



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

news|etter

August 2005

Issue 36

IMCA News	2
TCP	4
SEL	5
Regional News	6
ROV	7
Diving	8
Offshore Survey	9
Marine	10
Questions & Answers	11
Members' News	12

Fighting Malaria

Malaria threatens the lives of about 40% of the world's population. It has infected 300 to 500 million people and causes over one million deaths each year world-wide. As the oil and gas industry has expanded its offshore production to new regions such as offshore Africa and parts of south east Asia, so issues such as health and personal security have become more and more significant, with the risk of exposure to malaria a key concern.

While transmission of malaria can take just a single bite from a mosquito infected with the *plasmodium* parasite, the disease is both preventable and treatable. IMCA has recently been busy working in support of a variety of organisations in the fight against malaria, including health promotion, through production of guidance, distribution of literature, professional health surveillance and study into anti-malarial drugs. IMCA has been active in a workgroup established by the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) to produce a guide about malaria prevention aimed at those in the offshore industry. This guidance, the draft of which has also been reviewed by IMCA's Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) core committee, is likely to be followed by OGP members who will in turn be seeking similar conformity from contractors. This guidance discusses how to implement a malaria prevention programme within existing management systems. This material is now nearing publication and IMCA members will receive further details shortly.

Dr Ron Behrens from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) recently gave a presentation to IMCA's Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) Core Committee on a study programme the school is now establishing. Dr Behrens and his team are aiming to carry out health surveillance of personnel working in malarious areas, including the effect of long term use of chemoprophylactics (anti-malarial drugs). The presentation by Dr Behrens was found to be extremely informative and provoked recognition for the potential value of his work to the offshore industry as well as more widely. IMCA members and industry colleagues are being urged to support the programme. Please turn to page 5 for more information on the study and what your company can do to help.

The recent IMCA Midsummer Charity Ball (see page 2) raised funds for the Hospital for Tropical Diseases (www.thehtd.org), an institution dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tropical ailments and travel-related infections, with an extensive research and training programme. Research into anti-malaria drugs is critical, as current agents are no longer effective.

The hospital works closely with LSHTM on research, teaching and training in national or international public health and tropical medicine as well as to inform policy and practice in these areas. Much of its work relates to the development of new malaria control methods suitable for resource-poor countries and a major part of the school's research is field-based in Africa.



Changes to the newsletter

Regular readers will notice a few changes to this issue of the newsletter and we're pleased to let you in on more to come.

- From just 101 companies in issue 1 (October 1995), the membership list has now grown and to over 270 members – more than we can cram on the back page with the address and logo. We've brought this list inside the back cover, where it joins the 'meet and greet' entries for our latest new members.
- While the newsletter is intended to keep you up to date with the association's activities, it's also a handy tool for promoting IMCA to potential members, client companies and other relevant organisations. For this reason parts of 'The IMCA Message' will appear on the back cover, describing IMCA's role and focus. This space may also be used to highlight forthcoming events and other important messages.
- On page 12 you'll find the first in our new series of 'Q&A' articles with various members of IMCA's committees, starting with Chris van Beek, Chairman of the SEL Core Committee. He talks of his 'day job', the work he's involved with, his IMCA role and how he feels IMCA membership makes a positive difference to the industry.
- In future issues there are plans to bring you a new series of feature articles, setting out some of the latest projects being undertaken around the world by IMCA members – highlighting new operational achievements, technological advances and more. As part of this we will consider reproducing articles by members that they have had printed in industry and in-house magazines.

If your company would like to be involved in this feature series, please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

Golf day

The inaugural IMCA golf day took place on 12 May in Aberdeen. It was a fantastic day, graced by perfect weather and some excellent golf, which augurs well for this to become an annual event. The format was a nine hole Texas Scramble in the morning followed by an 18 hole Stableford in the afternoon, played on the Blairs and Houghton courses respectively by some 34 players from IMCA member companies and their guests. In the morning the Fugro Survey team shot an unstoppable 26 gross shots over the nine hole course. In the afternoon, Steve Wisely of Subsea 7 gathered a creditable 40 points, followed by Ian McKenzie of Fugro with 28 points. The evening was rounded off by a fine dinner and prize-giving.

Offshore Europe

Once again IMCA will be exhibiting at the Offshore Europe event at the Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference centre on 6-9 September. We look forward to seeing members and industry colleagues – please drop by stand number 1142.

e-Developments

In light of the ever-expanding range of content on its websites, IMCA is testing a new search engine. The intention is to replace the existing simple search (which is useful, but can only provide unranked results listed by page title). To that end the new system uses weightings to try and return the most relevant pages at the top of the results and includes page descriptions and excerpts. In addition, the search engine covers the full site contents, including PDF files which were previously excluded from results – a facility that will be particularly useful for the members-only website. Existing site content is also being updated to make the most of the new engine before going fully live later in the summer.

Please provide any feedback on this development to Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com

Charity ball

Over 180 members, staff and guests joined together at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels in Aberdeen on 17 June 2005 for the annual IMCA Midsummer Charity Ball. With the malaria charity theme, pearlised balloons printed with mosquitoes hovered over each table and mosquito nets adorned the room, while there was also a small poster display and leaflets on the tables providing more information on the charitable cause to those at the ball. As guests arrived and through a sumptuous dinner of first class local fare, they were accompanied by the Athol Smith Trio, before moving on to hear the IMCA President's speech and to watch amazing conjuring tricks and comedy by Ian Keable. The Big Deal returned for the second time, keeping the ballgoers in dancing mood until the early hours. A 'heads and tails' game together with donations and the Ellon and District Round Table's casino raised a record £2,000 for the Hospital for Tropical Diseases (please see front page for more on this).



Annual seminar

The programme and registration brochure for this year's IMCA annual seminar has just been published. The seminar, again featuring content relevant to all IMCA technical divisions, will take place on 22-23 November at the Beach Rotana Hotel & Towers in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The programme follows a similar format to that used so successfully at last year's event in Singapore. This time, the Middle East & India Section is supporting an event arranged by all of IMCA's technical divisions with joint sessions tackling issues relevant to the whole industry each morning, followed by split diving and marine sessions, addressing more detailed technical issues. Each afternoon then sees a number of parallel workshops, allowing a variety of issues raised each day to be taken forward through the expertise contributed by seminar delegates.

The keynote addresses are to be given by Frits Janmaat, IMCA President, on 'IMCA – Taking forward marine contracting' and Captain Ron McGuire of Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (ADMA-OPCO) on the client perspective in the Middle East.

As usual, there will be a small exhibition featuring IMCA supplier members, demonstrating the latest new technology and services on offer, along with various social events (including a desert safari and a beach barbecue) to enable networking and to facilitate wide ranging discussion in a less formal atmosphere.

For further details and any updates, please visit www.imca-int.com/events

Following the launch of the IMCA

Contracting Principles in April we have seen many positive developments in our attempts to promote dialogue about them throughout our industry. Several operators have renewed discussions with IMCA on the topic of an improved balance between risks and rewards in contracts and generally the opinion aired has been that the Principles are 'open and honest'. It is thanks to the good work of all of its members that IMCA is seen increasingly as the representative body of the marine contractors.

With the way that the continuously growing demand for hydrocarbons is developing the offshore services market, it is just as important today as it was over the past 15 years (when a buyers' market operated in our business), to strive to agree standard terms and conditions for offshore contracts. All players should realise by now how important this is for the future of our business. Another additional significant benefit is that this effort will help improve relations between contractors and clients. IMCA is keen therefore to be kept informed on progress made through dialogue about the Contracting Principles and would

appreciate any feedback on this from its members.

Progress is also being made on the development of industry risk guidelines. These should further assist us in finding the right balance in our contracts and we hope to launch them later in 2005.

On the social calendar participants enjoyed the first IMCA golf day in Aberdeen on 12 May, which proved so good it looks set to become a yearly fixture. On 17 June a well attended midsummer charity ball held in Aberdeen saw many members enjoying a great combination of fine food and good entertainment in an amicable atmosphere. I look forward to the next IMCA Annual Seminar which takes



place in United Arab Emirates on 22-23 November. The technical programme has now been finalised and we hope to see good attendance from delegates to hear an interesting set of presentations and to participate in the marine or diving workshops. I hope you can join IMCA in making our business safer, more efficient and – simply – better.

Frits Janmaat
Allseas Group

IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group

Vice-President: Knut Boe, Technip

Chairman SEL: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Cont.

Chairman TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip

Chairman Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Chairman Marine: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group

Chairman Offshore Survey: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Chairman ROV: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International
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

Vice-Chairman SEL: Wallace Robertson, Cal Dive International

Vice-Chairman TCPC: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman Diving: Derek Beddows, Technip

Vice-Chairman Marine: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman Offshore Survey: Will Primavesi, Saipem

Vice-Chairman ROV: Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech

IMCA Chief Executive: Hugh Williams

IMCA Technical Director: Jane Bugler

Competence schemes – next steps

As an association which exists to advance the common interests of its members, it's good to hear that the industry is generally so busy, all over the world, spurred on by the recent high oil price. Members may have noticed that the TCPC has been working on a somewhat broader agenda of late – including simulators (see right), the survey on skills shortages, basic safety training, etc., but it remains keen to help members with their implementation of competence schemes and will be seeking feedback on how members are rolling out their in-house schemes. IMCA must assess whether and what further guidance may be necessary, whether additional promotion is still needed by IMCA to industry/clients/regulators, where there may be barriers to implementation, and so on. It's now two years since the main scheme documentation was updated, so experience should be plentiful.

In addition, as agreed at the launch earlier this year, IMCA will be seeking feedback from personnel agencies on its information pack for experienced freelance personnel – seeking information on general uptake, any particular concerns, general involvement of agencies and how IMCA can help agencies and contractors to work together to ensure that contractors' safety-critical personnel are fully integrated into company competence assurance and assessment schemes, whether directly employed or working in a freelance capacity.

You'll be hearing more about this later in the year, but please give it some thought if you have a moment now. Of course, IMCA remains willing to try and help at any time, so if there is a particular issue you would like considered now, please contact the secretariat.

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Monique Laros, Allseas Group
Philip Hargreaves, Stolt Offshore

Darren Bown, Subsea 7
Gavin Smith, Subsea 7
Mike Lloyd, Technip
Brian Robertson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section:
Lou Cranek, Institute of ROVs

Asia-Pacific Section: Vacancy

Middle East & India Section:
Mohamed Omar, International Naval Works

IMCA Schemes Administrator:
Vicki Graham

Lifting and hoisting

IMCA has started to participate in an OGP lifting and hoisting task force which has an ambitious target to produce safety guidance on a wide range of lifting operations. It will refer to existing guidance where possible to save reinvention of the wheel. Competence in lifting operations is one of the work items and IMCA will request involvement from volunteers in the membership, not just from among TCPC interests, in order to help ensure wherever possible that the guidelines coming from this body will properly represent good practice in marine offshore lifting operations.

Simulators

The reminder in issue 34 of our questionnaire on the value of simulators in relation to training, competency and personnel assessment helped bring in a good response to the consultation exercise. Respondents ranged from those using simulators to help their operations at the leading edge of remote vehicle operation through equipment manufacturers and training establishments.

The secretariat is now using the responses received to develop a position paper on the use of simulators in relation to training and competency. The paper will then be considered by the TCPC core committee which will take an informed decision on whether any additional IMCA guidance is necessary and, if so, what form and direction it should take.

TCPC Information Notes

published since Issue 35

TCPC 11/05 Nautical Institute DP operator logbooks: Revision of Nautical Institute notes on completion

TCPC 12/05 Nautical Institute DP operator certification:

Upgrading of limited certificates

TCPC 13/05 IDSA international diving personnel qualification programme



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Malaria

Dr Ron Behrens, Consultant at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, recently gave a presentation to the SEL core committee on a study the school is planning to commence in 2006 with the University of Leiden, Netherlands, into the long-term health of those working overseas in the oil and gas industry, particularly with regard to possible health problems and safety issues associated with the extended use of prophylactic drugs. All multi-national organisations with employees working in sub-Saharan Africa will be invited to participate if they can provide a local investigator to monitor and assist in reporting of incidents. Employees working or living in a malarious region would be asked to participate in the study. Once recruited into the study, participants would be monitored using a secure online questionnaire. Data on current health status and wellbeing, new symptomatology, and current malaria prophylaxis would be recorded. Participants would be prompted to complete the questionnaire through e-mail reminders and with support of local investigators. To capture significant health events the subjects would complete a questionnaire for all health problems including any febrile event. The study will investigate the long term safety of chemoprophylaxis and confirm the safety of current wide-scale prescribing of anti-malarials outside their licensed indications. The study will establish enhanced surveillance and reporting of malaria, facilitate the monitoring of resistance to current prophylactic drugs and distinguish true prophylaxis failures from failure as a result of poor drug compliance. Monitoring of malaria will be a valuable extra in this study. While funding is inevitably sought, companies in the oil and gas industry can also help by promoting individual recruitment to the study and by providing relevant local health support.

For further information please contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

SEL Information Notes published since Issue 35

- SEL 14/05 Safety statistics for IMCA members: Report for the period 1 January-31 December 2004
- SEL 15/05 Lloyds DP Performance Capability Rating (PCR)
- SEL 16/05 EU working time directive: Proposed amendments and their effects
- SEL 17/05 Future changes to helideck lighting (North Sea)
- SEL 18/05 EU working time directive: Update on current issues

2006 safety seminar

Planning for the next IMCA Safety Seminar is now well underway, with suggestions for presentations and topics coming in and venue liaison in hand. We will announce further details shortly.

Discussion at the recent SEL committee meeting in London centred on the focus of the event and the shared value to be gained by including offshore personnel in the audience. It is only through involving those at the 'sharp end' of offshore operations that certain experiences can be relayed. By broadening the audience, everyone benefits from the greater expertise contributed to the discussions. IMCA therefore encourages members to include offshore personnel in their delegations next year and hopes front line staff will be asked about which topics they would like on the agenda – such as which major safety issues are they most concerned about and how they feel safety management is best addressed.

All suggestions welcome – please e-mail Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Slips and trips DVD

The finishing touches are now being put to IMCA's second safety DVD – on *Slips, Trips and Finger Nips*. While less of a problem than in the past, incidents still happen due to a moment's carelessness or lack of attention. The video focuses on good workplace housekeeping and the need to be aware of risks to oneself and to watch out for the welfare of one's colleagues. As with the updated *Working at Height* DVD, this new video features subtitles in key offshore sector languages including Arabic, Filipino, French, Indonesian, Italian, Malay, Portuguese, Spanish and – for the first time – Russian, by popular request from members active in the Caspian and other regions.

Pocket safety cards

Four more now under development:

- Cutting and grinding
- Worksite safety self assessment
- Confined spaces
- Dropped objects

Also in hand is the first IMCA safety poster for offshore work-sites. As with the cards, this will include space for company logos and references, with print files available for members to use to tailor their own versions.

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Chris van Beek, Heerema Marine Contractors
Vice-Chairman: Wallace Robertson, Cal Dive International

Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors
 Philip Bradbury, Integrated Subsea Services
 Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere
 Sal Ruffino, Saipem
 Paul Blewett, Stolt Offshore
 Allan Hannah, Technip
 Foeke Tulner, Workships Contractors

Americas Deepwater Section:

Lynn Lehmann, Saipem

Asia-Pacific Section: Leslie Wong Wui,
 Stolt Offshore/PT Komaritim

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

Asia-Pacific

The latest section meeting took place on Thursday 9 June in Perth, Australia. Around thirty representatives were present at the morning meeting, when world-wide updates and the section's own specific work programme were the main items for discussion. The afternoon saw the regular briefing session for clients and potential members, from which one membership application has already been received. In addition, John Clegg (CEO) and Paul Finnigan (Deputy CEO) from the new Australian National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) joined members to give a presentation on the new regulatory regime and to participate in discussion with those present on issues arising from the new regulations. The safety case regime, particularly defining to which vessels and operations safety case requirements and fees apply, has been a particular concern for those working in Australian waters and there was some useful two-way dialogue on this. IMCA is continuing to liaise with NOPSA and hopes to provide additional briefing to members shortly.

Europe & Africa

IMCA is preparing to host two meetings this autumn for Europe & Africa Section members and a wider audience: A 'Europe & Africa day' will offer recent new member companies an introduction to IMCA and the chance to get up-to-date on the global work programme and work addressing regional issues. There will also be presentations relating to (and meetings of) the decommissioning and renewable energy workgroups. A *promotional seminar* is also planned for Norway, aimed at clients, regulatory bodies and other interested parties.

Please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com if you have contacts for any key relevant people that you feel should be included in the invitation list.

Meanwhile, the renewable energy workgroup has completed its position paper outlining the developing offshore renewables market, some of the important engineering, safety, commercial and contractual issues arising from it for marine contractors (such as 'marinisation' of land-based equipment for use offshore), and a number of the technological developments that are of interest to IMCA members. The paper was well received at the All Energy conference in Aberdeen in May where it was circulated to a range of relevant professionals.

A position paper on decommissioning will also be published shortly. With similar aims, this paper gives an overview on the decommissioning agenda, outlines many important engineering, safety, commercial and contractual issues, and examines a number of the technological developments that are of interest to IMCA members. There is also discussion on the relevant regulatory framework along with the wide variety of tasks facing members involved in this activity. This includes the age and condition of equipment and assets, the wide variety of designs or equipment needing attention, the difficulty in sourcing 'as-built' engineering drawings and the use or non-use of divers.

Both papers discuss what constitutes an appropriate sharing of risk at the contractual level between clients and contractors and each discusses the need for activities to take place within a proactive safety culture working to the highest possible standards.



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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 (election underway)

Chairman: Andy Bolton,
Technip Oceania

Vice-Chairman: John van Kuyk,
Anglo-Eastern Group

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: Craig Broussard, Subsea 7

Middle East & India

Over twenty participants attended the latest section meeting, which took place on 9 May in Jebel Ali, UAE. A full update was given on world-wide activities, including reports from the section's representatives on the relevant IMCA committees, before attention turned to more local aspects of the work programme including this year's annual seminar (see page 3). The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 19 September, again at the Jebel Ali Hotel. The following meeting will take place on 21 November immediately before the annual seminar, providing an opportunity for local members to hear from and meet with various world-wide committee members.

Americas Deepwater

The section held its latest full meeting on 19 May in Houston, at which one main discussion item was 'Safe Gulf' – a safety initiative for personnel working in the US Gulf of Mexico – and the requirements this imposes upon international contractors working in that region. These discussions were taken forward by the joint SEL/TCPC sub-group at its 7 June meeting, when members were joined by Tim Elsen, representing Safe Gulf. He provided useful clarification in several areas and the sub-group is continuing liaison to ensure both that members are fully briefed on the Safe Gulf requirements and that those developing the initiative are aware of the relevant work and guidance developed by IMCA and used by members. Having established itself as a forum for local members to discuss and work on issues of local interest and providing valuable input into the Association's global work programme, the section is now beginning to focus on promoting membership to relevant companies in the region. At the section meeting, an initial list of relevant companies was created, with individuals providing contact information to the secretariat for forwarding membership material.

Any member wishing to promote membership to their industry colleagues should pass contact details to the secretariat or highlight the material available at www.imca-int.com/join

Annual statistics exercise

For the past seven years, IMCA has produced annual ROV (and diving) statistics for the number of personnel employed in the North Sea area (Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK), adding to statistics collected over a number of years previously by AODC.

For the 2004 exercise, IMCA is intending to produce statistics relating to other regions of the globe and the call for statistics from members, therefore, asks for input relating to the Middle East and Caspian Sea, West Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and the Gulf of Mexico and Brazil.

IMCA hopes that the analysis will be further broken down, as the form requests a breakdown by type of ROV activity (inspection, drill support, construction or cable laying work).

North Sea contractors have been used to submitting their data relating to three specific dates – 1 May, 1 July and 1 September – aiming to provide a snapshot of activity across the busy part of the year. As data may not be readily available in this format in other areas, it is sufficient for contributors to submit an estimation based on man days per month. A note has been sent out advising of this clarification. Any members who have not yet submitted their return are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee (election underway)

Chairman: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International
Vice-Chairman: Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech

Nigel Wilmott, Cal Dive/
Canyon Offshore
John Rossier, Covus
Dave McKay, Fugro Survey
John Davies, Global Marine Systems
Keith Robathan, Saipem
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Neil Milne, Subsea 7
Dave Walker, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section: Vacancy

Asia-Pacific Section: Neil Forbes, Technip Oceania

Middle East & India Section: Chris Blake, Fugro Survey Middle East

Documentation CD

As trailed in issue 35, the Guidance on ROV Operations CD has now been published.

All members of the division have been sent a copy of the CD, which contains all of its current guidance and information notes together with core activity (SEL/TCPC) material and safety flashes.

Copies are available for purchase to members only, priced at £20 or £75 for a set of five (subject to VAT or delivery fee – see the website for more details).

ROV Seminar 2006

The Remote Systems & ROV Division is planning a half-day seminar in conjunction with the Oceanology International exhibition which takes place at the ExCeL conference centre in London on 21-23 March 2006. A call for papers has been issued and IMCA is keen to receive additional suggestions for papers and/or topics to be included in the programme.

Please submit any suggestions to Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

IDSA talks suspended

For the last 18 months, IDSA and IMCA have been working together to deliver a programme for international recognition of initial diver training standards. The aims of both organisations are well aligned around the desire to provide common training standards to facilitate the free movement of diving personnel internationally and to obtain recognition by stakeholders (employers, clients, governments and training establishments and other representative bodies). Considerable progress has been made, but IDSA and IMCA now believe that these aims cannot be achieved in the anticipated timescale, not least because of a lack of the wide support among some of the stakeholders. Both organisations consider that the buy-in of all stakeholders is central to the successful development of the programme. IDSA and IMCA have decided to suspend the process, pending reconsideration of ways forward. Both organisations believe the aims remain valid. In the meantime, IDSA and IMCA continue their dialogue with the stakeholders.

Surface supplied mixed gas diving

A revised version of *IMCA D 030 – Surface Supplied Mixed Gas Diving* – has been approved for publication, following a detailed workgroup review including representation from all IMCA regions. The updated guidance provides a better description of the requirements for such operations between 0-50 metres and the additional requirements needed between 50-75 metres.

The workgroup is now looking to finalise a stand-alone Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note (DESIGN) volume for the systems associated with use of this technique, following trials of an earlier draft.

Diving Information Notes

published since Issue 35

- D 08/05 Evaluation report of Swordfish iron oxide cutting electrode
- D 09/05 IDSA international diving personnel qualification programme

Isolations and barriers

Divers are uniquely exposed to the risk of negative and positive system pressures, especially during activities associated with system equalisation. Even a very small aperture with an associated pressure profile can cause severe injury to a diver who comes into contact with it. Similarly, divers may become exposed to live electrical or optical connections containing electrical or laser energy at dangerous levels which may also cause injury.

The general principle for an isolation is the removal of all hazardous materials from within the system to be worked upon and emplacement of mechanical barriers to satisfactorily isolate the system from any potential source of further energy.

New IMCA guidance has been developed on this, aimed at the broad range of personnel responsible for developing safe schemes of isolation and intervention for divers accessing subsea systems. Engineering guidance is provided on the essential elements to be considered when devising safe working practices for diving personnel working on, or near, either pressurised fluid (or gas), electricity or laser light, from which danger may arise.

A successful roll-out meeting was held in Aberdeen with key clients so the guidance will now be issued. IMCA will be seeking feedback on its use during the first year with a view to issuing a revised text in 2006.



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Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7
Vice-Chairman: Derek Beddows, Technip

Dan Schultz, Cal Dive International
Steve Nairn, Cal Dive International Ltd
John Rossier, Covus
Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services
Darren Brunton, KB Associates
Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Joar Gangenes, Stolt Offshore

Americas Deepwater Section: Allan Palmer, Stolt Offshore

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

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

Shared use of DGPS

Differential global navigation satellite systems (DGNSS) such as differential GPS (DGPS) and GLONASS (DGLONASS) are acknowledged as global standards for precise positioning and navigation and are used extensively within dynamic positioning (DP) systems to guide vessels involved in offshore survey and construction operations. Before this, DP vessels would typically use radio-navigation systems provided and operated by a survey-positioning company. These were normally installed for the duration of a particular contract or project. The survey-positioning company retained full responsibility for the system, which would be used for both survey and DP requirements.

The operational straightforwardness of DGNSS has led to its permanent installation and widespread use aboard DP vessels without input from surveyors. This has given vessel operators significant autonomy regarding the positioning of their vessels. When survey services are required on board, the survey contractor is often asked to make use of the DGNSS system permanently installed on the vessel. Whilst usually convenient this can present potential operational problems relating to the control and performance of the system. There is also potential for contractual disputes to arise in any situation where the survey user and the DP user are different companies and where installation, manipulation or reconfiguration of the positioning system for either survey or DP use may impact on the performance of the system for the other party.

The Offshore Survey Division has therefore been preparing guidance which sets out technical aspects and operational considerations and provides a number of recommendations for those considering sharing a DGNSS system between DP and survey operations. The guidance is now being reviewed by the Marine Division Management Committee and it is hoped to publish the final document later this summer.

Offshore Survey Information Notes published since Issue 35

S 03/05 European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS)

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee

Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey

Bob Downing, Maritech

Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore

Keith McGregor, Oceanteam IRM

Ray Morgan, Stolt Offshore

Americas Deepwater Section:

Stephen Browne, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific Section: Dave Scott,

Fugro Survey

Middle East & India Section: Phil

Hillier, Fugro Survey

(Middle East)

Shared use of other sensors

Many DP vessels operated by IMCA members have permanently installed equipment and their associated sensors which are also used by surveyors. These include the use of underwater positioning systems including ultra short baseline (USBL), heading reference systems (e.g. gyro compass and GPS multi-antennae systems) and motion sensors. The same issues of control and performance arise for these systems as are manifest within dynamic positioning systems (see left).

The Offshore Survey Division Management Committee has set itself the task to develop a similar guidance document to address the shared usage of such sensors. An outline specification was reviewed at its early July meeting and an invitation to tender was agreed. This is now being circulated to relevant consultancies.

Acoustic systems

IMCA is also to commission new guidance on deepwater acoustics, which will address a number of issues, including acoustic interference. Terms of reference for the planned project are being drawn up and an invitation to tender will be issued shortly.

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3 & 3A Church Street, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4DT, Great Britain

Crane projects

The projects listed in the last issue are progressing and a teleconference is planned for the workgroup. A revised lifting incidents form is to be issued shortly to help this programme. IMCA has also been invited to join the new OGP lifting and hoisting task force (see page 4). The revised version of HSE 'PM20' guidance on use of cable-laid slings and grommets has been sent to classification societies for comment and is now with the Overall Management Committee for final review so it should be published shortly.

Ballast water regulation

The 53rd session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee has just ended. IMCA will report on this to members shortly. Debate on issues relating to marine operations mostly concerned ballast water management. Members may recall IMCA issued an information note about a review process to determine whether suitable technology exists to achieve proposed standards by the end of 2008. The review group duly reported to MEPC that type approved systems should be available to meet the criteria for Regulation D-5.2 by October 2008. MEPC agreed that the group should meet again in 2007 to assess whether enough progress has been achieved.

Marine Division Management Committee

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

Michiel Goedkoop, Heerema Marine Contractors
David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service
Ian Young, Prosafe Offshore
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Steve Marshall, Sealion Shipping
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Pete Fougere, Transocean

Americas Deepwater Section: Vacancy
Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania
Middle East & India Section:
Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

Changes to regime for DP incident reporting

The Marine Division Management Committee has proposed new categories for DP incident reporting which can be used in conjunction with the IMCA DP incident reporting system. The IMCA report form will be revised to reflect these new categories. These new categorisations will replace the 'Loss of position 1' and 'Loss of position 2' incident categories currently used in the IMCA annual DP incident report. Five new categories are proposed – DP incident, DP undesired event, DP downtime, DP near-miss and DP hazard observation. An information note and revised reporting forms are being prepared, explaining the new categories and when these incident types should be reported to IMCA.

DP personnel and IMO

The review of *IMCA M 117 – The Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel* – has been progressing well, with input from members and liaison with the Nautical Institute. A revised draft should be available shortly for assessment by the Marine Division Management Committee.

The International Maritime Organization was advised of the proposed review (in keeping with the invitation to keep IMO informed of amendments in IMO MSC Circular 738) at key committee meetings and the draft will also be presented to IMO before finalising.

IMCA also advised the IMO Maritime Safety Committee and the Sub-Committee on Ship Design & Equipment of the proposed cross-industry guidance for DP operations on supply vessels and invited participation in the workgroup. IMCA also suggested that the IMO Offshore Supply Vessel Code and OSV Guidelines could now make reference to dynamic positioning.

The workgroup for the cross-industry guidance is now quite large and represents supply vessel interests from around the world, both within and without IMCA membership.

Anchor handlers and tugs

The Marine Division has given high priority to the development of a guidance document that can be used by vessel operators considering the use of towing vessels to assist DP DSVs conducting hazardous activities.

The document will consider the rationale behind the decision to connect towing vessels, the type of operations where it is considered necessary and other risk control measures which may remove the requirement for connecting towing vessels. Where the use of a towing vessel is considered necessary, the document will then consider the practical application of the concept, including selection of suitable vessels, the connection procedures, safeguards and emergency procedures, communications and procedures for towing.

Work on the document has already begun and it is hoped that the final document will be available in the autumn.

Marine Information Notes published since Issue 35

- M 13/05 Nautical Institute DP Operator Logbooks:
Revision of Nautical Institute notes on completion
- M 14/05 Lloyds DP Performance Capability Rating (PCR)
- M 15/05 Future changes to helideck lighting (North Sea)
- M 16/05 Nautical Institute DP operator certification:
Upgrading of limited certificates
- M 17/05 Proposed Aberdeen offshore wind farm



Chris van Beek is Manager of Projects with Heerema Marine Contractors.

He also serves as Chairman of IMCA's Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL) Core Committee and as a member of the Overall Management Committee.

In this article, he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the work his committee is currently undertaking on behalf of members.

Please tell us about your company and what it does

I work for Heerema Marine Contractors which operates two semi-submersible crane vessels and one semi-submersible deep-water construction vessel. These vessels are used to install oil and/or gas production platforms both in shallow and deep water and deepwater pipelines, flow-lines, jumpers and manifolds.

What is your current job?

I'm Manager of Projects, responsible for all world-wide projects executed by HMC.

How did you get to where you are in your career today?

A simplistic answer: Like many other colleagues – I've just stayed in the offshore contracting business!

Being serious: Our industry consists of many great contracting companies. Through gaining competences and experience by working in this industry you get to a function where you can apply this and work with many competent other people to service the oil and gas industry.

What do you see as the key areas affecting the industry at the moment?

Though we still have routine work, we are moving into new frontier areas at the same time;

deepwater Africa, pipelines in 8000 ft in the Gulf of Mexico. Therefore, we are working with new technologies, new equipment and new risks.

Development of optimum co-operation models between client, contractor and sub-contractor is essential for a sound business environment for all parties.

Also safety remains a major topic in our industry and rightly so. Last year again a number of people were injured within our industry. We must continue to work towards a target of zero injuries.

How can these issues be taken forward?

Developing fair contract conditions with a fair distribution of risk will take the above issues forward. With respect to safety, the combined efforts of all IMCA members to improve safety is making a big difference.

How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

IMCA offers a very important platform to have a streamlined dialogue with oil and gas companies. In this way, many guidelines have been developed and, more recently, the IMCA Contracting Principles, which are available to the full offshore industry.

Also on safety, major improvements have been achieved by very

openly sharing lessons learned, wide distribution of safety alerts, safety seminars (where the people on the work floor are really engaged) and many other initiatives. Workplace safety has been improved by a factor of 4 in the last 10 years and IMCA will continue to help reduce this further.

How do you see the future?

Though IMCA already has far-reaching impact on our industry, I even see a further strengthening of both the development and the impact of IMCA work.

New Members

IMCA welcomes

- Bachrach & Wood
- Boskalis Offshore
- DOF Management AS
- ex + med UK Ltd
- Holland College – Georgetown Centre
- Magellan Marine International, LLC
- Marine Survey & Services International (MSS International)
- Mobil North Sea Ltd
- Peters & Associates, Inc.
- Petroleum Marine Services Co.
- Sebastian AS
- SureSpek ISS Pty Ltd
- Vroon Offshore Services BV

Name Changes

- *Res Q Haugesund AS* has transferred to Stord/Haugesund University College

Bachrach & Wood

Has provided marine surveying and consultancy services for more than 50 years to the offshore industry. With offices in New Orleans,

Houston, Morgan City, and Port Fourchon, the company is highly experienced in vessel vetting and safety audits, warranty surveys, builder's risk surveys, damage surveys, sea fastening and stability calculations and shipyard and logistics project management. Places all audit results and survey reports, as well as all project management updates, on special password protected client websites supported by sister company Maintech Maintenance, Inc., available online to clients 24/7 world-wide.

Tel: +1 (504) 454 0001
Web: www.bachrach-usa.com

Members News

KB Associates Pte Ltd has expanded its accommodation at Loyang Offshore Supply Base in Singapore. Now offers training facilities that include a classroom large enough for up to 12 students attending IMCA-approved courses and other safety courses conducted by KBA. Servicing the Asia-Pacific, China, Australia, Asia, Europe and US markets, KB Associates is well

positioned to meet client requirements for the range of services it provides.



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.

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Stolt Offshore
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- IMCA Diver Medical Technician & DMT Refresher
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Membership status
can be checked
online at any time

The international trade association
for offshore, marine and underwater
engineering companies



Interests

IMCA represents the collective interests of the members in offshore and related activities, including, for example:

- Marine operations
- Diving
- Remote controlled systems including ROVs
- Offshore survey/positioning systems.

Interfaces

IMCA promotes close co-operation by interfacing with:

- Oil & gas and other offshore operators
- Governments and other regulatory bodies
- Other trade associations.

Objectives

The main objectives will be to promote members' common interests, including to:

- Strive for the highest possible standards with a balance of risk and cost in; health and safety; technology, quality and efficiency; environmental awareness and protection
- Achieve and sustain self-regulation in the industry
- Ease the free movement of equipment and personnel globally
- Achieve equitable contracting regimes
- Provide the framework for training, certification, competence and recruitment to support and sustain the industry globally
- Resolve industry issues
- Promote co-operation across the industry

Means to Deliver Objectives

IMCA has a number of committees and work areas. Each of these also has its own objectives, set at the beginning of each year and listed on the website. To deliver the Association's and the committees' objectives, IMCA will:

- Ensure endorsement of and continually improve IMCA guidelines
- Ensure endorsement of and continually develop IMCA competence schemes
- Publish global codes of practice, guidance notes, industry briefings, discussion papers and other media
- Promote the use of common and practical industry good practice
- Promote standard contracts to foster the ideals set by the industry and improve relations, increase efficiency and reduce overall cost
- Monitor legislation affecting the industry
- Provide a forum for discussion
- Hold meetings, workshops and seminars at various levels and in various locations
- Ensure the needs of members are adequately and properly addressed
- Encourage research and development of new technology
- Provide a single voice to speak on behalf of members where there is a common interest.

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