



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

news|etter

February 2006

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Annual Seminar in Abu Dhabi

As the Association's premier event, IMCA's annual seminar moves each year to a new location around the world. With varied technical content for members and non-member it always attracts a wide and varied audience. This year was no exception when at the end of November some 250 delegates went to Abu Dhabi for what proved a stimulating and enjoyable meeting.

This, the thirteenth annual seminar, was hosted by the Middle East & India Section with input from all four IMCA technical divisions - Diving, Marine, Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV. The theme was *Expanding Marine Contracting - Shaping the Future of Diving, DP and Marine Construction Practices*.

Participants included offshore and onshore management and operational staff, together with a range of specialist consultants, equipment manufacturers and client and regulatory representatives. Presentations covered a wide range of topical issues including marine contracting in the middle east, operational practice for using tugs with DSVs and the latest technological developments and lessons learned. There was a pleasing range of topics and lively discussion in both plenary and workshop sessions. The seminar also included a well supported exhibition where relevant equipment and services were on display. After a welcome to all delegates from Steve MacMillan of J Ray McDermott (Chairman, IMCA Middle East & India Section) at the start of Day One, IMCA President Frits Janmaat of Allseas addressed the opening plenary session. He described IMCA's current work programme, issues facing the marine contracting sector and IMCA's response to them, not least efforts to improve the relationship

continued overleaf



Incident reporting

Hugh Williams, IMCA Chief Executive, has written to all IMCA members, drawing attention to the subject of incident reporting and the pursuit of efficiency. Quoting from his letter, "Learning from our mistakes is a key part of business improvement and the pursuit of efficiency. Avoiding repeating an incident or accident saves lives, time and money – we all know it makes sense."

IMCA's various initiatives - notably safety flashes, dynamic positioning (DP) incident reporting and the more recent focus on lifting incidents – all play a part in this effort:

- IMCA safety flashes disseminate information on recent incidents and the lessons learned from them. This can be in terms of faulty equipment, gaps in procedures or risk assessments and reminders of the need for basic safety awareness. Sharing this information through IMCA can

continued on p.5

Get active for IMCA

The best advertisement for the value of IMCA is an active membership. A new factsheet - reproduced on the back page of this newsletter - sets out the the benefits of direct participation in IMCA's work through using IMCA guidance, attending events, responding to consultations, feeding back on documents, serving on workgroups and committees and by spreading the word to others in the industry, be they clients, sub-contractors, regulators or colleagues. To help members with this the secretariat is providing:

- Membership certificates in stylish frames, for display in your reception, boardrooms and other locations. Additional copies are available *free of charge*, so please ask if you would like more.
- Revised factsheets and updated promotional materials downloadable from the websites. If there is something else you want, please let us know.
- Continued effort to promote the Association, its members and guidance to an ever wider audience of clients, regulators and potential members, through existing routes, new forums and the media.

Self-regulation

Always an IMCA goal, in common with many other contractor trade associations, "Achieve and sustain self-regulation in the industry", is the second objective listed in 'The IMCA Message'. However, sometimes it needs to be explained why all parties should want this and how IMCA strives to achieve and sustain it. For this reason, a new factsheet has been developed which sets out the theory behind self-regulation, the various benefits for all parties - contractors, clients and regulators - and what IMCA is doing to make sure it works successfully. The factsheet is currently being sent to all members and other interested parties. It is also available on the IMCA websites.

Please contact the secretariat if you haven't received a copy.

Annual Seminar *cont from p1*

between contractors and clients. Following this, Captain Ron McGuire of ADMA-OPCO described the operating philosophy for contractors and their role in work with his company along with the role IMCA has to play in marine operations in the region. Chris Rodricks of SEAMEC then went on to discuss some of the challenges facing DP operations offshore India, describing the monsoon season and its implications, the cyclone season and tidal flows. Two parallel sessions followed. The marine sessions covered lessons learned from ten years of DP incidents, common mode failures in Class 2 DP equipment, doppler logs as an alternative position reference for DP and how IMCA's Marine Division works to take industry issues forward.

The diving sessions covered long-term health issues for divers, diving in Azerbaijan and considerations when diving in contaminated waters.

Day Two started with a plenary session where Lachlan McKelvie of Seabulk provided a thought-provoking presentation on communicating lessons learned from incidents. This was followed by presentations on DP issues, underwater cutting and on hyperbaric evacuation and its post-launch support. Eleven workshops were held over the two days where extended discussion took place on topics presented during the seminar.

In one that attracted a lot of interest, Dr Kulkarni described his experience helping divers in a hyperbaric evacuation. He also drew on his extensive experience as a hyperbaric doctor to set out the issues he feels are critical when considering hyperbaric evacuation.

The whole seminar was well received, combining interesting presentations, constructive debate and wide-ranging discussions with social events where delegates and speakers could network and discuss issues further in relaxed surroundings.

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2006 work programme

The various IMCA committees and work groups are currently developing and commencing their new work programmes for 2006.

If you would like to suggest a possible project that would be of interest or benefit to members around the world or within your region, please contact the secretariat.

2005 ... and all that

The past year saw IMCA reach the tenth anniversary of its birth out of the merger of AODC and DPVOA. The Association has grown rapidly and there are many successes to be proud of. The last twelve months have reflected new and longer term initiatives, including:

- IMCA's Contracting Principles were published and welcomed by members and their clients as a useful document aiding discussion on contracting issues
- IMCA's catalogue of published guidance and other documents continued to expand with 17 new/updated titles
- Over 100 information notes briefed members on a wide range of issues that could have adversely affected members and on many topics that would aid them
- 12 safety flashes alerted members to lessons from 51 incidents
- A very successful string of events such as the annual seminar in Abu Dhabi, the safety seminar at the Ajax Amsterdam Arena, new briefing events for clients, regulators and potential members, the midsummer charity ball and IMCA's first golf day
- In the Americas, the diving sub-group overcame a raft of issues many previously thought insurmountable to finalise arrangements that will allow contractors to achieve compliance with the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving
- Membership continued to grow rapidly, up by over 15% to nearly 300 by the end of 2005

Ambitious targets have already been set as we move into 2006. The first ten years were just the beginning!

2005 was a good year. IMCA saw a further large increase in membership, which means it now represents an even larger share of the industry and our voice grows stronger still!

Increasingly, we see IMCA guidelines used on a global basis, with some clients making compliance with them a requirement for pre-qualification.

Helped by the present market situation we have seen major steps towards achieving better terms in offshore contracts. We also see an improved balance between the risks taken and the rewards received in most of our contracts, although there are still improvements to be made especially in the large EPIC contracts typical for the West African market.

Looking ahead, the sector must deal with a major shortage in skilled personnel, which is hurting all parties at present and is being addressed through various initiatives. IMCA is actively involved in these discussions and has recently performed a skills survey to identify the shortfalls. The challenge now is to improve the way we 'sell' the industry to available skilled personnel and to students so we can start filling vacancies.

IMCA has issued a fact sheet on self-regulation - a 'hot' subject at the moment with the general jump in activity levels. The guidelines developed

and maintained by IMCA for safety, environment, legislation, training, certification and personnel competence (specifically for diving) are meant to be followed all around the world in any market situation.

Our industry can only be healthy, high quality, safe and efficient with a resulting reduction in wasted time and money if authorities, contractors and operators all take their responsibility. Self-regulation can only be sustained when:

- *contractors continue to create industry-wide good practice guidelines, strive to comply with them and use them with their own sub-contractors*
- *clients adopt and endorse the guidance and, where it becomes a contractual requirement, ensure that it is delivered*
- *authorities do the same from their perspective*



The successful annual seminar in Abu Dhabi on 22-23 November 2005 saw typical large representation from our members, but we also welcomed participants from other parties in the industry, not least from operators and authorities. Long may a robust and informed dialogue continue.

Our first event in 2006, the IMCA safety seminar at Murrayfield international rugby stadium, takes place as we go to press from 9-10 February.

IMCA Overall Management Committee

President & Chairman: Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group

Vice-President: Knut Boe, Technip

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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, Cal Dive International

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 Ltd

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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

Skills survey results

November saw the long-awaited publication of IMCA's *Skills Survey Results (IMCA C 008)*. The last few years have been challenging for IMCA members, in a tough contracting climate with increased emphasis on safety, not to mention changing patterns of work arising from financial and technological advances. Many people believed that, as the industry changed, the number of skilled people that were relied upon to undertake key roles was not keeping pace, but was this true? If we are serious about developing our industry, we need to plan for the future and to assess the global requirements of IMCA members to ensure they have sufficient personnel to meet demand in the years ahead.

IMCA committees debated this issue and commissioned a skills audit to identify the actual position from a cross-section of contractors representing IMCA membership. The research started in late 2003 but to write a representative report, responses to the questionnaire were still being processed in May 2005. This means that the intended 'snapshot' of the market covers an 18 month period when activity levels were already changing. Now, the industry is extremely busy world-wide and many members are seeing skills shortages not predicted by respondents to the questionnaire in their 2 and 5 year forecasts, a pattern echoed widely in a variety of publications. The TCPC core committee is already working hard to address the findings of the survey, including the review and expansion of IMCA's careers promotion material. Input from members on this and other aspects would be welcome.

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip
Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Jennifer Cook, Acergy
Fiona McKenzie, Acergy
Monique Laros, Allseas Group
Darren Bown, Subsea 7
Gavin Smith, Subsea 7
Mike Lloyd, Technip
Brian Robertson, Technip
Andy Stewart, UK Project Support

Americas Deepwater Section: Lou Crane, Inst. of ROVs

Asia-Pacific Section: Vacancy

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

IMCA Schemes Administrator: Vicki Graham

Agency update

IMCA continues to work with personnel agencies, particularly in relation to its competence assurance and assessment framework. The development of the information pack for geophysicists (see p. 9) is one example of this in action. Some feedback has been received in response to last year's questionnaire exercise and more input is sought from agencies and contractors on their experiences working together with freelance personnel under company competence schemes. A meeting is planned for later in 2006 to take forward any issues identified.

Please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com for more details.

Wanted – recent recruits

The TCPC committee is developing a series of articles on recent recruits describing their experiences and discussing the range of exciting roles available in the industry. Are you new to the industry or do you know someone who is? If you have an interesting story to tell or you want to pass on to others the reasons why you enjoy working offshore, please get in touch now.

Contact: Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

IMCA D 013 updated

Guidance covering the *IMCA Offshore Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician Certification Schemes*, has been republished. Revision 2 includes updated examination procedures, particularly with regard to timings, and applies to all applications received from 1 January 2006. The format of the document and the diagrams have also been updated to make them clearer.



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TCPC Information Notes *published since Issue 37*

TCPC 01/06 Documents Issued in 2005

Incident Reporting

- continued from p1

help those carrying out similar operations and/or using similar equipment learn to avoid the same hazards. If the information isn't passed on, someone else could get hurt. Many members contribute to the system, but it would be more effective if everyone did.

- DP incident data extends back to 1980, with annual reports from 1989 which collate and analyse the incidents. This helps to establish trends that can be reviewed and discussed with vessel operators, equipment suppliers and training establishments to address specific issues. The results have helped keep the DP fleet operational, safe and acceptable to authorities by feeding into design practice, procedures and training.

- IMCA aims to mirror the benefits of the DP system by collecting data on incidents involving lifting operations and equipment. An updated reporting form was produced in 2005 and is available on request, although reports in your company's own format are also welcome.

All members are urged to contribute to these systems. Each will only be as useful as the material provided by members. Every member that contributes makes the output more valuable – more data to analyse, more lessons shared and more incidents avoided.

All submissions are made anonymous and checked with the contributor prior to publication in any form.

Please add the secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your safety flash and incident distribution lists and ensure your company has the latest DP and lifting incident reporting forms as appropriate.

SEL Information Notes

published since Issue 37

SEL 01/06 Documents Issued in 2005

Security update

IMO recently focused on security issues in terms of personnel competence and the Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention. A workgroup is looking to update the treaty with other changes referring to able seafarers and engine room personnel. IMCA's new Security Task Force and the TCPC committee will monitor developments.

Basic safety training

IMCA continues to seek additional input from members on basic safety training requirements in their region. A number of individuals have kindly contributed, but there are still gaps as the SEL core committee develops its matrix of requirements around the world.

The information in the matrix will assist in the planned review of IMCA SEL 007 – Basic safety training for non-marine personnel on specialist vessels – and be of use to IMCA and its members as a stand-alone reference.

Members are invited to forward data on the areas in which they work to Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Next safety DVD

In 2005 IMCA updated *Working at Height* (IMCA SEL 009) and produced a new *Slips, Trips and Fingers Nips* (SEL 013) DVD. These have been warmly welcomed by members and others who have purchased them as useful training aids, particularly with the inclusion of subtitles in various languages prevalent in the offshore industry. The SEL core committee is now considering possible topics for a third video and is inviting suggestions from members for topics they would like to see covered and would make full use of with their own personnel.

Safety statistics

IMCA has issued its call to members for safety statistics for 2005. An annual report covering fatalities and injuries has been produced for the past eight years, with a good number of members contributing. Although only one indicator of health, safety and environmental performance, safety statistics are nonetheless seen as providing a useful insight into the performance of a company in this area. The purpose of the statistics is to record the collective performance of IMCA contractor members each year and to enable them to benchmark their performance.

For the third year, the report will include analysis of leading performance indicators alongside the long-running lagging figures, while, for the first time, IMCA will also report a total recordable incident rate (TRIR) figure for members world-wide, allowing comparison with US data in line with OSHA definitions.

A new Excel template has been distributed to help members to submit their data, including automatic calculations which allow members to check their input. Please provide your data as soon as possible to enable prompt production of this year's IMCA report.

SEL Core Committee

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

Paul Blewett, Acergy
Paola Santoli, Allseas
Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors
Philip Bradbury, Integrated Subsea Services
Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott
Eastern Hemisphere
Sal Ruffino, Saipem
Allan Hannah, Technip
Foeke Tulner, Workshops Contractors

Americas Deepwater Section:

Lynn Lehmann, Saipem

Asia-Pacific Section: Leslie Wong Wui,
Acergy Asia Middle East

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

Asia-Pacific

The latest meeting of the Asia-Pacific Section took place on 12 January in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and was attended by 26 members. The afternoon included both the regular briefing and Q&A session for clients and potential members plus a workshop for members on lifting and winching issues.

The next meeting will take place on 20 April in Singapore.

NOPSA update

IMCA remains actively involved in discussions with the Australian National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) on its safety case regime. Following an exchange of correspondence which addressed a number of concerns, a forum is taking place in Perth on 17 March with NOPSA and a variety of interested organisations to discuss current issues. The government department which sponsors NOPSA is also to undertake a review of the levies associated with the safety case regime, with a view to putting changes in place for 1 January 2007. IMCA will be involved in this review and would welcome input from members.

Please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com



Europe & Africa

IMCA held a successful briefing seminar at the Stavanger Petroleum Museum in Norway on 27 October. In the fascinating surroundings, committee members Joar Gangenes of Stolt Offshore - now Acergy - (Diving Division) and Kjell Helgøy of Teekay (Marine Division) joined Hugh Williams and Jane Bugler to give presentations on the Association's role and activities to

an audience of around fifty clients, regulators, and both existing and potential members before a question and answer session and closing drinks reception. Those present agreed that it had been a useful opportunity to find out more about IMCA. A follow-up seminar is already being planned for Oslo, Norway, in the spring.

in February 2005, with a view to promoting their use in the region, and contributing to the ongoing development of an industry risk guideline.

For more details, please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

Americas Deepwater

The growing Americas section held its latest meeting on 3 November in Houston, with over twenty members in attendance and interest from a number of potential members who attended as guests. A particular topic of conversation was the Safe Gulf initiative, in which IMCA remains heavily involved on behalf of members.

The next meeting is on 9 March in Houston

Contracts Workgroup

The first Americas Contracts Workgroup meeting was held after the main section meeting. The group, which has representation from ten contractors operating in the region, elected Sharon Adams of Cal Dive International as its Chairman. Sharon is already an active member of the global Contracts Workgroup, ensuring good liaison at all levels. The first two major tasks for the Americas group are reviewing the IMCA Contracting Principles, published

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: Mark Shepherd, Mermaid Offshore Services

Europe & Africa Section

Chairman: Robin Davies, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Ian Stevenson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section

Chairman: Roy Sijthoff, Cal Dive International

Vice-Chairman: Craig Broussard, Subsea 7

Middle East & India

Members in the Middle East & India Section were active in arrangements for the IMCA Annual Seminar, which took place on 22-23 November (see front page). Thanks are extended to all those who were involved for their contributions to an excellent event.

Immediately before the seminar, the section held its quarterly meeting, with members joined by representatives of the world-wide committees.

Hugo Bekker, Alan Forsyth, John Greensmyth and Wallace Robertson, as chairmen and vice-chairman of the Marine Division, Diving Division, TCPC and SEL committees respectively, updated members on the current work programme and joined in various discussions on topics of particular interest in the region.

The next meeting will take place on 13 February 2006 in Jebel Ali

IMCA considers ROV research projects

As part of its 2006 work programme, the Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee is looking to organise research in two areas:

- Buoyancy equipment – a scope of work is currently being prepared for this research. Any input from members on particular issues they feel the research should cover would be welcome.
- ROV umbilicals – this could consider such varied issues as microbes, umbilical life, bend radius and temperature profiles.

The committee will be discussing the proposed research in depth at its 30 March meeting and would again appreciate input from members on this topic.

Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with a question and answer session before the close. The whole event will then be followed by a drinks reception.

Places are strictly limited and to allow suitable arrangements to be made, pre-registration is required.

Please visit www.imca-int.com/events for full details and to register.

IMCA seminar at oi06

IMCA is holding a seminar entitled *ROVs: Leading the Way into the Future* alongside the popular Oceanology International (oi06) exhibition in London's Docklands. The seminar takes place on Wednesday 22 March 2006 in Room 7 at the ExCeL exhibition centre and runs from 14:00 to 16:30.

Following an introduction by Hugh Williams, IMCA Chief Executive, the programme will feature presentations on *The Use of Small Electric Work-Class ROVs in the Oil Industry* by Derek Cruickshank of Rovtech, *Challenges for ROV Surveys and Inspections* with Gert Juel Rasmussen of Acergy and *Powerful ROV Simulation Tools* by Bob Curtis from Oceaneering International.

Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with a question and answer session before the close. The whole event will then be followed by a drinks reception.

Places are strictly limited and to allow suitable arrangements to be made, pre-registration is required.

Please visit www.imca-int.com/events for full details and to register.



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Colin Mackay, Acergy
Michel Hebert, Bluestream
Nigel Wilmott, Cal Dive/ Canyon Offshore
Dave McKay, Fugro Survey
John Davies, Global Marine Systems
David Rhodes, Integrated Subsea Services
Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering International
Keith Robathan, Saipem
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

Remote Systems & ROV Information Notes

published since Issue 37

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New DP incident reporting forms and categories

The IMCA DP incident reporting forms have been updated to reflect changes to the reporting categories agreed by the Marine Division Management Committee.

The aim of this change of format is to help people who are reporting incidents to have a better idea whether to report the incident and in which category it would fall. It is also to help those reading the annual report, as it provides a wider range of incident types, as follows:

- 1) DP Incident – Loss of automatic DP control, loss of position or any other incident which has/should have resulted in a 'Red Alert' status.
- 2) DP Undesired Event – Loss of position keeping stability or other event which is unexpected/uncontrolled and has/should have resulted in a 'Yellow Alert' status.
- 3) DP Downtime – Position keeping problem or loss of redundancy which would not warrant either a 'Red' or 'Yellow' alert, but where loss of confidence in the DP has resulted in a stand-down from operational status for investigation, rectification, trials, etc.
- 4) DP Near-Miss – Occurrence which has had a detrimental effect on DP performance, reliability or redundancy but has not escalated into 'DP Incident', 'Undesired Event' or 'Downtime'.
- 5) DP Hazard Observation – Set of circumstances identified which have had the potential to escalate to 'Near-Miss' status or more serious. This category should also capture relevant occurrences even when not operating in DP mode.

The updated form has been distributed to members via revised information note IMCA M 36/05 and is available for downloading or on request.

Marine Division Management Committee

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

Arnfinn Vika, Acergy
Michiel Goedkoop, Heerema Marine Contractors
David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service
Ian Young, Prosafe Offshore
Steve Marshall, Sealion Shipping
Steve Woodward, Technip
Kjell Egil Helgøy, Teekay Norway
Pete Fougere, Transocean

Americas Deepwater Section: Vacancy

Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania

Middle East & India Section:

Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

DP – an IMCA history

IMCA is producing a new fact-sheet outlining in brief the development of dynamic positioning, its use offshore and the evolution of regulations, including those developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and guidance issued by IMCA and its predecessor, DPVOA. A first issue is available from the websites or in printed form on request.

DP incident analysis 1994-2003

IMCA has published an *Analysis of Station Keeping Incident Data 1994-2003 (IMCA M 181)*. In the knowledge that members value the annual report on dynamic positioning (DP) station keeping incidents highly, the Marine Division Management Committee took this one step further to commission this report on a ten year period, identifying trends and providing more detailed analysis on underlying causes.

Crane & Winch Operations

The new IMCA work-group on this topic has begun developing guidance on lifting operations. The first part concerns subsea lifting and, thanks to recent work by one international contractor member, this material is well advanced. The group is also liaising with the oil & gas producers' (OGP) Lifting and Hoisting Task Force and with other industry organisations to advise on these initiatives.

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Ship source pollution

IMCA is monitoring the development of a new proposed EU directive on pollution from ships which could make seafarers open to prosecution for 'serious negligence' when discharging substances from vessels. Such a phrase could pose a legal problem, as it is not clear how it would be construed by different EU Member States. The Marine and SEL committees have been discussing the issue and members are asked to talk to their respective legal departments for further investigation and feedback to Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

Marine Information Notes

published since Issue 37

- M 33/05 Bridge Design: Naut-OSV guidelines
- M 34/05 Exposure to Noise and Vibration at Work: MCA Consultation on Proposed UK Regulations
- M 35/05 Guidelines for the Safe Management of Offshore Supply and Anchor Handling Operations (North West European Area)
- M 36/05 DP Incident Reporting: Revision of Categories and Reporting Form
- M 01/06 Documents Issued in 2005

Update of IMCA M 117

Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel (IMCA M 117 Rev.1) has just been republished, updating the widely used 1996 version to reflect current best practice. As before, details on formal training courses to be attended by DP operators and others are included, together with a structured familiarisation procedure for personnel joining a vessel or commencing a new project and guidance on refresher training. The review included input from a range of members and organisations, such as the Nautical Institute. The International Maritime Organization, which referenced the previous edition, has been advised of the current updating and is being passed this new version.

Shared use of vessel sensors

Following publication last year of *Guidelines for the shared use of DGPS for DP and survey operations (IMCA S 009)*, work has commenced on the development of new guidance for sharing other vessel sensors. A consultant has been engaged to take forward the scope of work developed by the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee.

A workshop on this topic at the IMCA Annual Seminar in Abu Dhabi helped to identify issues members felt needed to be addressed in the guidance.

At this early stage, any input from members on particular issues to be addressed by the guidance would be welcome.

Please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com to contribute or for more details on developments.

Updated guidance on use of MBES

The Offshore Survey Division guidelines on *The Use of Multibeam Echosounders for Offshore Surveys* have been revised and republished as *IMCA S 003 Rev. 1*.

The formulae for sounding density, both along track and across track, had been the subject of debate since the first publication of the guidelines, as they could be interpreted in two different ways, so the resulting density could be over-optimistic. A consensus has been reached and the formulae adjusted accordingly. Members should consider the application of the formulae carefully in relation to the task in hand. The opportunity has also been taken to update the formatting to match the current IMCA style.

Freelance geophysicists

IMCA has completed its information pack on competence assurance and assessment for experienced freelance personnel with the publication of material for geophysicists.

All safety-critical positions in the offshore survey and ROV sectors covered by the IMCA competence framework are now included. As with the other sheets, these list the documentary evidence of experience and assessments that can build a competence portfolio, the relevant IMCA guidance for geophysicists and sample achievement records, appraisal forms and questionnaires that companies can use to help integrate freelancers into their in-house competence schemes.

The new sheets have been distributed to Offshore Survey Division contractor and personnel agency members, additional interested parties and are also available to download at www.imca-int.com/competence

Offshore Survey Information Notes published since Issue 36

- S 01/06 Documents Issued in 2005

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee (election underway)

Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7
Vice-Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem
 Ray Morgan, Acergy
 Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey
 Keith McGregor, DeepOcean
 Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey
 Bob Downing, Maritech
 Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore

Americas Deepwater Section:
 Stephen Browne, Subsea 7
Asia-Pacific Section: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey
Middle East & India Section:
 Vacancy

Diving Division Management Committee

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

Joar Gangenes, Acergy
Hans Berkhof, Bluestream
Dan Schultz, Cal Dive International
Steve Nairn, Cal Dive International Ltd
John Rossier, Covus
Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services
Darren Brunton, KB Associates
Cees Noordhoek, Noordhoek Offshore
Calum Buchanan, RBG Core Technical
Sal Ruffino, Saipem

Americas Deepwater Section:

Allan Palmer, Cal Dive Int.

Asia-Pacific Section: RP Singh, Acergy Asia Middle East

Middle East & India Section:

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere

New DESIGN volumes

Two new volumes to the Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note (DESIGN) have now been published.

- DESIGN for surface supplied mixed gas systems (*IMCA D 037*)
- DESIGN for mobile/portable surface supplied systems (*IMCA D 040*).

It's hoped these will be used across the industry like existing documents for air (*IMCA D 023*) and saturation diving (*IMCA D 024*).

Personnel profile

IMCA completed a global study of the experience and employment profile of diving personnel for the year 2000, which was reported in *IMCA D 029*. With the industry changing rapidly, it was deemed useful to repeat that exercise in the North Sea area, where there is a limited number of employers, a degree of stability among the workforce and a high standard of record keeping. A new report extends the analysis for a further three years. *IMCA D 038* contains some interesting information which will help inform future decisions and work items.

Diving Information Notes

published since Issue 37

- D 12/05 IMCA Code of Practice for Offshore Diving Gulf of Mexico Annex
- D 13/05 Withdrawal of Senior Dive Technician Pay Grading Certificates
- D 01/06 Documents Issued in 2005
- D 02/06 The Evaluation and Testing of the Environmental Control of Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems

now joined forces with EDTCmed to establish an approval scheme for diving medicine training, as set out in *DMAC 29 – Approval of Diving Medicine Courses*.

This scheme covers two levels of course: Level I (introductory), for those wishing to work as medical examiners for divers (AMEDs). They must attend periodic refresher courses or take more advanced training. Level IIa

Diving medicine courses

When accident or illness arises on a working dive the medical help available anywhere in the world is usually excellent, commonly from doctors trained when serving in the military or on specialist courses in occupational health or clinical medicine. However, as military deep diving and related diving research has died away over the past 20 years, fewer doctors have gained the expertise needed by the diving industry from this traditional training ground. At the same time there are now more hospital doctors who use hyperbaric oxygen chambers to treat a wide range of medical conditions (including divers with acute decompression illness) but who often lack detailed knowledge of the other medical and physiological hazards of diving.

After several years of discussion between representatives of the entirely medical European Committee of Hyperbaric Medicine (ECHM) and the medical subcommittee of the European Diving Technology Committee (EDTCmed) to define categories for doctors of hyperbaric and diving medicine, the independent Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC) has

now joined forces with EDTCmed to establish an approval scheme for diving medicine training, as set out in *DMAC 29 – Approval of Diving Medicine Courses*. This scheme covers two levels of course: Level I (introductory), for those wishing to work as medical examiners for divers (AMEDs). They must attend periodic refresher courses or take more advanced training. Level IIa targets those who want to provide advice to professional diving organisations and, in particular, for the medical management of diving accidents and illnesses. Such courses provide supplementary training for doctors with a recognised clinical speciality (or equivalent outside the EU) who want recognised competency to support working dives. IMCA supports this new scheme. It is stressed that neither DMAC nor IMCA approves individual doctors for diving medicals.

Approved educational establishments can be found at www.dmac-diving.org

NATIONAL HYPERBARIC CENTRE & Professional Diving Academy

- HSE Wet Bell Course
- HSE Commercial Surface Supplied Diver
- HSE Professional Scuba
- Underwater Welding
- Enclosed Space Diving
- Contaminated Water Diving
- IMCA Diver Medic
- IMCA Assistant Life Support Technician
- IMCA Assistant Air Diving Supervisor
- IMCA Assistant Bell/Gas Diving Supervisor
- Diving Familiarisation

+44(0)1309 701 701
www.professionaldivingacademy.com
carol@professionaldivingacademy.com

+44(0)1224 696 895
www.nationalhyperbariccentre.com
are@nationalhyperbariccentre.com

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OFFERING AN EVEN MORE EXTENSIVE RANGE OF HSE & IMCA APPROVED COURSES WORLDWIDE

Please tell us about your company

Technip is the world's largest multi-faceted oil and gas contractor, employing over 24,000 people worldwide in both upstream and downstream activities on most continents. With nearly 50 years' experience in design and construction of large industrial facilities and a wide range of state-of-the-art technologies, the group can manage all aspects of major projects, from front end engineering design to turnkey delivery.

What is your current job?

I am currently Marine Operations Vice President of Technip Oceania, providing support to our offshore projects and tenders in this region. This role has many facets, including provision and co-ordination of both in-house and third party marine assets, provision of offshore supervision and workforces, industrial relations advice and remote intervention, all of which are provided with a strong focus on compliance with Technip's health, safety and environmental policies and procedures.

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

I graduated with a degree in Engineering and Management in the UK in the mid-1970s and joined Brown & Root's training programme. I progressed through field engineering support to engineering and project management roles, working in New Zealand, Canada, the UK and an eight-year spell in India. I arrived in Perth with Stena Offshore in 1991 and have held various roles as the company evolved into Technip.

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

With the current rapid 'explosion' of oil and gas projects, the biggest challenge we face is to provide enough skilled and competent personnel both onshore and offshore. The worldwide labour market is almost exhausted and the demand is not being met by an appropriate level of new starters in our industry. Despite our best endeavours the intake of graduates and the process of ongoing training has been too little and too late. We



only have to look at the aging workforce to see our succession planning has not been robust.

How can these issues be resolved?

My company has always taken on engineering graduates, but we are now seeing most being snapped up well before they have finished their studies, particularly by E&P companies. We need to encourage more young people to study subjects relevant to the work we do. Not only engineers, but contracts engineers and administrators who are also in very short supply. The challenges to recruit and train personnel are tough, particularly as there is a general resource industry boom (in areas such as mining) which drains the labour pool and it is customary for Australian projects to require local workers. At the end of the day, the 'muscle' to make substantial industry changes largely rests with the E&P companies rather than the government.

How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

The IMCA Asia-Pacific Section covers a vast geographical area with many different cultures, work practices and clients. Many areas have little offshore regulation, so self-regulation is required to ensure at least a minimum standard of good practice. The section has long promoted ongoing familiarisation and education of local clients, regulators and others on IMCA's role, activities and benefits and we hope our 'wise words' are beginning to rub off. Judging by the number of organisations which have recently joined and by atten-

Andy Bolton is Marine Operations Vice President of Technip Oceania and serves as Chairman of the IMCA Asia-Pacific Section and a member of the Overall Management Committee. In this article, he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the work the section is currently undertaking on behalf of members.

dance at our quarterly meetings, the word is getting out.

We always stress to our clients that adoption of IMCA guidance and its use in their specifications is a positive way to 'level the playing field', provided that you audit contractors to check their compliance.

How do you see the future?

For the first time in many years we see sustained demand in this region for contractors' services. We can build on this within our respective companies to provide better services to our clients if we can source the appropriate skilled resources. We must tackle the challenges of an expanding market and a skills shortage head on by disciplining ourselves to deliver training and familiarisation that will enable our people to work efficiently and safely both on- and offshore.

New Members

IMCA welcomes:

- AlMansoori Production Services LLC
- Amberjack Oil & Gas Recruitment Services BV
- Analox Sensor Technology Ltd
- Aqua Omega Services Pvt Ltd
- Cynergetix Pte Ltd
- Electrical Power Engineering Ltd
- Fugro Marine Services
- Nexans Norway AS, Energy Division
- Oceanteam Power & Umbilical Ltd
- Professional Diving Centre
- ROV Supply Pte Ltd
- Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd
- Sonardyne International Ltd
- TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd
- PT Wintermar

Name Changes

- Coastal Diving Services is now *Offshore Technology Solutions*
- Core Technical Services is now *RBG Core Technical*
- EDT Towage & Salvage Co. is now *EDT Offshore*
- Omur Salvage is now part of *Med Marine*
- Southampton Oceanography Centre is now the *National Oceanography Centre, Southampton*
- Stolt Offshore is now *Acergy*

Introducing New Members

Analox Sensor Technology Ltd

A manufacturer that has supplied breathing, air monitoring and control equipment for extreme environments (from hyper/hypobaric chambers to spacecraft) for 25 years. The company also delivers custom or one-off monitoring and control projects and has a continually expanding knowledge of electrochemical and infra-red sensors that is almost unique.

Tel: +44 (0) 1642 711 400
Web: www.analox.net

TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd

Provides specialist marine and subsea operations support services to the offshore oil and gas production and offshore renewable energy markets. Specialises in the decommissioning of redundant subsea production facilities encompassing wells, pipelines, templates and protection struc-

tures. Also available to support a diverse cross-section of offshore projects as required.

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 574711
Web: www.tsmarine.net

Electrical Power Engineering Ltd

Serving the marine and offshore sectors since 1992, including conceptual design, switchboard manufacture, switchgear maintenance and installation of turnkey electrical packages for vessel upgrades and conversions. The company's key technical strength is with power generating plant controls for diesel-electric applications with experience in all phases of DP vessel upgrading and conversion.

Tel: +44 (0) 1674 678 429
Web: www.epeuk.com

ROV Supply Pte Ltd

Supplier of professional diving equipment. Authorised distributor for Kirby Morgan helmets, masks and equipment, high performance underwater welding and cutting rods, HP and LP compressors, dive cables, harnesses, communication units, air-tugger winches, A-Frames, high quality underwater colour cameras for divers, colour video systems, dive chambers, compasses, custom gas diving consoles, dry suits, etc.

Tel: +65 6546 6526
Web: www.rovsupplysingapore.com

AlMansoori Production Services

Has provided testing services to oil and gas clients since 1985, including marine production testing, stimulation vessels, well testing and other services.

Tel: +971 2 555 9712
Web: www.almansoori.biz



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

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

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

Edited & produced by
Hannah Pearce <zintl@gn.apc.org>

International Contractors

Acergy
Allseas Group
Cal Dive International
Heerema Marine Contractors
Saipem
Subsea 7
Technip

Contractors

Acergy Asia Middle East
Algoasibi Diving & Marine Services
AlMansoori Production Services
Allied Marine & Equipment
Andrews Survey
Aqua Diving Services
Arabian Gulf Mechanical Services & Contracting Company
Atlantic Towing Ltd
Bakri Navigation Company
Bibby Offshore
BJ Services Co (UK)
Bluestream NL
Bluewater Energy Services
Boskalis Offshore
British Antarctic Survey
BUE Marine
C&C Technologies
Cal Dive International Ltd
Canyon Offshore
Cape Diving & Salvage
CODERO
Combined Diving Inspection Svcs
Consolidated Contractors Co.
Covus Corporation
CTC Marine Projects
CUEL
Dalgidj
Deep Ocean
Diamond Offshore Drilling
DNT Offshore
DOF Management
Dolphin Drilling
Dolphin Offshore Ent. (India)
Dulam International
EDT Offshore
EGS (Asia)
Fairmount Marine
Fraser Diving International
Fraser Diving Intl – ME
FSDS
Fugro Geonics Pvt Ltd (India)
Fugro Marine Services
Fugro Survey (Middle East)
Fugro Survey (Singapore)
Fugro Survey (UK)
GB Diving
Global Industries
Global Industries Asia Pacific
Global Marine Systems
Gulf Dredging & Gen. Contracting
Gulf Marine Services
Gulf Offshore North Sea
Gulmar Offshore Middle East

Hallin Marine
Halul Offshore Services Co.
HEISCO
Horizon Survey Co.
Hull Support Services
Integrated Subsea Services
Intl Marine Works – Alexandria
Intl Naval Works – Abu Dhabi
IRSHAD
J Ray McDermott
J Ray McDermott, Inc.
Khozzaanun Marine Engineering
Lamnalco
PT Lancar Rejeki Berkas Jaya
LD Travocean
Louisiana Overseas
Maersk Supply Service
Maridive Offshore Projects
Maridive & Oil Services
Master Tech Diving Services
Med Marine
MENAS
Mermaid Marine Australia
Mermaid Offshore Services
Mohn Drilling
MSS
Mutawa Marine Works
Nexans Norway, Energy Division
Noordhoek Offshore
Northern Marine Management
Oceaneering International, Inc.
Oceaneering International
Oceaneering Intl Asia-Pacific
Oceanteam Power & Umbilical
Ocean Works Asia
Offshore Technology Solutions
Offshore Works
OSM Ship Management
Pacific Richfield Marine
PT Patra Dinamika
Petroleum Marine Services
Pride International
Prosafe Offshore
RBG Core Technical
Rolv Berg Drive
Rovtech
Royal Saudi Navy Forces
Saibos
Salvage & Marine Operations IPT
PT Samudera Biru Nusantara
Sapura Diving Services
Sarku Engineering Services
SAROST
SBM Production Contractors
Seabulk Offshore
Seacor Marine (International)
Seacor Marine (Asia)
Sealion Shipping
SEAMEC
Seaway Heavy Lifting Engineering
Secunda Marine Services
Smedvig Offshore
SMIT
SMIT Terminals
SMIT Terminals Middle East
Subsea 7 Asia-Pacific
Subsea Petroleum Services

Subtec Middle East
Superintendent of Diving
SvitserWijsmuller
Swire Pacific Offshore Services
Technip Oceania
Technip Offshore Contractors Inc.
Teekay Norway
Tideway Marine & Offshore
Timsah Shipbuilding Co.
TL Geohydrographics
Total Marine Technology
Transocean
TS Marine (Contracting)
Underwater Services Company
URS
Van Oord
Vroon Offshore Services
PT Wintermar
Workshops Contractors
Zakher Marine Intl

Suppliers

Advanced Marine
Air Products Singapore
Alstom Power Conversion
Analox Sensor Technology
Anglo-Eastern Group
Anglo-Eastern Group (Asia-Pacific)
Ashtead Technology (SEA) Pte Ltd
Auto Dynamic Positioning Services
Bachrach & Wood
Brunvoll
C-MAR Services (UK)
CUEL
Cynergetix
Divex
Electrical Power Engineering
Falconer Bryan
Frontier Offshore
Global Maritime
Houlder Insurance Services
Hydra Marine
JP Kenny Caledonia
KB Associates
Kenz Cranes
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Kongsberg Maritime
Lexmar Engineering
Magellan Marine Intl
Measurement Devices Ltd
MSS International
Nautronix plc
Nautronix Inc
Navigare International
Noble Denton Consultants
Noble Denton Middle East
Noble Denton Singapore
NUI
Offshore Logistics
PAE Singapore
Perry Slingsby Systems
Poseidon Maritime (UK)
Promarine
QinetiQ
Rolls-Royce Oy

Rolv Berg Drive
ROV Supply
Schilling Robotics
Seaeeye Marine
Sealion Shipping
Sea & Land Technologies
Seatools
Sebastian
Sonardyne
Subsea Solutions (AkerKværner)
Subsea Vision
SureSpek ISS
Unidive Offshore
Unique System
Velosi Certification Bureau
Wavespec

Training Establishments & Personnel Agencies

Aberdeen Skills & Ent. Training
Ålesund University College
Amberjack Oil & Gas Recruitment
Aqua Omega Services
PT Barron International
Bergen University College – Diver Education
Centre for Marine Simulation
Dave Oliver Hydrographic Services
Delphinus Svcs – ROV Training
De Moura Shipping
Divers Institute of Technology
Diving Diseases Research Centre
DOOR International
DP Centre Singapore
Ecole Nat de la Marine
Marchande
Energy & Mining Training Solutions
EUTEC Subsea
ex+ med UK
Force Technology
Gurkha Intl Manpower Services
Holland College – Georgetown Ctr
Holland College – Marine Trn Ctr
Hydrosb
INPP
Institute of ROV
Interdive Services
Lowestoft College
Maritech Group
Maritime Inst Willem Barentsz
Maritime Training & Competence Solutions
MOG Industry Training
National Hyperbaric Centre
National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
National Polytechnic College of Engineering and Oceaneering
Netherlands Diving Centre
NUTEC Rotterdam
Ocean Corporation
Oceanscan
Offshore Marine Services
Petrodis
Petrovietnam Manpower Training College

Power & Generation Services
Professional Diving Centre
PR Offshore Services
SEATAG Offshore
Satakunta Polytechnic
Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre
Sribima Maritime Training Centre
Stord/Haugesund Univ. College
SubNet Services
SubServPro
Technocean
UK Project Support
Underwater Centre Fort William
Underwater Centre Fremantle
Underwater Centre Tasmania
WA Maritime Training Centre – Fremantle

Corresponding Members

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Agip KCO
AIS
Azerbaijan International Op. Co.
Bahrain Petroleum Co.
BG Group
BHP Billiton
BP Exploration Operating Co
BP America Production Co
BP West Java
Cairn Energy India
ConocoPhillips China
ConocoPhillips Indonesia
ConocoPhillips UK
Det Norske Veritas
Esso Australia
GDF Production Nederland
Health & Safety Executive
Kuwait Oil Company
Maersk Oil Qatar
Mobil North Sea
Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation
Petro Canada – Terra Nova Project
Petrobras
Premier Oil Natuna Sea
PTT Exploration & Production
Sarawak Shell
Shell Intl Exploration & Production
Shell Petr. Dev. Co. of Nigeria
Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd
Star Energy (Kakap)
Talisman Energy (UK)
Total Austral (Argentina)
Total E&P
Total E&P Nederland
Total E&P UK
Wintershall Noordzee
Woodside Energy
Zakum Development Co

Membership status can be checked on line at any time

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



Be an Active Member

Why? A trade association belongs to its members. By being active in IMCA, you make sure your voice is heard and know that IMCA is addressing issues affecting you. Likewise, the benefits of your experience are included when developing good practice guidance and you benefit from opportunities for sharing, learning and networking that membership provides.

Get Involved – Spread the Word

- Why expanding IMCA membership is important
 - Self-regulation is a key goal for IMCA on behalf of the industry. The more companies that are in membership, the more successful this can be
 - IMCA's voice grows stronger with increasing membership, as it represents an ever larger share of the industry
 - Common goals are easier to achieve together
- What you can do to help
 - Tell others in your organisation, your clients, regulators and suppliers about IMCA, its work and guidance and the value you draw from them
 - Use IMCA guidance and ask your sub-contractors to do the same
 - Display your IMCA membership certificate (e.g. in your reception or boardroom areas at all of your locations) and use the IMCA logo on your own material – brochures, web-site, headed paper, etc.

Get Involved – in the Work Programme

- Respond to consultations, read committee minutes
 - IMCA can provide industry responses and representation, taking your opinions and expertise to amplify them through the strength of speaking for more than 290 member companies world-wide
 - IMCA shapes its work programme based on current issues affecting members. If you provide responses, we will know more about your needs and the future work programme can then reflect them
 - Much of IMCA's guidance is based on the cumulative experience of and best practice put in place by its members. If you provide input, you can help shape the guidance to help your business
- Use the web-based discussion forums to discuss current issues with other members or contact either the secretariat or committee representatives to raise any items you would like addressed
- Consider standing for and make sure you vote in relevant committee and section elections

Get Involved – at Events

- IMCA events provide opportunities for discussing current issues facing the industry – your business will probably be facing the same experience as others, so common solutions and approaches can be found
- IMCA events include information on the latest technological developments – keep up-to-date
- IMCA events bring together a wide range of personnel from around the global industry. They provide an excellent forum for networking and building business relationships

IMCA event at Oceanology International

ROVs: Leading the Way into the Future
22 March 2006 at oi06, ExCeL, London

www.imca-int.com/events



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