



Photograph courtesy of Hydro

Saipem's S7000 and Allseas' Solitaire, pipelaying at Storegga, featured in Einar Kilde's keynote presentation in Copenhagen

Diversity in Copenhagen

Broadened programme attracts over 250 delegates for presentations covering commercial issues, technological achievements, safety issues and more.

The 2006 IMCA annual seminar took place at the Marriott Copenhagen Hotel on 19-20 September and was hailed a great success. Participants included offshore and onshore management and operational staff, together with a range of specialist consultants, oil company representatives and regulators. The event was supported by the usual exhibition of equipment and service supplier members.

Subjects ranged from technological developments through to practical experience in recent projects and current issues in the industry. As well as interesting presentations, the seminar included workshops where delegates could express their views on issues such as marine crew training and diver contamination monitoring and identifying topics for IMCA to take forward.

Delegates were welcomed to the event by Robin Davies, the outgoing chairman of the Europe & Africa Section, before Knut Boe of Technip, IMCA Vice-President, opened proceedings with the first of three keynote addresses on the marine contracting market, speaking about the need for a balance of risk between contractor and client and for a long-term view on recruitment and personnel.

Einar Kilde, Senior Vice President and Project Manager on the Ormen Lange offshore project, addressed the seminar on the marine contracting market, based on experience from Ormen Lange. In his presentation, he discussed the installation of the Langeled pipeline - the world's longest pipeline. He noted that one of the success factors for the project execution was the

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Also in this issue:

Security remains a top priority

The Security Task Force continues its busy work to address concerns over security and piracy and to provide guidance on the wealth of international regulations and initiatives underway.

[turn to page 4 for more details](#)

First aid drills in development

IMCA is preparing a set of scenarios to help members prepare for and carry out first aid drills. They tackle a range of conditions and incidents in various operational situations and to prepare personnel for what may occur.

[find out more on page 5](#)

Lifting operations in focus

Workgroup development of a range of guidance and technical reports is progressing well, seeking to address the variety of tasks, equipment and personnel involved in offshore lifting and to improve levels of safety.

[for full information, see 12](#)

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Welcome to Making Waves

Adam Hugo, Editor



Welcome to the first issue of *Making Waves* - the renamed, restyled IMCA newsletter.

Incorporating elements of the *IMCA in depth* brochure published earlier this year, with full colour printing and more illustrations, it presents the news in a brighter, clearer format.

Among other changes are the inclusion of the centre pages '*IMCA Directory*', which provides a one-stop guide to the committees, membership

listing and any recent documents you may have missed.

Above all else, however, we're continuing to bring you the latest developments on what's happening within IMCA - in all of the divisions and all around the world.

Get in touch and let us know what you think!

Copenhagen seminar

continued from page 1

professional co-ordination of contracts and of operations - especially focusing on dependent operations - and on the importance of key assets, such as the pipelay vessels, in meeting their contract obligations. He also discussed some of the effects of the current tight market situation, outlining client expectations and the need for good communication.

Two parallel sessions then followed where a series of marine presentations focused on issues such as DP safety, learning from incidents, motion forecasting, DGPS positioning system installation

and innovations in DP and navigation systems.

Meanwhile, the diving session included consideration of auditing diving equipment, contamination monitoring, diver first aid training and an overview of an unusual practical diving cutting operation.

Day two opened with a thought-provoking presentation on marine safety, with subsequent speakers addressing how technology was being introduced into new-build diving projects and a new approach to testing of DP systems, as well as descriptions of recent operational practices.



Hugh Williams, IMCA Chief Executive, recently presented Brian Thomas and Ian Smith of The Marine Society & Sea Cadets with a cheque for £2,100 - the proceeds from this year's Midsummer Charity Ball - which will aid seafarer education internationally

Get involved

In this edition of *Making Waves*, you can find a variety of ways in which you can get the most out of IMCA.

Here are a few pointers:

- ◆ Security remains a top priority for members around the world. Join in the online discussion - see page 4
- ◆ Forthcoming regional elections give an opportunity for members to become involved with the global committees - see page 6
- ◆ Nominate your company focal point to help IMCA analyse lifting incidents and address their causes - see page 12
- ◆ The new offshore crane operator logbook is now available, providing a handy record of experience, training and assessment - see page 12
- ◆ A call for members' ROV activity statistics has been issued - see page 14
- ◆ The Remote Systems & ROV Division is turning its attention to the growing use of AUVs in the industry and is seeking member input to develop its work programme - see page 14
- ◆ Attend an event - see the IMCA calendar on page 16

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 members are welcome.

The views expressed on these pages are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of IMCA itself.

Editor: Adam Hugo
(Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com)

Tackling the skills shortage

Many members are reporting significant challenges in recruiting sufficient numbers of trained and skilled personnel for their projects in different areas of the world, because the marine construction and offshore engineering market is extremely buoyant at the moment. Addressing this skills shortage is something that has, both formally and informally, been high on the agenda at many IMCA meetings this year.

One of the ways IMCA is seeking to address this in the longer term is to work closely with industry bodies, universities and other training establishments. Through this, it can raise both the profile of the offshore industry and awareness of the almost endless possibilities of work in the offshore sector.

The secretariat has been in contact with a number of organisations, including the International Maritime Training Trust, OPITO and a variety of maritime colleges and universities, with the hope of working together in this area.

The new guides at www.imca-int.com/careers have been well received and should be joined shortly by case studies of recent recruits from various sectors and locations. Any members wishing to contribute to or to use the IMCA material should contact the secretariat - imca@imca-int.com

Reproduced, reproduced, reproduced

IMCA wants to spread its guidance by making it easy for members to access and re-use.

IMCA publishes a wide range of documents to assist members in enhancing the safety and efficiency of their operations.

While useful as a third-party reference, members often want to incorporate IMCA guidance into their own documentation systems or to reproduce it in alternative formats. Some members have also expressed an interest in translating IMCA guidance for non-English speaking areas.

Members are encouraged to spread the good practice guidance published by the association and where this happens, everyone benefits. All we ask is that IMCA be acknowledged as the source when doing so.

Whilst translation isn't something we have the resources to undertake ourselves, members are welcome to do so, provided

IMCA is acknowledged and that the resultant documents are labelled as unofficial translations. We would be interested to receive copies of any such versions.

The members-only website provides almost all current documentation for downloading and members are encouraged to share access among all relevant company colleagues. Where possible, audit documents are available in a format that allows completion and customisation. The safety promotion materials - pocket cards and posters - are all available in commercial printing formats to which company logos, references and colours can easily be added.

If you would like an alternative version of any other document that you can restyle for your company system, please contact imca@imca-int.com



From the President

The subject of striving for more balanced conditions for our marine contracts has been a regular topic in this column and we are happy to see that a lot of progress has been made in the past two years. Not only do we see more balanced conditions being used in

today's contracts, but, more importantly, we see recognition by all parties involved that this is what's needed for a healthy future for our business in general.

Entering into contracts based on a global standard with a balanced distribution of risk and reward is a good start. However, for the past 15 years or so the market has been a buyers' market which resulted in low or no margins for contractors and risks being taken by contractors leading to no less than commercial disasters. There was barely money available to survive, let alone to invest in new equipment. The majors are earning billions of dollars, which we understand and appreciate they require to be able to make these big investments for new developments. All parties in our industry should realise that we contractors also have to make a profit so we can not only ensure continuity of the quality of the service to our clients, but also to be able to make investments in new state-of-the-art equipment to execute projects that are becoming technically more and more complex to develop in harsher environments.

Skilled and experienced personnel are, for reasons extensively discussed earlier, simply not available at this moment. We have already seen many contracting strategies being changed because of this, with the inherent result of higher safety and monetary risks in project execution. When we already have this critical shortage of resources, we should together use these resources as efficiently as possible. A lot of time (and money) is still being lost as a result of the way we are contracting with our clients. The limited available qualified resources should be effectively used in the execution of projects, working side by side without unnecessary paperwork and contractual restrictions. With respect to changing contracting strategies, the shortage of qualified personnel could well lead to a contracting approach whereby the services of contractors are utilised again on a 'cost plus' basis.

IMCA keeps on growing. Our member count stands at over 340, representing more than thirty different countries all over the world and IMCA is now being recognised as the body representing all major contractors active in our industry. Today we have more than forty of our clients as corresponding members - a number which has been growing steadily over the past year - and we are happy to see a lot of familiar names amongst them! Wouldn't it be great to see clients contributing to the achievements of IMCA and thus our industry with the same enthusiasm and dedication as we have seen from the contractors over the past eleven years!

We had an excellent seminar in wonderful Copenhagen on 18-20 September. We were honoured to have two high-level keynote speakers - Dave Conway, Vice President Supply Chain of Shell and Einar Kilde, Senior Vice President of Norsk Hydro - and the next IMCA president, Knut Bo of Technip, addressing the theme of the seminar: *Diversity in Marine Contracting*. The seminar was again very well attended and is becoming a popular networking function for the marine industry. We are now looking forward to the safety seminar on 1-2 February 2007 at Anfield football stadium in Liverpool!

Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group
IMCA President 2005-6

News from IMCA's core activities - SEL and TCPC

Security a top priority

While piracy is reflected in recent Hollywood blockbusters as the stuff of legend and intrigue, for those operating offshore vessels it can be a real concern. IMCA's Security Task Force is facilitating sharing of information, addressing common issues and developing guidance to help all members in this area.

The Security Task Force has made impressive progress since its establishment a little over twelve months ago.

Its chairman, Nigel Hope of Technip, gave a presentation at the recent annual seminar in Copenhagen and led a workshop on the subject of vessel security which attracted a high level of interest from delegates.

In the presentation, he provided the background to the current security focus - the global threats of terrorism and piracy and the response in terms of the International Ship & Port Facility Security Code and other national or sector-specific initiatives.

Feedback on the first products of the task force - *Guidance on Travel Security* (IMCA SEL 014) and the accompanying pocket card - was positive and delegates were keen to learn about what else is in the pipeline.

Since the seminar, IMCA has published the next guidance document - *Verification of Third-Party Security Personnel* (SEL 015) - which has just been distributed and is available for downloading from the members-only website. This new document gives useful advice on vetting procedures, to ensure that private security contractors provide standards of service and personnel fit for purpose.



A good response has been received to the questionnaire for ship security officers (SSOs) issued earlier this year. These are now being collated and analysed and the task force will be considering a summary report shortly.

A handbook on the ISPS Code is being prepared by the task force, particularly aimed at project personnel and others visiting members' vessels who may not be as familiar with the code's

requirements as ships' personnel are trained to be.

Finally, look out for an information note which will assist with a particular aspect of ship security assessments involving the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS), where some surveyors have been reportedly over-zealous and jeopardising the very security they are assessing.

Keep up-to-date and join in the discussion online at www.imca-int.com/security

Get ready for the 2007 IMCA safety seminar

Members gathering again - and this time it's personal

As IMCA members aim for the zero-injury goal, what better place for the 2007 safety seminar than Anfield, home of the winners of the 2005 European Champions League - Liverpool Football Club?

With the title *Keeping Safety Personal*, the 1-2 February event will bring home to those present the vital importance of safety awareness at all times - particularly working offshore, but also in other situations.

A packed programme features presentations from contractors and senior client personnel and will be of interest to all in the industry - from shore-based safety managers to offshore personnel working at the sharp end.

The IMCA safety seminar always features something a little out of the ordinary - such as 2005's dramatic interruption by an actress telling of the devastating effects of a fictitious incident her husband was involved in. This year will be no exception and delegates are in for a very different kind of treat.

Extended small group discussion sessions are included on the programme, prompted by feedback from delegates in previous years that such sessions have been useful in getting to the heart of the various issues discussed.

The programme is currently being finalised and will be issued to members shortly. Check www.imca-int.com/events for updates.

New guide on incident investigations nears

The prime purpose of any investigation into an incident should be to detect the root cause or causes and to suggest ways of preventing similar incidents in the future.

With this in mind, IMCA is developing guidance for those likely to investigate and report on incidents and for those tasked with developing associated company procedures.

The document is intended to assist with all types of investigation and sets out how companies can draw up procedures to help investigators, not least by suggesting a structured method of investigation and highlighting likely problems.

Currently undergoing final reviews, publication is expected by the end of the year.

Changes to safety statistics exercise

The SEL committee is proposing a number of changes to the IMCA safety statistics exercise for the 2006 season, including recording the severity and category of lost time incidents in terms of days lost and cause or category for reported LTIs.

IMCA will again include analysis of the total recordable incident

rate (TRIR), helping members perform comparisons with other sectors and regulatory analysis. At the same time, there will be an increased focus on the lessons learnt.

2005 saw a record 51 members contributing to the analysis. It is hoped to beat this in 2006 for this important exercise.

First aid drills and medicals

TCPC committee commissions two new projects to help members ensure medical fitness and readiness of personnel to provide medical assistance.

IMCA is developing an aid to examining physicians for assessing the fitness of non-marine personnel working offshore. It is recommended that all persons working offshore should be examined periodically and classified as medically fit to work in the offshore environment. While marine crew are already examined to appropriate standards under flag state requirements and divers undergo an annual medical to assess their fitness to dive, the requirements for those working in other positions offshore can vary around the world.

Assessment of fitness to work offshore is a complex and increasingly specialised task, requiring knowledge not only of general medical problems, but also of occupational medical issues and a thorough knowledge of the working environment. IMCA's new guide addresses these issues.

A second project is underway, with the development of a set of first aid drills. These set out various scenarios for different situations - such as air and saturation diving, elevated work areas, engine rooms, machinery spaces and helidecks. For each, different instances of individual ill health and other incidents are given, followed by consideration of the actions that need to be taken, bearing in mind what else may affect personnel actions in each particular working environment.

TCPC Chairman John Greensmyth and Dr Euan Thompson of consultants Abermed gave a presentation on both projects at the recent IMCA annual seminar, which drew much interest and feedback from all types of delegate. It is hoped that the results of this work will be published by the end of this year.



Indonesian divers

IMCA member Acergy has recently advised of what it believes to be the first Indonesian divers to undergo saturation diving and diver medic training.

The divers are pictured above with the Indonesian Consulate General at INPP in Marseille during National Day celebrations on 17 August.

Supervisor first

In another first for the industry, IMCA has officially certified its first female air diving supervisor.

These two recent developments are evidence of how IMCA has grown into a 21st century global organisation, sharing its good practice safety and training guidance ever more widely.

Training Opportunities

IMCA Offshore Air Diving Supervisor
IMCA Assistant Life Support Technician
Recompression Chamber Operator
IMCA Diver Medical Technician

HSE First Aid at Work
Basic Hyperbaric Medicine Course
PADI Recompression Chamber Specialty
DAN Automated Defibrillator
DAN Oxygen Administration
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and hyperbaric medical industry

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Regional news



IMCA members and guests in Jakarta

Asia-Pacific Section

Regional tour of success continues with 25 clients and other guests joining members at latest meeting

The Asia-Pacific Section headed for Jakarta for its July meeting, with almost sixty members and guests in attendance.

The new format of an early session for voting members followed by an extended meeting with corresponding members plus other oil company representatives and guests allowed for presentations and useful debate on a number of issues of collective interest.

The section remains busy on a number of fronts, including participation in the Australian review of the NOPSA safety case regime, on which a workshop is being arranged with the government.

The next meeting takes place on 2 November in Bangkok.

Europe & Africa Section

Ian Stevenson, Managing Director of Technip UK, has become the new Chairman of the IMCA Europe & Africa Section.

This follows the resignation of Robin Davies, whose successful contribution as the section's first chairman has been recognised.

The next section meeting is at the planning stage, with Cape Town identified as a possible venue in what would be the first IMCA meeting in Africa. A client briefing seminar will form part of the event, hoping to mirror the successes of similar events held recently in Norway and the UAE.

Americas Deepwater Section

Members set a new agenda to drive the section forward

The October meeting of the Americas Deepwater Section saw a new focus, to attract participants from both member companies and other parties who should be interested in IMCA's work.

Following the split agenda which is fast becoming a standard for IMCA regional meetings, after voting member business early in the morning, oil company and other guests were invited for a series of presentations and discussion sessions on issues of topical interest to contractors operating in the region.

At this session, topics included: planned regulations affecting crewing of vessels on the US continental shelf; how the skills shortage is affecting the region and how IMCA can help members to address it; and updates on other work both within IMCA and from those representing other industry organisations.

Anyone not already receiving updates on the section should contact the secretariat, while details for current non-members wishing to join in are available online at www.imca-int.com/join

Middle East & India Section

Client briefing seminar seeks broader recognition, building on traditional diving sector base

The Middle East & India Section started in 1992 as the Middle East offshoot of AODC - originally the Association of Diving Contractors - and over the years has proved highly successful at sharing good practice, raising operational standards and gaining support from clients in relation to diving practices.

Since AODC merged into IMCA in 1995, membership has continued to soar and the focus of those active in the section has expanded to cover the range of marine and other activities with which most members are already familiar.

Seeking to build on its reputation as a source of good practice guidance and a forum for addressing technical and safety issues in the diving sector, the Middle East & India Section held a briefing seminar on 11 September in Abu Dhabi which attracted 39 guests including corresponding members and other oil company representatives. A series of presentations covered all aspects of IMCA's work today, with particular emphasis on the guidance published by the Marine Division, covering DP guidelines, the Common Marine Inspection Document, FMEAs, incident reporting and analysis and the recent cross-industry guidance for DP supply vessels.

The next meeting is on 11 December in Jebel Ali, UAE

Get involved in forthcoming elections

A new system of biennial elections for regional representatives has been established, in line with that which already existed for the world-wide committees and section chairmen/vice-chairmen.

Each section can nominate a representative to serve on the world-wide core (SEL and TCPC) and divisional management committees. Where such representatives have been in place for over two years, election notices are now being sent out.



All members are encouraged to join in by standing and voting in this process, to help further enhance the global focus of IMCA's work.

Who to contact at IMCA:



Hugh Williams
Chief Executive



Jane Bugler
Technical Director



Philip Wiggs
Technical Adviser



Nick Hough
Technical Adviser

Vicki Graham
Certification Schemes Administrator
for diving supervisors and LSTs

Adam Hugo
Support Services Manager
- documentation
- member records
- subscriptions
- website and IT issues

Nina Adams
Senior Administrator
- publication sales

Anna Jackaman
Senior Administrator
- events management

Parul Patel
Administrator
- events registration and administration
- meeting attendance responses

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Committee Members

To achieve its objectives and deliver its work programme, IMCA relies on elected member representatives who serve on the committees listed below as well as various individuals active on workgroups around the world.

Overall Management Committee

IMCA President and OMC Chairman

Frits Janmaat, Allseas Group

IMCA Vice-President

Knut Boe, Technip

Hugh Williams, Chief Executive

Jane Bugler, Technical Director

Regional Section Chairmen

Americas Deepwater

Roy Sijthoff, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific

Andy Bolton, Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

Europe & Africa

Ian Stevenson, Technip

Middle East & India

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott

Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

SEL: Wallace Robertson, Well Ops
Paul Blewett, Acergy

TCP: John Greensmyth, Technip
Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7
Derek Beddows, Technip

Marine: Pete Somner, Subsea 7
Pete Fougere, Transocean

Offshore Survey:
Will Primavesi, Saipem
Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Remote Systems & ROV:
Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering
Andrew Beveridge, Fugro-Rovtech

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Wallace Robertson, Well Ops

Vice-Chairman: Paul Blewett, Acergy

Paola Santoli, Allseas

Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

Andy Warder, Canyon Offshore

Jos van der Horst, Heerema Marine Contractors

Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors

Wayne Seelbach, Helix ESG

Finn Brodersen, Maersk Supply Service

Sal Ruffino, Saipem

Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Allan Hannah, Technip

Bram Sluiskes, Van Oord

Foeke Tulner, Workshops Contractors

Americas: Lynn Lehmann, Saipem

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

Middle East & India: Mohamed Osman, Maridive

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Derek Beddows, Technip

Joar Gangenes, Acergy

Dan Schultz, Helix ESG

Keith Noble, Hallin Marine

Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services

Darren Brunton, KB Associates

David Smith, National Hyperbaric Centre

Norb Gorman, Oceaneering International

Steve Nairn, Well Ops

Americas: Allan Palmer, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific: RP Singh, Acergy Asia Middle East

Middle East & India: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott

Offshore Survey Division MC

Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem

Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Keith McGregor, DeepOcean

Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey

Peter Thomas, Maritech

Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore

Americas: Stephen Browne, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey Pte Ltd

Middle East & India: Darren Male, Fugro Survey Middle East

TCP Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Jennifer Cook, Acergy

Fiona McKenzie, Acergy

Els Geven, Allseas

Darren Bown, Subsea 7

Gavin Smith, Subsea 7

Roy Hay, Technip

Andy Stewart, UK Project Support

Americas: Louis Cranek, Institute of ROVs

Asia-Pacific: Keith Lewis, Acergy Asia Middle East

Middle East & India: Mohamed Omar, INW

Marine Division MC (election underway)

Chairman: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Pete Fougere, Transocean

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

Americas: Pete Fougere, Transocean

Asia-Pacific: Andy Bolton, Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

Middle East & India: Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

Remote Systems & ROV Division MC

Chairman: Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Beveridge, Fugro-Rovtech

Colin Mackay, Acergy

Michel Hebert, Bluestream

Dave McKay, Fugro Survey

John Davies, Global Marine Systems

Angus Kerr, Helix ESG/Canyon Offshore

David Rhodes, Integrated Subsea Services

Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering International

Keith Robathan, Saipem

Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Dave Walker, Technip

Americas: Pat Mannina, Oceaneering International

Asia-Pacific: Neil Forbes, Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

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

International Contractors

Aceryg

Allseas Group

Heerema Marine Contractors

Helix Energy Solutions Group

J Ray McDermott

Saipem

Subsea 7

Technip

Contractors

Aceryg Asia Middle East
 Algosaiibi Diving & Marine Services
 Allied Marine & Equipment Sdn Bhd
 AlMansoori Production Services LLC
 Andrews Survey
 Aqua Diving Services
 Arabian Gulf Mech. Svcs & Ctrg Co.
 Atlantic Towing Ltd
 Bakri Navigation Company Ltd
 Bibby Offshore Ltd
 BJ Services Co (UK) Ltd
 Bluestream NL bv
 Bluewater Energy Services BV
 Boskalis Offshore
 British Antarctic Survey
 BUE Marine Ltd
 C&C Technologies Inc.
 Cal Dive Far East Ltd
 Canyon Offshore
 Cape Diving
 CDMS Ltd
 Clough Oil & Gas
 CODERO
 Combined Diving Inspection Services
 CCC (Underwater Engineering) SAL
 CTC Marine Projects Ltd
 CUEL Ltd
 Dalgidj Private Company
 DeepOcean
 Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc
 DNT Offshore srl
 DOF Management AS
 Dolphin Drilling Ltd
 Dolphin Offshore Enterprises (India)
 Dulam International Ltd
 EDT Offshore
 EGS (Asia) Ltd
 Fairmount Marine bv
 Far Eastern Shipping Company
 Finstashtip/Shipping Enterprise
 Fraser Diving International - ME
 Fugro Marine Services bv
 Fugro-Rovtech
 Fugro Survey (India) Pvt Ltd
 Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd
 Fugro Survey (Singapore) Pte. Ltd
 Fugro Survey Ltd

GB Diving BV
 Geo Subsea Pty Ltd
 Geoconsult AS
 GeoLab srl
 Global Industries Asia Pacific
 Global Industries Ltd
 Global Marine Systems Ltd
 GOGAS Gulf Oil and Gas LLC
 Gulf Dredging & General Contracting
 Gulf Marine Services
 Gulf Offshore (North Sea) Ltd
 Gulmar Offshore Middle East LLC
 Hallin Marine
 Halul Offshore Services Company
 HEISCO
 Horizon Survey Company (FZC)
 Hull Support Services Ltd
 Integrated Subsea Services Ltd
 Intl Marine Works - Alexandria
 Intl Naval Works - Abu Dhabi
 IRSHAD
 Lamnalco Group
 PT Lancar Rejeki Berkas Jaya
 LD Travocean
 LLP FSDS
 Louisiana Overseas Inc
 Maersk Supply Service
 Maridive & Oil Services (SAE)
 Maridive Offshore Projects
 Marine Consulting
 Marine Logistics Solutions (MarSol)
 Master Tech Diving Services
 Med Marine
 Mediterranean Survey and Services
 MENAS
 Mermaid Offshore Services Ltd
 Mohn Drilling AS
 Mutawa Marine Works Est
 Nexans Norway AS - Energy Division
 Noordhoek Offshore BV
 Northern Marine Management Ltd
 Ocean Works Asia Inc.
 Oceaneering International (UK)
 Oceaneering International Asia Pacific
 Oceaneering International Inc.
 Oceanteam 2000 Ltd
 Oceanteam Power & Umbilical Ltd
 Offshore Technology Solutions Ltd
 Offshore Works Sdn Bhd
 OSM Ship Management AS
 Pacific Richfield Marine Pte Ltd
 PT Patra Dinamika
 Petroleum Marine Services Company
 PFCE Ocean Engineering Sdn Bhd
 Pride International
 Prosafe Offshore Ltd
 RBG Ltd
 Riise Underwater Engineering AS

Rolv Berg Drive AS
 Royal Saudi Navy Forces
 Saibos sas
 Salvage & Marine Operations IPT
 PT Samudera Biru Nusantara
 Sapura Diving Services Sdn Bhd
 Sarku Engineering Services Sdn Bhd
 SAROST SA
 SBM Production Contractors
 Seabulk Offshore
 Seacor Marine (Asia) Pte Ltd
 Seacor Marine (International) Ltd
 Seadrill Management AS
 Sealion Shipping Ltd
 SEAMEC
 Seaway Heavy Lifting Engineering BV
 Secunda Marine Services Ltd
 Siem Rovde AS
 SMIT
 SMIT Terminals
 SMIT Terminals Middle East LLC
 Submersible Television Surveys Ltd
 Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
 Subsea Petroleum Services
 Subtec Middle East Ltd
 Superintendent of Diving (UK)
 SvitserWijsmuller
 Swire Pacific Offshore Services
 Technip Oceania Pty Ltd
 Technip Offshore Contractors Inc.
 Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
 Teekay Norway AS
 Tideway Marine & Offshore
 Timsah Shipbuilding Company
 TL Geohydrographics Sdn Bhd
 Total Marine Technology Pty Ltd
 Transocean
 TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd
 Underwater Services Company
 URS nv
 Van Oord
 Vroon Offshore Services BV
 Well Ops (UK) Ltd
 PT Wintermar
 Workshops Contractors BV
 Zakher Marine International

Suppliers

Suppliers of equipment

ABB Ltd
 Advanced Marine
 Air Products Singapore Pte Ltd
 Analox Sensor Technology Ltd
 Ashtead Technology (SEA) Pte Ltd
 Brunvoll AS
 Circle Technical Services Ltd
 Convertteam Ltd
 CUEL Ltd
 Cynergetix Pte Ltd
 Divex Ltd

Drass Galeazzi Underwater Technology
 Franklin Offshore International
 Frontier Offshore
 Global Gas Supplies Pte Ltd
 Hydra Marine (Pty) Ltd
 Hyperbaric Technology BV (Hytech)
 Kenz Figuee BV
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 Kongsberg Maritime Ltd
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 PT Advanced Oil & Gas Consulting
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 Rolv Berg Drive AS
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Banff & Buchan College
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Bergen University College - Diver Ed.
Bibby International Services (India)
Centre for Marine Simulation
De Moura Shipping Ltda
Delphinus Services - ROV Training
Divers Academy International
Divers Institute of Technology
Diving Diseases Research Centre
The DP Centre Singapore
Ecole Nationale de la Marine Marchande
Energy & Mining Training Solutions
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Falck Nutec bv
Force Technology
Holland College - Georgetown Centre
Holland College - Marine Training Centre
Hydrolab-HydroCAT
INPP
The Institute of ROVs
Interdive Services Limited
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Lowestoft College
Maritech Group
Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz
Maritime Training & Competence Solutions
MOG Industry Training Co. Ltd
National Hyperbaric Centre
National Oceanography Centre
National Polytechnic College of
Engineering and Oceaneering
Netherlands Diving Centre
The Ocean Corporation
PetroVietnam Manpower Training College
Poseidon Maritime (UK) Ltd (PML)
Power & Generation Services
Professional Diving Academy
Professional Diving Centre
Satakunta Polytechnic
Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre
Sribima Maritime Training Centre
Stord/Haugesund University College
SubNet Services Ltd
The Underwater Centre (Tasmania)
The Underwater Centre Fort William
The Underwater Centre Fremantle
WA Maritime Training Centre - Fremantle
West Coast Commercial Diving School

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Services bv
Aqua Omega Services Pvt Ltd
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Wintershall Noordzee BV
Woodside Energy Ltd
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Recent name changes

- ◆ Fraser Diving International Ltd
is now *Cal Dive Far East*
- ◆ Rovtech is now *Fugro-Rovtech*
- ◆ Kenz Cranes is now *Kenz Fige*
- ◆ Nautronix Inc. is now
L-3 Communications
- ◆ Nutec Rotterdam bv is now
Falck Nutec bv

IMCA welcomes the following new members:

◆ Banff and Buchan College

Located in Fraserburgh, NE Scotland, the college's Engineering and Construction Sector offers apprentice training, vocational and national qualifications and industrial short courses in a wide range of subjects to around 2,000 students each year. The college is committed to providing courses tailored to the requirements of the offshore marine industry.

Tel: 01346 586100

Web: www.banff-buchan.ac.uk

◆ Blade Offshore Services Ltd

◆ Chevron Offshore (Thailand) Ltd

◆ Circle Technical Services Ltd

◆ CNR International UK Ltd

◆ Diving and Offshore Works Consultancy (DOWC)

DOWC srl is a consultancy offering assistance and management of projects from initial planning and tender invitations through drawing up procedures to final completion of project reports, as well as independent equipment auditing. With experienced and qualified personnel, the company focuses on safety in offshore diving, ROV, inspection/engineering and civil works.

Tel: +39 340 669 7325

Web: www.dowc.it

◆ Drass Galeazzi Underwater Technology Srl up

◆ Finstaship

Finstaship offers a versatile range of icebreaking and fairway services for general shipping needs, specialised offshore and marine construction and maintenance services, as well as ship management and ferry services. The company's expertise can be depended on when carrying out demanding offshore operations requiring special skills and vessels.

Tel: +358 30 620 7000

Web: www.finstaship.fi

◆ GeoLab Srl

GeoLab is a marine contractor providing survey, positioning and construction support services to the international market. The company provides turnkey services world-wide, including marine geophysics, geology and geotechnics, applied oceanography, underwater inspections, construction support and environmental surveying.

Tel: +39 081 524 9811

Web: www.geolab.it

◆ Gulf of Suez Petroleum Co.

◆ Kongsberg Maritime Ltd

◆ Marine Consulting srl

Marine Consulting is a subsea intervention and marine engineering contractor formed in 1991. The company operates through its base in Ravenna (Italy) in the northern Adriatic Sea. While primarily active in the Mediterranean, the company is an international contractor offering a broad spectrum of services, including diving and ROV intervention.

Tel: +39 0544 520 250

Web: www.marinec.com

◆ Murphy Sarawak Oil Co. Ltd

◆ Offshore Joint Services

◆ Oilfield Medics UK Ltd

◆ Pacific Commercial Diving Supply

Pacific Commercial Diving Supply was founded in Australia in 1984 to service and supply the commercial diving industry and government departments. The company represents most major international manufacturers and is involved in R&D and supply of commercial, technical and military diving equipment and associated products.

Tel: +61 8 9337 6367

Web: www.pcads.com.au

◆ Riise Underwater Engineering AS

◆ Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

This joint venture aims to perform projects and contracts for engineering, procurement, construction, installation and/or maintenance of facilities for the subsea production and transportation of oil and gas in the Asia Pacific region. The company has exclusive long term access to two large MSVs - *CSO Venturer* and *Rockwater 2* - and will charter additional tonnage as needed.

Tel: +61 8 9269 5100

Web: www.ts7ap.com

◆ The Tritanium Company

An IT partner of oil and gas industry companies since 1993, the company developed *SkillsXP* - a solution for competence and training management especially for safety-conscious industries - based on its experience in maritime training. The company also provides consultancy services relating to competency and assessment, career development and training.

Tel: +31 71 572 77 34

Web: www.tritanium.com

You may have missed ...



This summary of recent IMCA documentation keeps all members updated on activities throughout IMCA. If you would like to receive a copy of any document, or for further information, please contact the secretariat.

New publications:

- ◆ **Verification of third-party security personnel** (IMCA SEL 015)
- ◆ **Proceedings of the IMCA Annual Seminar 2006 - Copenhagen** (IMCA M 184)
- ◆ **Use of battery operated equipment in hyperbaric conditions** (IMCA D 041 - supersedes AODC 062)

Safety flashes:

- ◆ **Safety flash 10/06** - covering 1 incident: Lifting wire strop failure during air bag lift
- ◆ **Safety flash 11/06** - covering 2 incidents: Parting of slings causing fall of heavy object onto seabed; Warning regarding Imenco minilatch - ROV fell onto deck
- ◆ **Safety flash 12/06** - covering 1 incident: Wire break in wind sensor caused DP drive-off

Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL)

- IMCA SEL 19/06** - Emergency towing procedures – IMO workgroup latest draft for comment
- 20/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- 21/06 Contracted air operations – proposed OGP recommended practice
- 22/06 Marine versions of LOLER and PUWER – new UK Merchant Shipping Regulations
- 23/06 Significant changes to US coastal ballast regulations
- 24/06 Identity card requirements – Australia
- 25/06 New requirement for passports on helicopters in the UK sector
- 26/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential - update

Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC)

- IMCA TCPC 11/06** - Emergency towing procedures – IMO workgroup latest draft for comment
- 12/06 Nautical Institute certification of DP operators – proposed increase in cost of logbooks and certification
- 13/06 Definitions of categories of lifting personnel
- 14/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- 15/06 Identity card requirements – Australia
- 16/06 New requirement for passports on helicopters in the UK sector
- 17/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential - update

Diving Division

- IMCA D 05/06** - Prerequisites for closed bell diver training
- 06/06 ROV and diving statistics for the North Sea – statistics for 2004 and 2005
- 07/06 Medical examination of divers – Middle East & India initiative
- 08/06 Diving Division Management Committee – election results
- 09/06 DMAC statement on commercial diving and health

Marine Division

- IMCA M 15/06** - Emergency towing procedures – IMO workgroup latest draft for comment
- 16/06 Nautical Institute certification of DP operators – proposed increase in cost of logbooks and certification
- 17/06 Definitions of categories of lifting personnel
- 18/06 Bearwood College
- 19/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- 20/06 Contracted air operations – proposed OGP recommended practice
- 21/06 Marine versions of LOLER and PUWER – new UK Merchant Shipping Regulations
- 22/06 Significant changes to US coastal ballast regulations
- 23/06 Identity card requirements – Australia
- 24/06 New requirement for passports on helicopters in the UK sector
- 25/06 Transportation Worker Identification Credential - update

Offshore Survey Division

- IMCA S 04/06** - Offshore survey training textbooks

Remote Systems & ROV Division

- IMCA R 02/06** - ROV and diving statistics for the North Sea – statistics for 2004 and 2005

If you aren't receiving documents that you think should have been sent to you, please contact the secretariat to check your representation and contact records so that we can keep you up to date:

imca@imca-int.com

Diving Division



Commercial diving and health

New statement from DMAC addresses the health risks associated with work in the commercial diving industry

The Diving Medical Advisory Committee has recently issued its *DMAC Statement on Diving and Health*, distributed to members via information note IMCA D 09/06.

The one-page statement summarises the current state of knowledge with respect to pressure effects and other risks arising from the environment, equipment and activity and gives a brief overview on the debate concerning possible long-term health effects for divers.

The committee is an independent grouping of medical specialists from across Europe, which seeks to provide advice about medical and certain safety aspects of commercial diving. Further information can be found at www.dmac-diving.org

New faces join the committee

The Diving Division Management Committee has just undergone its biennial election. Chairman Alan Forsyth (Subsea 7) and Vice-Chairman Derek Beddows (Technip) were both successfully re-elected.

Three new faces will help bring a fresh perspective and a broader international flavour to the committee, meeting as we go to press - Keith Noble of Hallin Marine in Singapore, David Smith of the National Hyperbaric Centre in

Aberdeen) and Norb Gorman of Oceaneering International in Houston.

Such a global make-up of a committee is helped by the use of teleconferencing, employed successfully by IMCA for a number of years. All members around the world are encouraged to stand and vote in elections to strengthen IMCA's global focus and further improve the quality of guidance produced by the various committees.

Use of batteries

IMCA has published updated guidance entitled *The use of Battery-Operated Equipment in Hyperbaric Conditions*, superseding earlier guidance on the subject set out in AODC 062.

The guidance has been fully reviewed and updated to reflect technological developments in this era of mobile telephones, laptops and iPods, addressing the hazards that may be faced.

A summary table explains why certain equipment should never be taken into hyperbaric conditions and provides information on other items which may potentially be hazardous. The list, while not exhaustive, provides a useful reference for consideration during a risk assessment before introducing any new items to the hyperbaric environment.

Hyperbaric evacuation systems

IMCA workgroup developing new industry guidance to address classification society and regulatory concerns

A new workgroup is developing further guidance on hyperbaric evacuation systems (HESs).

The 2005 annual seminar in Abu Dhabi featured a first hand account of hyperbaric rescue from Dr Ajit Kulkarni, followed by workshop discussion.

Then, earlier this year, IMCA briefed members on a classification society proposal for a new recommended practice document and facilitated review and discussion on the draft proposals involving technical experts from members around the globe.

During these latest discussions, it was agreed that there was a lack of a suitable guidance document focused on different types of HES and that IMCA could provide the best forum for its development. This will bring together parts of existing IMCA guidance and other sources.

The new globally-based IMCA workgroup has embarked on this work, setting an ambitious pace with regular meetings, and has drafted the proposed contents with individuals focused on developing each section.

For further information on this work, please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com



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IMCA Diver Medic Refresher
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Diving Supervisor
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Marine Division

Lifting in focus

The IMCA Crane & Winch Operations Workgroup's growing membership reflects broad interest in the safety and effectiveness of offshore lifting operations.

The Crane & Winch Operations Workgroup met again in October, when representatives of crane manufacturer Liebherr-Werk Nenzing gave a very interesting presentation on its crane management system for offshore cranes.

The workgroup has been keen to involve crane manufacturers in its work, seeking input into the diverse range of topics on its work programme. It is hoped to continue and broaden these links; other manufacturers have been invited both to give presentations at future meetings and to be involved in consultation on the documents being produced.

Development of IMCA lifting operations guidance is progressing well, incorporating feedback received on earlier drafts.

A topic which attracted much debate at the meeting was that of wire rope discard criteria - something that is particularly topical in the industry at the moment, notably in the UK sector, but with concern voiced from other areas too. A specialist group with senior support is being formed to consider the issue. It will liaise with classification societies and other specialists, consider existing industry standards and develop minimum criteria to take the issue forward.



Photograph courtesy of Jay McDermott

Competency and training are also being addressed and, under the TCPC committee, relevant parts of IMCA C 002 are being reviewed.

An invitation to tender has also been issued for the development of guidance on communications in lifting operations.

Lifting incident focal points

As part of its focus on lifting incidents, the Marine Division Management Committee is hoping to establish the lifting incidents database as a key tool for the industry.

With the new reporting forms issued last year, members are encouraged to submit data on incidents experienced by their companies to populate the

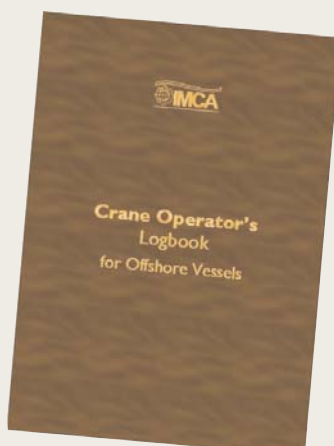
database, enabling analysis of trends and identification of key hazards to be addressed, as has been so successful with the DP reporting scheme.

The committee is inviting nomination of company focal points to handle reporting and any follow-up enquiries. All members are encouraged to respond and participate.

Crane operator logbook now available

The latest IMCA logbook, trailed in issue 40, is now available for purchase from the IMCA secretariat.

The Crane Operator's Logbook for Offshore Vessels (pictured right) is priced at £11 to members (£13.50 to others) and provides a clear, consistent and transferable means for crane operators to record their experience on different types of offshore crane in different scenarios, as well as training and assessment details.



EU looks at offshore sustainability

The European Union has drafted a policy paper focused on care of the environment, which states an aspiration to have a thriving maritime economy in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The paper aims to ensure a sound knowledge of the maritime environment to preserve ecosystems and to encourage cross-sector governance towards creating a conducive investment climate.

European offshore oil and gas production is recognised as a major contributor to the European economy and its competitiveness. The paper notes the need to access deep sea resources and asks what the best way of facilitating the exploitation of these resources is without compromising environmental and economic concerns.

The paper speculates on an overarching offshore 'Hydrocarbons Infrastructure' initiative. It also indicates an interest in the offshore wind, wave and tidal industries.

The paper is approximately fifty pages in length and is presently out for consultation, with a deadline for comments of 30 June 2007. An information note will be issued shortly summarising the key issues for members and inviting comment. Although there are seemingly few sections relating to the offshore industry, members should be alert and spot possible problems as the effects of such policy papers can lead to wider ranging regulations than originally anticipated.

Offshore Survey

Avoiding DGPS installation problems

New guidance aims to eliminate the costly problems of poorly installed equipment that have blighted members

Poorly installed DGPS equipment has proven costly to several members on a number of occasions - an issue discussed by the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee at one of its recent meetings.

New guidance is therefore being prepared to minimise the potential for positioning-related problems by:

- ◆ raising awareness of the causes of installation issues
- ◆ encouraging greater consideration of requirements during specification
- ◆ increasing understanding of the importance of proper installation and of ongoing maintenance and support

Following a presentation at the recent annual seminar, the issue was discussed in a well-attended workshop, in which delegates explored the integrity of currently used surface positioning systems, attempting to answer a number of questions, such as "Do we have the right solutions in terms of redundancy and performance?" and "Is the equipment installed and functioning properly?". Several suggestions for the proposed guidelines were put forward, including minimum standards and specifications for surface positioning systems for DP operations.

These suggestions will be passed back to a workgroup under the committee, which will be taking this project forward in the coming months. Any members wishing to participate in this work or with additional input should contact the secretariat - e-mail Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Deepwater acoustics work underway

Development of a guide to deepwater acoustics is now underway, following a meeting between consultant Gordon Johnston and the Offshore Survey Division committee.

The intention is to develop an authoritative guidance document covering the following:

- ◆ General background and context
- ◆ Detailed technical overview, covering acoustics, power, signal types, frequencies, depth, noise and interference
- ◆ Discussion of techniques, applications, methodology and limitations

Around a quarter of the document will be devoted to technologies and methods,

with a further third set aside for a detailed discussion of modern applications of deepwater acoustics.

Further sections are planned on the different acoustic systems currently available and their operation.

The committee has noted the importance of including guidance on training and safety, particularly with regard to the safe handling of batteries and other technology used in acoustic positioning equipment.

The schedule for this project is well developed, with consultation with equipment manufacturers due to begin shortly and final publication anticipated early in 2007.



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Remote Systems & ROV

Safe manning levels for ROVs

Rewritten guidance will reflect the safety requirements of modern systems and address concerns over the inclusion of trainees

Back in the year 2000, IMCA issued its first statement on minimum manning levels for work-class ROVs, subsequently incorporated into IMCA R 004. Since that time, much has changed, with new technology developing at a rapid pace.

Today's ROVs are capable of undertaking an ever-broader range of tasks and can include complex tools packages.

While better equipped, such ROVs have different, often greater, requirements for the team involved in their operation.

The ROV committee has agreed additional guidance to assist members and their clients in ensuring manning

levels are appropriate for the particular requirements of a specific offshore operation.

At the same time, the committee is considering how best to deal with the issue of trainees. At a time when members across the industry are reporting a skills shortage, it is more important than ever to be able to include trainees in offshore teams, so that they can build up their experience and gain skills.

The committee is currently updating IMCA R 004 to include these issues and it is anticipated that the revised version should be available in the new year.

Contribute to the annual statistics

The annual call for members' ROV activity figures has just gone out. Covering operations world-wide for the third year, this extends the earlier North Sea analysis undertaken since 1988. Members are being asked to provide data on personnel employed at three points during the year.

The reporting form allows categorisation by location and activity, which will enable continuation of the split analysis begun earlier this year.

All ROV contractors should have received details on the exercise and should submit their information soon to Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

AUV interest gathers pace

Autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) have been in development for a number of years. While many of the initial vehicles had academic applications, their industrial significance is increasing, with more sophisticated and commercially viable systems appearing and being used offshore.

Codes and guidance documents on AUV operations do exist, but these have generally been aimed at the scientific community and

have addressed that sector accordingly. IMCA's Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee is now considering developing guidance along the lines of the widely-used ROV code of practice (IMCA R 004).

Any members wishing to contribute to this exercise, or with AUV-specific issues they feel could usefully be addressed through IMCA, should contact the secretariat - e-mail Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

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Spotlight on John Greensmyth

John Greensmyth is a QHSES Leader with Technip in Aberdeen and serves as Chairman of the IMCA Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC) Core Committee and 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 a little about Technip and its activities

With a workforce of 21,000 people worldwide, and annual revenues of about €5.4 billion, Technip ranks among the five major players in full-service engineering and construction services in the field of hydrocarbons and petrochemicals. From an IMCA perspective, Technip operates nine DP vessels providing pipelay, construction and diving support services. Equipment assets include a large fleet of state-of-the-art work-class ROVs, pipelay systems, and pipeline trenching systems. Three spoolbases for rigid pipeline fabrication, two flexible flowline/riser, three umbilical manufacturing plants and a SPAR fabrication facility complete the Technip stable.

What does your current job involve?

Within the Quality Health Safety Environment and Security (QHSES) department I lead the team that provides support to our offshore fleet and the Offshore Operations & Services Group. It's an active and challenging role that can follow the sun on a daily basis due to the diverse geographical locations in which our fleet operates. Add to this an eclectic mix of cultures, skills, regulatory authorities and internal company standards and the days are pretty full – especially with the current workload. In order to be effective in my job, I endeavour to visit our vessels and worksites on a regular basis. This helps to achieve a healthy balance between office and the practical workplace issues. The offshore crews are 'great' in maintaining a topical reality check on life!

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

I started as a diver in the early 80s and moved to an onshore role in 1990. I worked in various project support roles before taking up a management role with our Offshore Personnel Group in 1998. This gave me valuable experience during a time of significant change; skills became more defined, competence was gaining momentum and training was much more than 'your survival course'. This period really developed a people focus to my daily toil and in 2004 I moved into my current role in QHSES. In hindsight this was a natural move, as it built on my previous roles and opened up new opportunities – some with a steep learning curve!

The 'skills shortage' is being talked about a lot in the industry – are you seeing the effects of it?

Certainly – I don't know anyone who isn't seeing or feeling the effects of the skills shortage these days. It's a regular topic in the industry and local Aberdeen media. But the effects are world-wide and partly result from the oil industry boom/bust cycle and a general 'make do' attitude when it comes to short-term project support roles. Despite many people spending long working lives within the industry, often young people do not see the industry (especially the offshore roles) providing a long term career. Technip has had a long-running graduate scheme and this year alone has significantly increased its intake, which underlines a long term view and commitment to the future.

What is IMCA (and the TCPC committee in particular) doing about it?

This is where competence schemes can provide a stable framework for safety-critical roles and allow a mechanism to ensure promoted personnel work to defined standards. It also allows cross-training of personnel from other industries, as this provides a valuable labour source.

We have increased the visibility of careers promotion material on the IMCA website and taken part in a number of industry initiatives in an effort to attract young people. We are also working with regulatory authorities to mutually recognise diving supervisor qualification schemes, thereby easing the movement of personnel within the industry.

There is no easy fix to the skills shortage and a multi-faceted approach is required.

What other topics is the TCPC committee active on at the moment?

We are busy with a first aid and medical drills matrix system for use throughout IMCA members' worksites, the development of guidance on supervisor training, simulator training guidance and close cooperation with the SEL and divisional committees on shared areas of interest and influence.

Training and certification span all the 'divides' and this makes open and active communication within the IMCA committee structure all the more important.

Why do you think the collective approach, through IMCA, is so important?

There are many subjects within IMCA members' control that benefit from an industry-wide approach. We are a vital part of the oil and gas industry and we have both the opportunity and the obligation to co-operate and provide high quality guidance in non-commercial areas.

We are rightly perceived as a leading industry forum. The fact that IMCA's guidance is adopted as a minimum standard by client companies is evidence of IMCA's standing within the offshore construction and service industry – together we can do a lot!

How do you see the future?

With a little trepidation - but also with confidence in IMCA members' ability to grow in strength and influence within the overall industry. Keynote speakers at the recent annual seminar in Copenhagen recognised IMCA's role within the contracting industry. Yet we are constantly challenged on costs by our clients and expected to invest in assets and skilled people in order to perform our work in a safe and competent manner. We are pushing the boundaries in terms of water depth, geographical and political areas of operation and this increases the pressure on the safety and security of our operations. IMCA is well placed to provide practical guidance and a collective 'steady hand on the tiller'.



Forthcoming events

2 November 2006

Asia-Pacific Section

Quarterly meeting and
client/guest briefing
Bangkok, Thailand

11 December 2006

Middle East & India Section

Quarterly meeting
Jebel Ali, UAE

1-2 February 2007

IMCA Safety Seminar

Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, UK

Keeping Safety Personal

IMCA Safety Seminar 2007

The annual safety seminar brings members together to discuss how the industry can further improve offshore safety and avoid incidents.

Successfully bringing together both onshore and offshore management responsible for safety and those active in the on-site workforce, the event provides a unique opportunity for dialogue and learning from each other at all levels.

The final touches are being put to an exciting programme, which will feature:

◆ **Presentations**, including:

- Keeping safety levels up in a busy environment
- Learning from incidents - real-life case studies
- 'What questions could I have asked?'
- Accountability and working together for safety
- Last-minute risk assessment
- Safe behaviour programmes

◆ **Round-table discussions**, including:

- What safety means to you
- Cultural and international barriers to making safety personal
- Does behavioural safety work for you?

◆ **Seminar dinner and stadium tour**

plus a rather special feature which will put the safety message across in a unique way!



MEMBERS

Look out for the
programme and
registration form
- coming soon!

1-2 February 2007
Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, UK

For full details on forthcoming IMCA events, including downloadable brochures and online registration, please visit:

www.imca-int.com/events

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