
Alan Edwards, Thales GeoSolutions

Secretary: Hugh Williams

Remote Systems & ROV Division Information Notes

published since Issue 24

R 06/02 IMCA documentation

Review of AODC 036 Rev. 1

The Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee is proposing to review the guidance note *AODC 036 Rev. 1 – The initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV handling systems*. The committee recognises that this guidance note, first produced in 1988, was last revised in 1994 and needs updating.

The review will concentrate on load testing requirements. A small working group is to be set up to undertake this review. If anyone has any comments to make on load testing or other aspects of *AODC 036 Rev. 1* for consideration, as part of this review exercise, please contact Jane Bugler.

Lost/Stolen Equipment

One of IMCA's members has notified the secretariat that two of its underwater cameras have been stolen.

The stolen units are:

- Simrad OE1366 MkII, colour zoom camera.
Serial No: 0162
- Simrad OE14-110-009, mini colour CCP camera.
Serial No: 0188

If anyone can offer any information concerning either of these, please call Canyon Offshore on: +65 6545 3885

Americas Deepwater

As reported on page one in more detail, a steering committee for the new section was elected recently (for a list of members please see left). The purpose of this committee is to:

- Steer the new section into place
- Cover the key contractor technologies
- Facilitate the first meetings of the section
- Assemble names and contact details of existing members in the Americas, potential new members, clients and other organisations
- Establish technical sub-groups
- Advise on conferences or exhibitions where IMCA may gain from attendance
- Provide support and guidance to the Chairman and Honorary Secretary

The first section meeting will take place on 23 October in Houston, Texas

Europe & Africa

This section has an important new role to play. Members have observed that colleagues in the other geographic sections assemble at their regional meetings where general IMCA business is discussed with some social interaction and networking possibilities. In addition corresponding members and other clients are usually invited to separate meetings which can be a useful venue for contractor-client discussions outside the pressures of a particular project. Until now, IMCA members in Europe have not had these opportunities. There have only been the committee meetings and popular seminars.

The Europe & Africa Section will aim to fill these gaps by organising open section events. It will also focus on particular regional issues, for example, EU legislation and UK initiatives like LOGIC and PILOT.

It is not planned for the Europe & Africa Section to have sub-groups as these would replicate the

Asia-Pacific

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 31 October in Singapore during OSEA 2002.

Middle East & India

A meeting was held on 14 October in Dubai. Report in next newsletter.

world-wide technical committees which currently sit in Europe. But if these committees migrate when the centre of gravity changes, then a Europe & Africa sub-group would be appropriate. It is envisaged that the Section will be set up by a Steering Committee comprising the Vice-President and Chief Executive of IMCA. In a short time we expect to elect a Chairman and Hon. Secretary to run the Section in the same way as the other three Sections around the world.

Diving/Marine Seminar

By the time you read this you may be on your way to attend the second annual joint seminar, to be held in Aberdeen on 5-6 Nov.

Delegates from over fifty companies have registered to attend, coming from more than a dozen countries as far apart as UK, Australia, Brazil, USA, Indonesia and Russia.

Once again, the Diving and Marine Divisions are holding joint sessions on the first day to discuss issues facing the marine contracting sector. These will be followed by specialist sessions with presentations, discussions and workshops, continuing for day 2 on marine topics only.

This year's event is sub-titled "*Learning from Experience*" and includes a special focus on:

- Shaping the Future
- Dynamic Positioning
- Pipelay
- FMEAs for Dive Systems

As always, the seminar is designed to bring together key operational and managerial personnel from across the industry and around the world, along with equipment suppliers, specialist consultants, client and regulatory representatives. The aim is to provide a setting for wide-ranging debate, shared learning and time for topical subjects.

To help stimulate debate, facilitate learning and enable networking sessions vary in format, from formal presentations and discussions through to workshops and informal receptions.

As previously, the seminar features an exhibition open from the evening reception on 4 November from members of IMCA, (leading suppliers, consultancies, training establishments and personnel agencies). This year's exhibitors include: Alstom, C-Mar, Divex, Fugro Seastar, IMCA, Kongsberg Simrad, Nautronix, Sonardyne, Thales GeoSolutions.

Diving Division Management Committee (election underway)

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7
Vice-Chairman: OC Andersen, Stolt Offshore AS

John Rabone, Interdive
Anthony Barnes,
J Ray McDermott Diving Division
Bjørn Kahrs, Norwegian
State Diving School
Martin Fraser, Oceaneering Int.
Andy Cruickshanks, Promarine
Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore
Derek Beddows, Technip-Coflexip

Asia-Pacific Section:
Daryl Brighthouse, Marine & Offshore Gr'p

Chairman, Middle East & India Section: Steve MacMillan,
J Ray McDermott Diving Division
Hon Sec., Middle East & India Section: Charlie Rogerson,
Consolidated Contractors Co.
Secretary: Hugh Williams

Diver Experience & Employment Survey

Last year IMCA's Diving Division undertook an extensive survey of diving personnel working in 2000. The full report is now ready for publication.

In the North Sea area, where there are a limited number of employers and there is a high degree of stability in the workforce, an in-depth survey was undertaken. In other parts of the world a more general, less accurate survey was carried out.

Although the results from areas other than the North Sea are not as accurate as those for that region, a number of observations can be made:

North Sea

- Divers working offshore under the age of 25 are rare
- The average diver is below 40 years of age. This has been a feature of most of the previous studies and suggests that the average age of divers has not risen over recent years
- Divers working offshore over the age of 50 are uncommon, particularly in saturation work
- Diving supervisors younger than their late thirties are uncommon

World-wide

- The average age of divers is remarkably similar world-wide, particularly for saturation divers
- Surface supplied divers are on average younger than saturation divers
- The average age of diving supervisors is very similar world-wide

Divex AH5

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email: sales@divex.co.uk www.divex.co.uk





Diving Information

Notes published since Issue 24

- D 17/02 Training course for medical examiner of divers
- D 18/02 Draft Australian diving regulations
- D 19/02 IMCA documentation

Air Lifting

The Safety, Medical, Technical and Training Committee of the Diving Division is currently working on the development of guidelines on air lifting.

It is proposed that the guidance will provide an outline of the air lifting technique, together with examples of good industry practice. It will cover provision of the correct equipment and the need to have good, clear procedures.

Cross Hauling Bells

An Asia-Pacific Section working group recently developed draft guidelines on the cross hauling of bells.

The draft sets out guidelines on the use of this technique, which is more commonly used in that region than elsewhere. As well as setting out guidance on general safety issues, the draft provides guidance on the use of the two methods used for this deployment technique – the use of a static line and the use of a winch line. It also contains guidance on emergency procedures.

The guidance is currently being finalised and it is hoped to publish it shortly.

Jackie Warner

As we go to press we have just received the very sad news of the death of Commander "Jackie" Warner. He will be remembered as the dynamic Chief Inspector of Diving in the old UK Department of Energy. If one person had to be selected for the major contribution he had made to diver health and safety world-wide, then that person would have to be Jackie Warner.

We will make a longer notice in our next newsletter.

Data Telemetry Protocol

IMCA's Offshore Survey Division has been working on the development of a common standard for the transmission and reception of general survey positioning data between survey systems offshore.

With the growing trend towards multi-vessel operations and with survey contractors using different survey navigation software suites, it was felt that a level of standardisation in data telemetry would be in the industry's interests.

A draft protocol was drawn up and an inter-company trial was undertaken earlier this year. As a result of this successful trial, the Offshore Survey Division has agreed to issue the protocol shortly as an IMCA information note.

Your Stories

We would like to experiment with a 'features' page in future issues of the newsletter outlining members' current projects. Members are asked to submit a short piece with artwork for consideration, perhaps lifted from your in-house magazines or the monthly publications.

Please note that this is not intended as a forum for advertising individual companies, but rather for sharing enlightening stories, particularly if describing projects involving several IMCA members.

We welcome your suggestions, along with your feedback about the proposal.

Contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com for further information

DGPS for Survey Purposes

The Offshore Survey Division Management Committee has been considering the feasibility of using DGPS for both dynamic positioning of a vessel by the marine crew and the use of the signal for survey purposes, and as a result has been preparing a draft position paper on this issue.

The intention is to present the draft paper for discussion at a workshop at the IMCA Annual Marine seminar on the 6th November in Aberdeen, where there is expected to be debate on the practical, contractual and technical issues.

The Committee hopes that as a result of this discussion, the paper can be revised and issued.

For further information:
Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Offshore Survey Information Notes

S 08/02 IMCA documentation
S 09/02 Hydrographic survey vessel

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alf Parker, Subsea 7

Andrew McNeill, Fugro-UDI
Dave Roberts, Fugro-UDI
Ray Morgan, Stolt Offshore
Oddvar Misund, Stolt Offshore AS
Walter Steedman, Subsea 7
Will Primavesi, Thales GeoSolutions

Secretary: Hugh Williams

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Operational Communications

A workgroup formed to address the wide scope of operational communications met recently for the first time. The subject is broad - elements of communication forming the skeletal framework of all operations and controlling the way in which virtually all work is carried out in the offshore marine industry. At the same time, the style and methods used are a clear demonstration of the safety culture and efficiency in any organisation.

Taking a practical approach to such a wide topic, the workgroup will concentrate on one area at a time while aiming to develop guidance on communications generally as well as area by area. As the focus of the group shifts across the operational spectrum, so the structure of the workgroup will adapt to bring in the necessary personnel from different fields.

The first meeting addressed dive to bridge communications. Immediately, the group found the questions faced to be so diverse that it would require a significant input from offshore work sites enabling different operators to demonstrate individual requirements and problems. To take this forward, a questionnaire will be used to obtain specific information from offshore work sites. Nobody is fond of paperwork, so the questionnaire will be kept as brief as possible but where the questionnaire is sent to a vessel, it is requested that a group be assembled from both deck and project crew to complete the questionnaire, so as to get a balanced response. The questionnaire is being finalised at present and will be distributed shortly.

Further information: Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

Emergency Towing Systems

Emergency towing systems (ETS) were first introduced by an IMO resolution in 1983 for tankers greater than 50,000 dead weight tonnes (dwt). Following various incidents this requirement was expanded to 20,000dwt by the SOLAS Convention 1994, which became effective for all vessels of that size from January 1999.

There is now a proposal on the agenda at IMO for all ships over 300 gross tons to be fitted with ETS. This proposal is of concern to IMCA members for their vessels. For example, any required permanent positioning of extra equipment across the decks could create a safety hazard. Such equipment could also deteriorate due to the environments in which these vessels operate.

IMCA will now prepare a paper to present to the relevant committee at IMO on this issue.

Contact: Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com for further information.

Introducing DP

Over recent years, IMCA has been aware of a perceived need to attract personnel toward careers in offshore marine contracting and has been involved in various projects addressing this.

One of these is the development of an introductory guide to dynamic positioning, aimed primarily at mariners who have not yet worked in the industry. Essentially it will give an overview of the various ways in which DP is used while outlining the various marine operations in which mariners can work offshore.

The new guide is currently being finalised by the Marine Division Management Committee and is expected to appear shortly.

Contact: Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

Marine Division Management Committee (newly elected)

Chairman: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group

Vice-Chairman: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Chris Jenman, Global Maritime
Michiel Goedkoop,
Heerema Marine Contractors
Kjell Egil Helgøy, Navion
John Gorrie, Noble Denton Europe
Ken McLean, Poseidon Maritime
Ian Young, Prosafe Offshore
Arnfinn Vika, Stolt Offshore
Steve Woodward, Technip-Coflexip

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Section:
Andy Bolton,
Technip-Coflexip Oceania

Secretary: Hugh Williams

11th Annual Marine Seminar

By the time you read this delegates from over fifty companies and more than a dozen countries will be on their way to the second annual joint Marine and Diving Divisions Seminar to be held in Aberdeen on 5-6 November.

This year's event is sub-titled "*Learning from Experience*" and includes a special focus on:

- Shaping the Future
- Dynamic Positioning
- Pipelay

As always the event is intended to promote lively and informative debate alongside shared learning and the opportunity to network away from the relentless routine pressure of the workplace.

For more information see page 8 col 1

Marine Information Notes published since Issue 24

- | | |
|---------|---|
| M 32/02 | Anti-fouling paints (TBT): Move by EC to ban use |
| M 33/02 | Automatic identification systems (AIS) |
| M 34/02 | Emergency towing systems (ETS) |
| M 35/02 | UK sector offshore helideck inspections |
| M 36/02 | Recommendations on ships' fittings for use with tugs |
| M 37/02 | Interim guidelines for presentation and display of AIS target information |
| M 38/02 | Management committee |
| M 39/02 | Voyage data recorders |
| M 40/02 | IMCA documentation |
| M 41/02 | Hydrographic survey vessel |

New members

IMCA welcomes:

- *Ecole Nationale de la Marine Marchande de Marseille*
- *EGS (Asia) Ltd*
- *Fugro Geonics Pvt Ltd*
- *Gulf Marine Services*
- *KB Associates Pte Ltd*
- *PT Lancar Rejeki Berkati Jaya*
- *Mærsk Supply Service*
- *Maritech Group*
- *Offshore Commissioning Solutions*
- *Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/ PT Komaritim*
- *Woodside Energy Ltd*

Name changes

Please note:

- Salvage & Mooring Organisation is now *Salvage & Mooring Operations IPT*
- Lips Thrusters Drunen BV is now part of *Wärtsilä Propulsion Netherlands BV*

Woodside Energy Ltd

A gas and oil E&P company currently focused on Australian waters with development plans elsewhere. The Core Subsea Group is Woodside's centre of excellence for subsea development, integrity and operations.

www.woodside.com.au

Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/ PT Komaritim

Primarily involved in offshore construction, mostly turn-key projects managed by dedicated teams of project managers and engineers with access to the specialist expertise and facilities of the Stolt Offshore Group. A wide range of services is provided – diving, ROV, survey and specialist vessel operations – to major oil and gas companies in Indonesia and the region.

www.stoltoffshore.com

EGS (Asia) Ltd

Offers specialist surveying and consultancy services. Has world-wide experience in design, initiation, execution and interpretation of geophysical, hydrographic, topographic, oceanographic and environmental studies (marine and terrestrial).

www.egssurvey.com

Maritech Group

Freelance consultants and consultancy to the geophysical and survey sector. Software and training for clients or contractors plus accredited management training for offshore personnel.

sales@maritech.co.uk

KB Associates Pte Ltd

Offers independent performance auditing for equipment or systems and client representation.

kb.associates@pacific.net.sg

GeoAcoustics

GeoAcoustics is a manufacturer and supplier of seabed survey equipment for a large range of applications that are perhaps best described by the term, "Engineering Geophysics". Created in 1991, but with roots stretching back as far as 1978, its headquarters are in Great Yarmouth UK, with regional support facilities in Singapore, Boston USA & India.

www.geoacoustics.com

PT Lancar Rejeki Berkati Jaya

Underwater survey services for tankers (classed BKI, NKK and ABS). Commercial diving for pipelaying and construction activities in areas operated by TotalFinaElf offshore Indonesia.

senomentik@indo.net.id

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 **IMCA news**

Published quarterly to promote knowledge of safety and technical matters affecting the offshore marine, and underwater and engineering industry.

Succinct, positive contributions of potential interest to a wide cross-section of IMCA members are welcome.

Views expressed on these pages do not automatically reflect policies or positions of IMCA itself.

*Edited & produced by
Hannah Pearce, journalist.
(zintl@gn.apc.org)*

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as of 30 September 2002

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Saipem
SEAMEC - South East Asia
Marine Engineering & Construction
Stolt Offshore
Subsea 7
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 Global Marine Systems
 Global Santa Fe Corp.
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