



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

news|etter
October 2003

Issue 29

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Vessel Security

Members have voiced their concerns about vessel security, particularly offshore West Africa. A seminar was planned to address this issue but expanded to cover personnel security and health issues. Organised by the SEL core committee with Marine Division input, the event was jointly sponsored by the new IMCA Europe & Africa Section, which held its inaugural meeting immediately afterwards.

Dennis Amachree, of Halliburton Nigeria had been invited to speak by Subsea 7, and his experience and openness set the tone for the day. His keynote speech described the root causes of difficulties, gave examples of problems and set out his company's approach to avoiding them, together with recommendations for evaluating and managing the risks.

Subsequent speakers focused on individual issues – Martin Fraser (Oceanengineering) described concerns about risks to personnel in transit, whilst Bertrand Huet (Stolt Offshore) focused on risks to personnel from piracy and kidnapping after arrival at the worksite. Bill Egerton (Olive Security) recommended ways to develop security programmes to counter these risks, while Dave Jenkins, Technip, continued the theme of recommended practices, targeting health management, particularly the ever present and underestimated risks of malaria.

In the usual IMCA style, there was plenty of time for lively interaction for the large group of about seventy delegates. A number of common themes emerged, together with some action items:

- There are serious risks and proper management and planning can help;
- Members have various programmes, which a number undertook to share. IMCA can then look at writing some generic guidance;
- Personnel are fearful of the unknown in some locations. Pre-travel information, perhaps including a video, could be developed. Ignorance is counter-productive;
- Some oil companies have guidance and systems in place. IMCA will aim to work with them and their collective oil company bodies, where appropriate, to ensure good and consistent practice in these areas.

Technip was roundly thanked for organising the venue at the Amphithéâtre Léonard de Vinci in the La Défense district of central Paris. The results of the seminar are being put on a CD which will be sent to all delegates and members' SEL contacts.

IMCA launches Europe & Africa Section

The new section held its inaugural meeting at the Amphithéâtre Léonard de Vinci, in the La Défense district of central Paris, following on from an IMCA safety seminar held the same day on vessel security (see photo on page 6). About thirty members attended, welcomed by Robin Davies of Subsea 7 and Ian Stevenson of Technip, as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the section steering committee.

Forming this section completes IMCA's recent reorganisation, undertaken to ensure that members all over the world belong to a local section. Robin Davies explained the new section's objectives and committed himself to helping to complete some of the action items which emerged from the security seminar earlier in the day. Other work areas which will report through the section include new work-groups on welding, contracts and insurance. The section will not have sub-groups for the core activities and technical divisions committees whilst these sit in Europe, to avoid duplication of work.

Again, the new section provides a further conduit to members to find areas of mutual interest, suggest new study areas for IMCA and liaise with clients to improve our industry.

Pipeline Welding Workgroup

Chaired by Scott Black of Technip, this group has been formed to enable members to share their considerable experience and avoid duplication or inefficiency in this area. The group's scope runs from pre-qualification of welds, to inspection and defect acceptance criteria. Pipeline welding is especially critical because of its repetitive nature, impact on lay-rates and potential for considerable expense and vessel delay if a defect requires repair or a disagreement arises over whether repair is required or not.

The subgroup is looking at how best to ensure sufficient qualified and experienced inspectors to give consistent results; and for consistent application of requirements in contracts. Automatic ultrasonic testing (AUT) seems to be of particular interest.

While formed under the Marine Division the workgroup has good links with the TCPC core committee and the new contracts workgroup (see below) where the issues involved overlap. The group's initial focus will be on establishing the current status before moving onwards. Input from other IMCA members is welcome as usual.

Contracts Workgroup

IMCA was involved in the development of the (CRINE) standard contracts. Denise Greenhalgh of Technip chairs the committee developing an update of the Marine Construction Contract.

IMCA believes that there are several areas where members want to work together on contract issues, so a workgroup has been established to address these needs. Its work will include the development of standard contracts (similar to the CRINE ones), the development of generic IMCA contracts (such as the existing *IMCA R 008* for hiring ROV services), review of standard contracts produced by others; and overlap with other relevant areas, such as the IMCA study into a 'construction all risks' (CAR) insurance mutual.

Readers are reminded, of course, that IMCA contract documents are produced to help members; they are *not* mandatory. Members must decide for themselves their own contracting philosophy.

Diary Dates

16 Oct. Asia-Pacific Section, Jakarta, Indonesia
5-6 Nov. Deepwater: Marine Operations & Safety – marine and safety seminar, Houston, USA
25 Nov. Competence workshop, Aberdeen, UK
12 Jan. M.East & India Section, Jebel Ali, UAE
14 Jan. Americas Deepwater Section, Houston, USA

Constitution

A revised constitution, to replace that adopted in 1996 is currently being finalised, to reflect recent structural changes such as the establishment of new regional sections, and to include new initiatives such as a competition law compliance policy. The opportunity has also been taken to generally update the document as required. An extraordinary general meeting is required to adopt a new constitution. This will probably take place in December, with voting members to be notified in due course.

Offshore Europe

Attendance seemed up at this year's busy exhibition compared to the previous Aberdeen show, with numerous visitors to IMCA's stand. A new backdrop was in use for the stand this time and it had a good success rate in attracting people. There were a number of enquiries for membership and existing members who visited found a friendly place to sit down for a while. Hugh Williams, Jane Bugler and Philip Wiggs were all present at various times depending on when they were attending meetings or visiting other stands, so if we missed you please accept our apologies. Despite much publicised downturn in the local North Sea sector, the exhibition was flooded with people and activity, which reflects the overall industry as perceived by IMCA. Safety and protection of the environment were high on most exhibitors' profiles and it was interesting to note that many visitors to the stand were often people interested in those topics.

Marine Training at ASET



With training and consultancy expertise available world-wide ASET is in an excellent position to meet local market demands. Our collaborative style of working with clients, our clear understanding of global training needs and our partnerships with industry leaders enables us to provide cost effective training and consultancy solutions to the marine, oil & gas and process related industries.

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For further information contact: **Mr Sam Zacha**, Sales & Marketing Manager, ASET.
T 01224 859614 F 01224 891505 E s.zacha@abcol.ac.uk www.aset-aberdeen.co.uk

What is a trade association?

By popular demand IMCA has produced a detailed briefing explaining the role of a trade association (formed on a non profit basis from a membership of companies operating in a particular area of industry) and the scope of its activities to promote common interests and improvements in quality, health, safety, environmental and technical standards. This material explains the value of membership, sets out reasons why strict rules apply to the operation of such organisations and describes the current extent of IMCA's current activities and the rationale that underpins them.

For copies contact Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com or see the website.

Echoing one of the cover stories for this issue of IMCA News I must welcome the establishment of the Europe & Africa Section and praise the enthusiasm of the new section's members for getting down to work quickly on a number of issues. Initial work already includes health, security and safety issues in West Africa and offshore platform decommissioning in Europe.

Meanwhile across the globe, IMCA's membership is still growing rapidly. There are now over 230 members with a number of applications outstanding, a figure nearly double what it was five years ago. Moreover, the pattern of communications intended to flow from the new global structure is helping to raise the Association's status. Most notably, BP recently announced that as of January 2004 all diving contractors that work for them must adhere to IMCA guidance. This shift by such a major player in the sector is highly significant and I am confident that several other large client companies will soon follow this lead for future work.

With safety at the top of our agenda the secretariat is doing

more to promote awareness of specific topics. Currently, IMCA is finalising a new DVD on safety issues associated with working at height and is currently in the process of producing a set of new pocket safety cards (see page 5 for an example). These small but important details all help to show the industry globally that IMCA consistently shares best practice for the offshore contracting sector.

On the business front, recent statements from several IMCA members – large and small – suggests that the general downturn is continuing as clients continue to push down costs and look for the most economic solutions to their particular needs. Tighter margins and greater levels of general business insecurity inevitably create an incentive to cut corners. In a more frenzied climate it becomes doubly important for members to keep their resolve to maintain good practice and to continue to improve the industry's safety performance. Likewise, we must also remember to use



every opportunity available to us to communicate the value of this commitment to our clients.

With that in mind I look forward to opening IMCA's first major seminar to be held in North America since forming the Americas Deepwater Section when I welcome delegates to the annual joint marine and safety meeting in Houston on 5-6 November. I find it particularly encouraging that this two day event on Deepwater Marine Operations and Safety will see key clients such as BP and Shell coming along specifically to give keynote speeches. Please book soon to secure your seat!

e-Developments

Enhanced Membership Listing Now Online

In response to feedback from members and other visitors to our website, IMCA has upgraded the membership listing, which can now be viewed either in its entirety or limited to members in a particular technical division and/or region, in each case sorted by membership category. See www.imca-int.com/membership for the up-to-date list.

Discussion Boards Under Test

By the time you read this, discussion boards for the members-only website should be under test. This has been a development requested particularly by some of the highly active Americas sub-groups. The boards are intended as an additional way for members to join together for IMCA work, perhaps discussing current draft documents they are working on or aspects of implementing competence schemes. Members will be notified once these are live and feedback on use of the boards is welcomed.

For more information or feedback on e-Developments, please contact Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com

IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: Steve Preston, Heerema Marine Contractors

Vice-President: Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group

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

Vice-Chairman Diving: Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore

Vice-Chairman Marine: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman ROV: Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech

Vice-Chairman SEL: Mike O'Meara, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman TCPC: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering Int.

Chairman, Americas Deepwater Section:

Roy Sijthoff, Allseas Group

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

Chairman, Europe & Africa Section: Robin Davies, Subsea 7

Chairman, Middle East & India Section:

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott
Eastern Hemisphere

IMCA Technical Director: Jane Bugler

IMCA Chief Executive: Hugh Williams

Competence Workshop

Another workshop will take place for members implementing competence assurance and assessment schemes based on the IMCA framework in Aberdeen on 25 November. A full programme and registration form will be sent to all members shortly. Please note the date in your diaries.

As usual, a guest speaker will address a particular aspect of competency – in the past we have seen the legal, insurance and client perspectives, with further insight hoped for this year from an airline professional on the use of simulators. The day will also include extended syndicate sessions for each technical division, so that the particular needs or quirks of each sector may be addressed directly. In advance of the workshop, a questionnaire will be sent to members. Analysis of this will assess members' progress in implementing competence schemes and draw together current issues and experience around the world, identifying topics for discussion. Please pass this to relevant colleagues in your organisation to help us gain the full picture and ensure the event addresses issues important to you.

Skills Shortage Survey

Members will have seen from recent minutes that BDI Surveys has been engaged by IMCA to conduct a survey examining current trends and future predictions for the employment of specialists by IMCA members. The survey covers onshore and offshore personnel with a two- and five-year look-ahead.

The OMC, IMCA Council and the TCPC Core Committee are jointly sponsoring this survey because they share a concern to ensure the resulting data will:

- help marine contractors plan for the future;
- better focus careers promotion work to help address the industry's (and your!) needs;
- provide a statistical snapshot that can be used when lobbying governments, regulators, client bodies and others on your behalf.

A pilot survey helped improve the questionnaire and drew a number of interesting, detailed and similar comments from members about the employment situation suggesting many are experiencing similar problems. This shows the survey is timely and will generate a significant report, relevant to all members.

A representative sample of key contractors in our sector has been selected. If contacted, please complete the survey as fully as possible. All responses will be kept anonymous and the results merged into the full report. We look forward to the results, which should be available later this year.

Certificate fraud

Further to information note *IMCA D 12/02 on Fraudulent Use of AODC Air and Bell Diving Supervisor Certificates* a further two incidents of this abuse have been brought to our attention.

The numbers for these invalid certificates have been added to our recently issued list of withdrawn certificates (*IMCA D 07/03*). This list will, in future, be updated as and when appropriate on our members-only website.

Members are reminded that forged/alterd IMCA/AODC certificates are being used and, in some cases, can be virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, especially when the only evidence provided is a photocopy.

Members are urged to insist, where possible, on production of the original certificate and, in case of any doubt, to check the validity of certificates with the Schemes Administrator, Vicki Graham (vicki@imca-int.com)

Training Opportunities

IMCA Offshore Air Diving Supervisor
IMCA Assistant Life Support Technician
Recompression Chamber Operator
IMCA Diver Medical Technician
& DMT Refresher
HSE First Aid at Work
Basic Hyperbaric Medicine Course
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DAN Automated Defibrillator
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Emergency First Response
DSAT Gas Blender

Training to meet the needs of the diving
and hyperbaric medical industry

For further information contact:
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www.ddrc.org



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TCPC Information Notes *published since Issue 28*

TCPC 09/03 European Maritime Safety Agency
TCPC 10/03 ISPS training courses
TCPC 11/03 European proposals on minimum levels
of training for seafarers

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip
Vice-Chairman: Brendan Kelly, Oceaneering International

Monique Laros, Allseas Group
Donald Beezer, Global Marine Systems
Mark Elder, Subsea 7
Eric Law, Subsea 7
Mike Lloyd, Technip
Brian Robertson, Technip
Carol Munro, Thales GeoSolutions

Americas Deepwater Section: Mark Canada, Transocean
Asia-Pacific Section: Leslie Wong Wui, Seacor Marine
IMCA Schemes Administrator: Vicki Graham



SEL Information Notes

published since Issue 28

- SEL 22/03 Research into wave impact and green sea incidents
- SEL 23/03 IMCA safety stats (for the period Jan-Dec 02) – report to IMCA members
- SEL 24/03 European Maritime Safety Agency
- SEL 25/03 IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV)
- SEL 26/03 Piracy in the Malacca Strait area
- SEL 27/03 European proposals on minimum training for seafarers
- SEL 28/03 Norwegian Shelf helicopter emergency measures
- SEL 29/03 EU Physical Agents Directive
- SEL 30/03 International ship & port facility security (ISPS Code)

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Contractors

Vice-Chairman: Mike O'Meara, Subsea 7

Richard Curtis, Diamond Offshore Drilling

David Rankin, Global Maritime
Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors

Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Ken London, Stolt Offshore

Allan Hannah, Technip
Wallace Robertson, Well Ops UK

Americas Deepwater Section: Wayne Seelbach, Cal Dive International

Asia-Pacific Section: Des Power, Subsea 7 Asia-Pacific

Middle East & India Section:
Mohamed Osman, Maridive & Oil Services

Pocket safety cards

In the offshore industry, pocket sized safety cards have proved a useful way to keep key safety points to hand wherever people may be working. SEL committee has decided that IMCA should also produce cards of this kind. The first to be produced will relate to slips trips and falls, manual handling (see left), tool-box talks, working at height and lifting operations. The first two should become available shortly and will be sent to all members.

Working Time Regulations

IMCA continues to supply updated information to all members on developments such as the EU Working Time Directive (including its national implementation in member states) and ILO Convention 180. The latest such briefing comes in the form of guidance on the UK working time regulations for offshore workers, which came into force on 1 August this year.

IMCA was also involved in a cross-industry group which developed guidance on the implications of the rules. That material is now available on our members-only website in the Europe & Africa Section area. Following further discussions with the UK government and users of the guidance, a few enhancements are to be made shortly.

IMCA intends to issue an updated 'consolidated brief' on working time issues – covering the various regimes and their restrictions as they apply to IMCA members – as an information note later this year.

The dust is now finally starting to settle as the Directive has been discussed, agreed, discussed, extended to offshore workers and seafarers, discussed again and finally implemented into national law. Now of course the regulators are starting again, with an EU review of the whole regime! IMCA will, of course, keep members abreast of developments.

Americas Deepwater

Roy Sijthoff of Allseas Group has been elected as the new Chairman of the Americas Deepwater Section, with Dick Martin continuing in his role as Vice-Chairman.

The section's first Chairman, John Reed of Heerema Marine Contractors, resigned earlier this summer following his promotion to a sister company in the Heerema Group. John made a major contribution to the successful establishment of the section last year and its subsequent growth – we thank him for his steady hand and enthusiastic guidance and wish him well in his new role.

Roy Sijthoff's election was announced to a well attended section meeting in Houston on 10 September. While it is only just reaching the end of its first year, the section has established a healthy modus operandi with a busy workload in all the sub-groups. Their input into the worldwide committees has been detailed and welcome.

Everyone is looking forward to the marine and safety seminar on 5-6 November, which will be the section's first public event. IMCA wants to see as many members, clients and other interested parties at the event as possible. Please play your part in encouraging your colleagues to attend. After this event, the section's focus will perhaps move towards more liaison with clients (individually and collectively) and key bodies like the US Coast Guard.

Europe & Africa Section

held its inaugural meeting in Paris in September (see cover story)

Middle East & India

The latest well attended meeting of the Middle East & India Section took place in Sharjah on 8 September. Charlie Rogerson, the section's Vice-Chairman, reviewed relevant issues that had been discussed recently by the world-wide committee with members. This was followed by a presentation by Jane Bugler, providing a thorough update on IMCA activities, across all core activities and technical divisions. Together these prompted a number of questions from and discussions among those present. The next section meeting will take place on 12 January in Jebel Ali, UAE.

Marine Division Sub-Group

IMCA's regional sections continue to expand their work through the active participation of members. The Middle East & India Section, which has traditionally focused mainly on diving issues, is forming a Marine Division Sub-Group, chaired by Lachlan McKelvie of Seabulk Offshore. The group's first meeting will now take place on Monday 20 October 2003 from 10:00 hours at the UAE Contractors Association in Sharjah, UAE.

The Chairman will provide an overview of world-wide activities, following his participation in the recent world-wide Marine Division Management Committee meeting, with an opportunity for local members' input and feedback. The sub-group also (and particularly) aims to tackle issues of relevance in the region, including aspects of ISPS Code implementation and personnel transfer between vessels.

Asia-Pacific

A report of the meeting held in July appeared in the last issue. The next one is scheduled to take place on 16 October in Jakarta – around the time this newsletter goes to press – and the members meeting will again be followed by a briefing session for local client companies to update them on the many activities being undertaken by IMCA, both locally and internationally. Members at recent meetings have achieved a lot, bringing benefits to local members and also to the world-wide membership through their initiatives. It is through this collective effort that the Association's success in raising levels of offshore safety and carrying out its other objectives has been achieved to date. All members in the region are encouraged to play an active role in the section's ongoing work and to participate in meetings where possible – remember, they move around the region, so we hope to see you there soon!



Regional Section Officers

Middle East & India Section

Chairman: Steve MacMillan,
J Ray McDermott
Eastern Hemisphere

Vice-Chairman: Charlie
Rogerson, Consolidated
Contractors Co.

Asia-Pacific Section

Chairman: Andy Bolton,
Technip Oceania

Vice-Chairman: Des Power,
Subsea 7 Asia-Pacific

Europe & Africa Section Steering Committee

Chairman: Robin Davies,
Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Ian Stevenson,
Technip

Americas Deepwater Section

Chairman: Roy Sijthoff,
Allseas Group

Vice-Chairman: Dick Martin,
Subsea 7

Outline Syllabi for ROV-Related Training Courses

The Remote Systems & ROV Division has developed a guidance document setting out some outline syllabi for a number of different training courses. Each syllabus provides an outline of the topics that should be covered in such training, rather than providing detailed information on the contents.

The courses suggested are not considered mandatory or as a pre-requisite under the IMCA framework for competence schemes.

These courses have been developed to aid members in setting up courses in which they feel their personnel would benefit from formal training. It is not intended that personnel need to have attended a formal training course to demonstrate appropriate knowledge during competence assessments.

ROV Information Notes

published since Issue 28

R 04/03 Management committee

R 05/03 UK gov't survey of the lost trawler 'Trident'

ROV handling systems – Update of AODC 036 Rev. 1 & IMCA R 003

As reported in previous newsletters, the Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee has decided to review guidance note AODC 036 Rev 1 – *The initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV handling systems* – as the guidance was becoming out of date. It has now decided to extend this review to include IMCA R 003 – *Termination of load bearing umbilicals or lift cables used in ROV handling systems*, as much of the guidance contained in that document is relevant to the examination and testing of the wire rope/load bearing umbilical of the ROV handling system.

The workgroup set up to review the document met recently and has now produced a revised composite document. This will be reviewed by the regional ROV sub-groups and by the division's management committee for agreement, prior to publication.

Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee

Chairman: Kevin Kerins,
Oceaneering International

Vice-Chairman: Andrew
Beveridge, Rovtech

Phil Slowther, Covus Corp.
Sandy Michie, Fugro Survey
John Davies, Global Marine
Systems
Keith Robathan, Sonsub
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Paul Brain, Subsea 7
Dave Walker, Technip
Alan Edwards, Thales
GeoSolutions

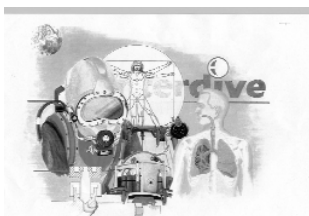
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Asia-Pacific Section:
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Diving Supervisors in the Netherlands

Diving Division members have been briefed in information notes earlier this year on the new Dutch diving regulations. One aspect where requirements have altered is with regard to certification of diving supervisors.

The new regulations have been in place since 1 January 2003 and contain requirements for certification of divers and diving supervisors. There is a grandfather clause for these qualifications, but from 1 January 2004, all such personnel in the Dutch sector need to hold appropriate certificates.

IMCA was involved in a useful meeting with the Dutch authorities this summer, where agreement was reached on how those already holding IMCA diving supervisor certificates may undertake a subsequent Dutch training course followed by a Dutch examination, which may be run either in the Netherlands or the UK, in order to gain a Dutch certificate to work in that sector.

There will also be a transition scheme whereby those who have completed the Dutch supervisor course and who have then logged the required supervisory hours will be able to be put forward for the IMCA Diving Supervisor examination by their companies. On passing the IMCA examination, such personnel will then be eligible for an IMCA diving supervisor

Auditing New Members

IMCA is a trade association representing members' interests and providing a forum for sharing of, in particular, safety-related information. It is not a certification body/classification society. As such it is aware that membership is highly valued by members, non-members and their clients alike because of the implicit link with safety-focused operations and ongoing work to reduce and avoid offshore incidents.

In particular, IMCA membership is increasingly being quoted as a condition of contract, especially for offshore diving operations. While it is in the interests of the Association for all members to be actively supporting its aims and objectives, operating according to appropriate guidelines, etc., when such reliance is being placed on membership as a quality indicator, it is IMCA's duty to be thorough in its assessment of applicants for membership.

Reflecting that reality, an assessment procedure was introduced some time ago involving a review of documentation and procedures followed up by an on-site audit to demonstrate a company's ability to operate in accordance with the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving. A structured audit protocol was also developed to ensure a fair and consistent approach would be applied to all applicants.

Clients and others are encouraged to check with the IMCA office to confirm the membership status of applicants and to use the improved website listing to view current members in each division, region and membership category.

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Georges Arnoux, Stolt Offshore

Paul Warriner, Cal Dive International
Fred Pope, Divex

Bill Macdonald, Global Industries
Asia Pacific

Anthony Barnes, J Ray
McDermott Eastern Hemisphere

Ian Mackenzie, National
Hyperbaric Centre

Bjørn Kahrs, Norwegian
State Diving School

Derek Beddows, Technip

Asia-Pacific Section: RP Singh,
Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/
PT Komaritim

Middle East & India Section:
Steve MacMillan, J Ray
McDermott Eastern Hemisphere

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certificate, which has already gained wide acceptance around the world over the years in which our certification scheme has been running. The details for these arrangements are now being finalised

Diving Information Notes *published since Issue 28*

- D 08/03 Australian diving regulations: Revised arrangements for diving supervisors
- D 09/03 Medical examination of divers: M. East & India
- D 10/03 Diver & supervisor certification
- D 11/03 IMCA Offshore Diving Supervisor Scheme: Validity of certificates
- D 12/03 Surface supplied mixed gas diving
- D 13/03 UK gov't survey of the lost trawler 'Trident'
- D 14/03 Fraudulent use of AODC Air and Bell Diving Supervisor certificates

Surface Supplied Mixed Gas Diving

Guidance note *IMCA D 030*, published in April of this year, addresses a number of issues relating to the use of surface supplied mixed gas diving techniques not previously covered by the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving, with the aim of increasing the overall safety of diving using this method.

The issue of the use of this technique was raised at the July meeting of the Asia-Pacific Section after which a questionnaire was subsequently developed and sent to members to establish the extent of use of the technique and members' views on it.

The Diving Division Management Committee, with information gained from members' responses, will be considering the issue at its October meeting, when it will be considering whether any additional guidance is needed.

Jane Bugler will be reporting back to the Asia-Pacific Section at its Jakarta meeting later this month and members will be able to follow developments through the committee minutes.

Limitations of SCUBA

Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus or SCUBA was first developed in the 1940s and has since become widely used for recreational and amateur diving. In the past this type of equipment had been used in place of the commercial diver's normal surface demand equipment. However, after a number of accidents and fatalities, the limitations of SCUBA in comparison to surface supplied equipment became clear and the use of SCUBA in commercial diving work became restricted.

Guidance on the limitations of SCUBA first issued as *AODC 065* in 1994 was reinforced in April 1998 by IMCA's International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving (*IMCA D 014*). This states "SCUBA has inherent limitations and difficulties, such as limited breathing gas supplies. It should not be used if surface supplied equipment can be used and thus there are unlikely to be any circumstances where the use of SCUBA will provide a suitable technique for diving under the scope of this Code."

Responding to enquiries from members and third parties, IMCA has developed additional guidance on the limitations and reasoning behind this position. This has now been finalised, after consultation with the diving committees and regional sections, and will be issued to members shortly.

operational efficiency.

The magazine *Hydro International* recently carried out a three-way interview including Jane Bugler, Technical Director of IMCA, Svante Astermo of FIG/IHO and Cor Beemster of Skilltrade on the competence issues currently facing the hydrographic sector. Included in the topics discussed were:

- The reasons behind the development of the IMCA competence scheme framework and its nature as guidance which can be adopted and adapted by companies operating world-wide to suit the particular requirements of their own operations and/or location;
- FIG/IHO work on training requirements, complementing the IMCA guidance on ongoing assessment;
- The benefits of such a world-wide and industry-wide approach, that provides a solid foundation of guidance upon which contractors and third party service providers can build and operate their own competence schemes.

Lunchtime Meeting at Offshore Europe

During the biennial Aberdeen show, the Offshore Survey Division put on a lunchtime presentation of its work. It was aimed at prospective members of the division and it has indeed elicited applications for membership of the division from two new contractors.

Of course new members are always welcome. Encouraging new members to join IMCA and explaining what we do is one of the membership's ongoing responsibilities. The website also provides details for new applicants.

Addressing Competence Needs of the Industry

Members will be well aware of IMCA's work to aid members in assessing, demonstrating and assuring the competence of personnel. From the launch of the sector-wide IMCA competence scheme framework, the Offshore Survey Division has been one of the most active in working to tailor guidance to the division's needs, setting out performance criteria to aid assessors and discussing with personnel agencies how all involved can work together to continue to maintain and improve levels of offshore safety and

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alf Parker, Subsea 7

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

Americas Deepwater Section:
Ian Edmonstone, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific Section:
Jason French, Thales GeoSolutions

Annual Marine Seminar

A joint annual Marine & Safety Seminar takes place this year on November 5 and 6 in Houston, Texas. The two day event on Deepwater Marine Operations and Safety opens with keynote addresses by Kenny Lang from BP and Tracy Harris of Shell. This is followed by three plenary sessions (before and after lunch) on deepwater operations in the Gulf of Mexico, security issues and on emergency preparedness and response (assessment and management) before workshop sessions in the latter part of the afternoon.

Day two returns to look at the Gulf of Mexico with a plenary session examining compliance and enforcement issues in that region. This is followed by two sessions on improving safety performance overall and on DP system reliability and safety. As with day one these sessions are followed by workshops

Copies of the full programme and registration forms are available from www.imca-int.com/events/ for submission online or by post.

Marine Division Management Committee

Chairman: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group
Vice-Chairman: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Richard Curtis, Diamond Offshore Drilling

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

Americas Deepwater Section:

Pete Fougere, Transocean

Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania

Middle East & India Section:

Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

Ballast Water

A diplomatic conference will convene at IMO on 9-13 February 2004 to agree a new International Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments.

Essentially, this relates to vessels which pick up water ballast in one location and discharge it in another together with its attendant marine species.

IMCA will be working with the IMO on this and is monitoring international opinion and responses from other organisations in a consultation process.

Papers can be found on the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency website at www.mcga.gov.uk. Please pass your comments to Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com.

IMO Developments

In 1982 the International Maritime Organization published Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs).

It was recently proposed at IMO that these guidelines be updated and, as a large portion of the subject matter relates to stability, this is mainly being done by a workgroup formed from the Sub-Committee on Stability, Load Lines and Fishing Vessel Safety (SLF).

The publication defines 'offshore supply vessel' as "a vessel primarily engaged in the transport of stores, materials and equipment to offshore installations and which is designed with accommodation and bridge erections in the forward part of the vessel and an exposed cargo deck in the after part, for handling cargo at sea". Thus it applies only to supply vessels and not to other types of support vessel.

Those with interest in this subject and with any input they wish to make are asked to contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

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Marine Information Notes

published since Issue 28

- M 16/03 Web-based intro' to DP
- M 17/03 DP manuals
- M 18/03 European Maritime Safety Agency
- M 19/03 Piracy rise in the Malacca Strait area
- M 20/03 International ship & port facility security (ISPS Code)

New members

IMCA welcomes:

- Ashtead Technology (SEA) Pte Ltd
- ConocoPhillips Indonesia
- De Moura Shipping Ltda
- Energy & Mining Training Solutions
- European Underwater Technology Centre
- Gulf Offshore NS Ltd
- International Registries, Inc.
- Sarawak Shell Berhad
- Thales GeoSolutions, Inc.
- The Underwater Centre (Tasmania) Pty Ltd
- Underwater Technology Services (S) Pte Ltd

Name Changes

- Technip-Coflexip is now simply *Technip*

De Moura Shipping Ltda

Founded in August 1993. Based in Rio de Janeiro. Works in several areas of shipping, including agency and crewing. Began developing DP crewing three years ago, with marine DP personnel duly certified under STCW 95 regulations and by the Nautical Institute or Norwegian Maritime Directorate.

Contact: Claudia Torres
T: +55 21 2294 3719
E: demoura@demoura.com.br

EUTEC

European Underwater Technology Centre was formed in September 2002 to provide high-quality lead-in training for ROV Pilot/Technician Grade II personnel, ROV introduction training for offshore project personnel, and continued professional development (CPD) to ROV personnel. In addition to training services, EUTEC also provides extra competent (screened) ROV personnel to various client companies.

Contact: Chris Myers
T: +44 (0) 1224 561 225
E: chrism@underwater-technology.com

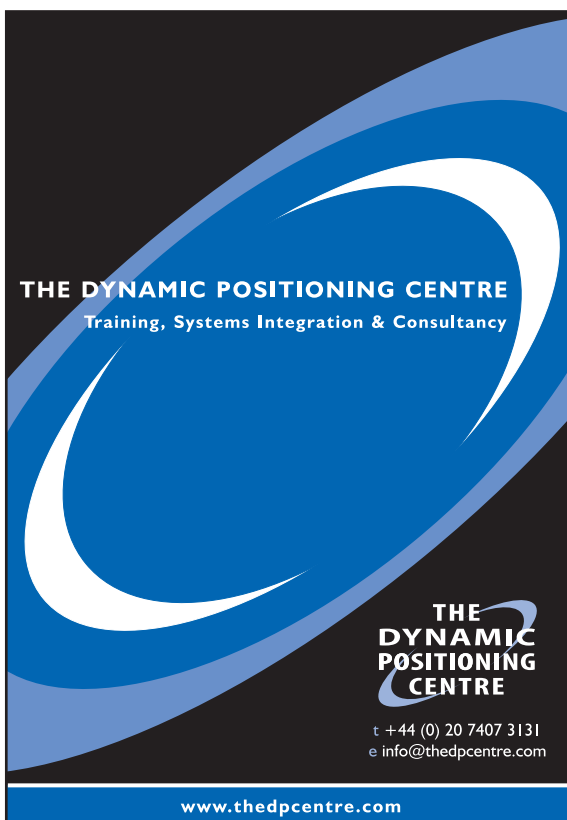
Members' News

Advanced Marine Pte Ltd.

Singapore's largest supplier of commercial diving and underwater equipment has moved to new and larger premises – # 1 at Gui Street 4. The new factory has a 10 ton overhead crane in the fabrication section, a new cable/connector moulding facility, a clean room, view port room and larger electronic workshop. In addition to standard production of decompression chambers, compressors, control panels and diver deployment systems, the first new product after the move will be a military aluminium transfer chamber.

Anglo Eastern Crew Management

now has an office in Singapore aiming to provide specialist seafarers with experience on DSVs, drill ships, cable layers, ROVSVs, AHTs, FPSOs and research vessels to clients in and around South East Asia. AECM is also looking at ways to increase the number of local Asian senior officers and DPOs, currently an area where there is a considerable shortfall.



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Sarawak Shell Berhad

Sarawak Shell Berhad and Sabah Shell Petroleum Company (SSB/SSPC) known as Shell Malaysia Exploration and Production (SMEP) operates offshore E. Malaysia under the Petroleum Sharing Contract with Petronas, the national oil company. With 45 installed structures, about 2000 km length of pipelines, three single buoy moorings (SBMs) and two subsea wells (and more planned in the near future) the annual underwater programme covers more than half of every year.

Contact: LA Ong, EPT-DCP, Underwater Inspection & Soil Boring Operation Engineer
T: +60 85 452 146 E: lai-ann.ong@shell.com

IMCA news

Published quarterly to promote knowledge of safety and technical matters affecting the marine, 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 don't automatically reflect policies or positions of IMCA itself.

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

Membership

as of 30 September 2003

International Contractors (ICO)

Allseas Group
Heerema Marine Contractors
Saipem
SEAMEC – South East Asia
Marine Engineering &
Construction
Stolt Offshore
Subsea 7
Technip

Contractors

Algoasabi Diving & Marine Services
Allied Marine & Equipment
Aqua Diving Services
Arabian Gulf Mechanical Services &
Contracting Co.
Bakri Navigation Company
BJ Services Co (UK)
Bluewater Energy Services
British Antarctic Survey
BUE Marine
Cal Dive International
Canyon Offshore International Corp.
Cape Diving & Salvage
C&C Technologies
CODERO
Consolidated Contractors Co.
Covus Corporation
CTC Marine Projects
Diamond Offshore Drilling (UK)
Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc
Dolphin Drilling
Dolphin Offshore Ent. (India)
Dulam International
Dutch Diving
EDT Towing & Salvage Co.
EGS (Asia)
Fairmount Marine
Fraser Diving International
Fugro Geonics
Fugro Survey (Middle East)
Fugro Survey (Singapore)
Fugro Survey (UK)
GB Diving
Global Industries Asia Pacific
Global Marine Systems
Global Santa Fe Corp.
Gulf Dredging & Gen. Contracting
Gulf Marine Services
Gulf Offshore NS
Hallin Marine Systems
Halul Offshore Services Co.
Impresub
Integrated Subsea Services
Intl Marine Works – Alexandria
Intl Naval Works – Abu Dhabi
International Oilfield Services
IRSHAD
J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere
Keliston Marine (Far East)
Kuwait Shipbuilding & Repairyard
Company
PT Lancar Rejeki Berkas Jaya

Louisiana Overseas
Mærsk Supply Service
Maridive & Oil Services
Master Tech Diving Services
MENAS
Mermaid Maritime
Mohn Drilling
Mutawa Marine Works
Navion
Noordhoek Offshore
Northern Marine Management
Oceaneering International
Oceaneering Int'l (Asia-Pacific)
Ocean Works Asia
PT Panji Adi Samudera (PAS) Maritime
PT Patra Dinamika
Pride International
Prosafe Offshore
Rasmussen Maritime Services
Rovtech
PT Samudera Biru Nusantara
Sapura Diving Services
Sarku Engineering Services
SAROST
SBM Production Contractors
Seabulk Offshore
Seacor Marine (International)
Seaway Heavy Lifting Engineering
Seaweld Engineering Services
Secunda Marine Services
Smedvig Offshore
Smit Terminals
Smit Vessel Management Services
Sonsub
Stolt Offshore AS
Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/
PT Komaritim
Submersible Television Surveys
Subsea 7 Asia-Pacific
Subsea Petroleum Services
Subtec Middle East
Technip Oceania
Technip Offshore Contractors Inc.
Technip Offshore Norge
Thales GeoSolutions (North Sea)
Thales GeoSolutions (Singapore)
Thales GeoSolutions (USA)
Tideway Marine & Offshore
TL Geohydrographics
Torch
Transocean
Underwater Services Company
URS
Van Oord ACZ
Well Ops (UK)
Wijmuller International Towing
Workshops Contractors

Naval Diving Units

Royal Saudi Navy Forces
Salvage & Marine Operations IPT
Superintendent of Diving

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Alstom T&D
Anglo-Eastern Group
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Auto Dynamic Positioning Services
BMT Salvage
Brunvoll
C-Mar Services (UK)
Core Technical Services
Divex
European Underwater Tech' Centre
Global Maritime
Holland Offshore Consulting Den Helder
Houlder Insurance Services
Hydrovision
JP Kenny Caledonia
KB Associates
Kenz Cranes
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Kongsberg Simrad
Lexmar Engineering
Measurement Devices Ltd
Nautronix
Noble Denton Europe
Noble Denton Singapore
NUI
Offshore Commissioning Solutions
PAE Singapore
Perry Slingsby Systems
Poseidon Maritime (UK)
Promarine
QinetiQ
Rolls-Royce Oy
SB Construction & Maritime Serv.
Seatools
Southern Oceanics
Thales Navigation
Underwater Technology Services
Unique System
Wavespec

Training Establishments & Personnel Agencies

Aberdeen Skills & Ent. Training
Ålesund University College
Centre for Marine Simulation
College of Oceaneering
Dave Oliver Hydrographic Services
De Moura Shipping
Divers Institute of Technology
Diving Diseases Research Centre
DOOR
Dynamic Positioning Centre
Ecole Nationale de la Marine
Marchande de Marseille
James Fisher Rumic
Energy & Mining Training Solutions
Hydrosub
INPP
Institute of ROV
Interdive Services

Lowestoft College
Marine & Offshore Group Intl
Maritech Group
Maritiem Trainingscentrum
Maritime Inst Willem Barentsz
National Hyperbaric Centre
Netherlands Diving Centre
Norwegian State Diving School
Oceanscan
Petrolis
Petrovietnam Manpower Training
College
Power & Generation Services
PR Offshore Services
ResQ Hauge Sund
Satakunta Polytechnic
Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre
Southampton Oceanography Centre
Sribima Maritime Training Centre
Stenmar Engineering
Sub Sea Group
SubServ
SubServPro
Technocean
UK Project Support
Underwater Centre Fremantle
Underwater Centre Tasmania
WA Maritime Training Centre
– Fremantle

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Caim Energy India
ConocoPhillips Indonesia
ConocoPhillips Petroleum Company UK
Det Norske Veritas
Gulf of Suez Petroleum Co. (GUPCO)
Health & Safety Executive
International Registries
Japan Vietnam Petroleum Co.
NAM Offshore Business Unit
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation
Petro Canada – Terra Nova Project
Petrobras
Premier Oil Natuna Sea
Sarawak Shell
Shell Intl Exploration & Production
Shell Petr. Dev. Co. of Nigeria
Talisman Energy (UK)
Total Austral (Argentina)
Total E&P
Total E&P Nederland
Total E&P UK
US Minerals Management Service
Woodside Energy
Zakum Development Co



Carlyle House, 235 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ
Tel. +44 (0) 20 7931 8171 Fax. +44 (0) 20 7931 8935
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