



Safety Excellence in Abu Dhabi

IMCA safety seminar attracts over 120 delegates and facilitates sharing of safety experience and good practices

The InterContinental Hotel Abu Dhabi provided the venue for the sixth annual IMCA safety seminar. This year's theme was *Safety excellence in a global environment*, which was particularly apt for this the first such event to take place outside Europe.

The event featured the usual mix of presentations and round-table discussions on a variety of topical safety-related issues, as well as a safety share fair where members displayed their companies' own safety promotional materials and learnt about each other's successful initiatives.

Wallace Robertson, Chairman of the SEL Core Committee, gave the keynote address outlining the route for a successful global journey into safe operations, addressing the challenges of safety, security and legislative compliance in an industry where skilled workers are ever more at a premium and in which new tonnage is brought into operation.

Peter Christiansen of Maersk Oil Qatar gave an oil company perspective on safety in the Middle East, highlighting the three challenges of language, culture and people in safe operations.

Other highlights of the first day included legal issues such as 'corporate manslaughter' and how one member had successfully deployed a PC-based risk assessment system. The presentations were particularly thought provoking and two stimulating small group discussion sessions brought the day to a close.

'The Convincer' – a car crash simulator aimed at promoting seatbelt use – provided a hands-on demonstration for delegates, driving home the perils of ignoring safety precautions.

On day two, the 'E' in SEL was brought to the fore with presentations on environmental classification and on the 'environmental footprint' of marine contracting. Delegates then spent time discussing ways of integrating subsea scientific research into engineering operations.

The final presentations included challenges to deepen personal understanding of hazard analysis and risk assessment, the important personal and corporate lessons learnt following a fatality and discussion on how best to capture, communicate and learn from incidents.

Also in this issue:

New safety posters

IMCA's range of safety promotion materials has expanded with new posters covering safe use of ladders and avoiding dropped objects.

[Find out more on page 4](#)

Breaking down the barriers

A study is underway into the geopolitical barriers affecting marine contractors around the globe, to identify areas for future work by IMCA.

[For more information, turn to page 3](#)

Workboat checklist updated

A reviewed and updated *Marine inspection checklist for small workboats*, aimed at members using such vessels in a range of support roles, is available.

[For full details, see page 13](#)

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News from around IMCA



Chief Executive Hugh Williams with IMCA's three longest serving staff members (l-r) Vicki Graham, Nina Adams and Jane Bugler

Nina Adams celebrates ten years with IMCA

The end of 2007 saw another celebration of long service with the IMCA secretariat, as Nina Adams reached her ten-year anniversary.

This was only the official celebration, however, as many

members will remember Nina too from the earlier six years when she worked directly for Tom Hollobone, at the time secretary of AODC.

The full secretariat was on hand to congratulate Nina as Hugh

Williams conveyed the association's thanks for her service over the years and presented her with a specially chosen pair of earrings and a card filled with personal messages from her colleagues.

At one time, Nina was the sole member of administrative staff working in the London office and has a very wide range of valuable experience as a result. These days, however, Nina is one of a team of five and her main area of focus is the publications service, dealing with orders for IMCA's publications – logbooks, guidance and technical reports.

“Our contact with members, clients and individuals around the world creates an interesting buzz,” says Nina, “even after ten years, meeting in person committee members whose names are so familiar still adds an extra dimension.”

Use of the IMCA name and logo

Updated guidance on reproducing the IMCA name and logo has been produced. It clarifies correct use and aims to clear up misconceptions associated with terms such as ‘IMCA approved’, particularly in relation to training and certification. To receive a copy, please e-mail imca@imca-int.com or visit the members-only website.

Are you getting enough copies of makingwaves?

We know from feedback that members value this newsletter as a way of staying up to date with developments in the association's various divisions and regional sections. We've heard that many members find the newsletter a useful way of keeping vessel crews and other offshore personnel in touch with industry developments too.

Every quarter, over 7,000 copies are sent to members and other relevant organisations. We'd be really pleased to send more copies to your company – just let us know by e-mailing Ann.Barnatt@imca-int.com and we can update our distribution list accordingly.

Broaden your view of IMCA

January means it's time for annual subscription invoices – and for many this year it's been the time to act and expand their membership. What was appropriate for a company when it joined the association possibly many years ago may now no longer fully reflect its own activities and we have seen a number of companies adding one or more extra divisions to their annual subscription. Often for a relatively small increase in fees paid, members can gain access to a whole new wealth of material including the extensive online library.

To find out more, please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

Membership spread increases to 50 countries

The latest milestone of IMCA's incredible membership growth has just been reached, with total membership now over 440 in more than fifty countries, with members joining this year from Croatia and Poland.

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:

- ◆ Submit your company safety statistics for 2007 for inclusion in the annual benchmarking analysis see [page 4](#)
- ◆ Take an active role in elections for the Offshore Survey Division and regional section officers see [pages 6 and 13](#)
- ◆ Respond to the forthcoming membership survey to help steer the future direction of IMCA see [page 3](#)
- ◆ Help expand the IMCA careers website with links to virtual tours and videos see [page 5](#)
- ◆ Let us know if you would like to receive more copies of *Making Waves* see [page 2 \(left\)](#)
- ◆ Attend an event – see [the IMCA calendar on page 16](#)

Making Waves – the newsletter of the International Marine Contractors Association – is 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)

Help shape IMCA's future direction

Two new initiatives are underway where input from members will help to directly affect the future direction of the association.

In his article to the right, IMCA President Knut Boe discusses the problems associated with 'geopolitical barriers' being faced by members working around the globe. Experienced industry professional Charles Howson has been commissioned by IMCA to undertake a survey of these problems and to identify possible routes through which they can be addressed. Charles is in touch with a selection of contacts world-wide – please provide him with assistance to help us with this important project. Any input on specific issues identified by members would also be most welcome – contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

A wider survey of members is also to be undertaken on members' interests, priorities and experiences with the association. A similar exercise was undertaken in 2000/1 which produced useful, positive feedback on the services provided at that time together with a number of useful suggestions for changes/additions that have been actioned.

IMCA on tour

The secretariat team is busy taking the IMCA message to new audiences, as well as bringing together members and old friends.

Abu Dhabi – Nick Hough and Claudine Bleza took IMCA's exhibition stand to a new show – the *Middle East Ocean Science & Technology* expo (MEOST), held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. IMCA was well received at the show, which despite being in its first year was well attended, with a significant number of visitors to the IMCA stand seeking information on membership and other matters.

Texas – IMCA is supporting the *Subsea Tieback Forum & Exhibition* taking place on 3-5 March in

Galveston and will be exhibiting at the event.

India – A briefing seminar is planned for later in the year – see page 6.

Kuala Lumpur – The 2008 IMCA annual seminar is to take place in KL in November. A call for papers has been issued, with the event's theme set as *Global alignment in marine operations*. A steering committee is now reviewing submissions, so please contact events@imca-int.com if you wish to propose a paper or topic for the event. Full details will be circulated to members in due course.

For more details on these and other forthcoming events, see the back page of this issue or visit www.imca-int.com/events

Looking back to 2007

2007 was another busy year for IMCA and this first issue of the new year gives us time to reflect on the twelve months just gone.

Membership grew over 20% in the year, from 355 in December 2006 to 432 in December 2007 – and it continues to increase in all regions.

An even wider range of events was held, including a first social reception aboard HQS Wellington, briefing events in Cape Town, the UAE and Qatar, the magnificent charity ball at Fyvie Castle, the annual safety event and the record-breaking annual seminar in Paris that attracted over 350 delegates. IMCA also became an official supporting organization of OTC and exhibited at or supported a growing range of externally organised conferences and trade shows.

Nineteen new and updated guidance notes and reports were produced, including the eye-catching new lifting guidelines and updated diving code. Ten safety flashes disseminated lessons learnt from 25 occurrences and hazards, helping avoid further incidents, while around 80 information notes provided additional briefing to members.

So that was 2007. But we've moved on from there already ...



From the President

These are turbulent times in the world economy. Stock markets are tumbling, the housing market has hit the wall and there are more and more newspaper articles questioning whether we are at the beginning

of a global recession.

No one really knows whether this is the case or not, but from the marine construction view this is not the picture we see. Our assets are achieving high utilisation, everyone seems to be busy and new people and new assets are continuously entering our business. Apart from the question of a potential over-supply of vessels in a few years, there appear to be few clouds on the horizon with regard to the market and available work.

In addition to the volume of growth, we are seeing a shift in the industry which is becoming more prevalent – the importance of national oil companies (NOCs) as clients.

IMCA is well recognised by all the major oil companies and a number of the NOCs, but we see that more and more NOCs are becoming field operators or partners with more active participation. This leaves IMCA with the task of ensuring the role and contribution of the association are well understood by these new operators. Hence, IMCA is reinforcing its dialogue with the NOCs.

One of IMCA's objectives is to ease the free movement of personnel world-wide. Some challenges which are not new to our industry, but are unfortunately growing in importance, are 'geopolitical barriers' – or, in other words, national restrictions on the free movement of people and equipment around the oil industry. Examples include requirements to use only national crews in certain waters and a number of other constraints imposed on the industry.

IMCA has launched a study to better map out these problems on a global basis in order to identify areas where we can try to improve the situation. We accept that this may not deliver quick fixes, but it is still something we believe will be important to our members.

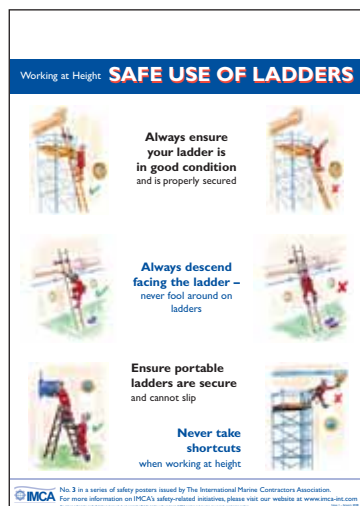
Safety excellence in a global environment was the title of the latest IMCA safety seminar. This is a challenging title for the industry, which is confronted with both a capacity and a competency challenge today. With this in mind, the seminar was an important and worthwhile event where members picked up new ideas from each other and were able to discuss the demands they each experienced in their own businesses.

Knut Boe, Technip
IMCA President 2007-8

News from IMCA's core activities – SEL and TCPC

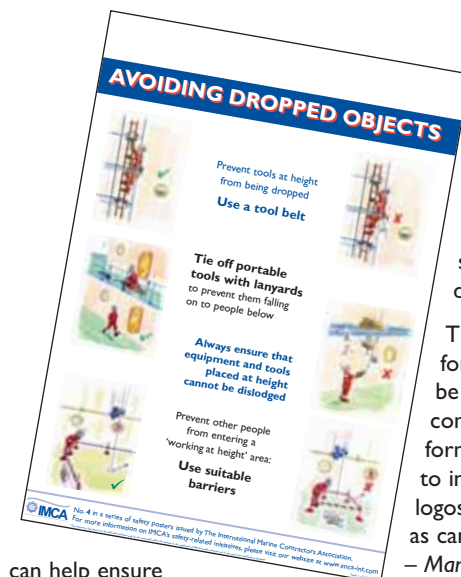
Promoting safety in the workplace

Latest posters address ladder safety and dropped objects



IMCA has published two new posters, adding to the range of material available for members to use in the promotion of worksite safety.

Poster 3 covers *Working at height: Safe use of ladders* – an important area where a few simple steps



can help ensure the safety of those working with ladders and those at work around them.

On a related theme, poster 4 addresses *Avoiding dropped objects*, with a series of tips such as using toolbelts and lanyards,

securing equipment and tools placed at height and using barriers to prevent others entering 'working at height' areas in case something is dropped despite all precautions.

The posters are available for purchase, but can also be downloaded in commercial printing formats, enabling members to incorporate their own logos, names and references, as can the earlier two posters – *Manual handling: Watch your back* and *Preventing slips, trips and falls*.

Information on the full range of safety promotion materials, including posters, pocket cards and DVDs, can be found online at www.imca-int.com/publications

Radiation issues

The SEL committee has formed a new workgroup to take forward development of guidance on handling normally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), such as the low specific activity scale sometimes found in piping used on offshore installations.

The guidance will address such matters as: where such waste is found; how it should be handled, transported and correctly disposed of; and the regulatory framework affecting IMCA members in their areas of operation.

The first meeting of the group took place earlier this month. Anybody interested in assisting with this work is should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Members share together in Middle East

The SEL Core Committee held its February 2008 meeting jointly with the Middle East & India Section at the Hotel InterContinental in Abu Dhabi, ahead of the IMCA safety seminar (see page 1). Also in attendance was a selection of other members from around the world in the city for the IMCA event.

Steve MacMillan, section chairman, opened the meeting and took members through section business and the regional work programme.

He then handed over to Wallace Robertson, chairman of the SEL committee, who presided over the remainder of the agenda.

The meeting provided a useful opportunity for the committee to connect directly with members, with valuable input and feedback made to the committee's current work programme, particularly on the safety issues that can be pertinent anywhere in the industry.

Matters discussed included the annual safety statistics exercise for 2007 (see right), and the expanding suite of IMCA safety promotional material, including pocket cards, posters (see above) and DVDs.

The un-minuted sharing of information on recent safety-related incidents was particularly useful, with so many present to share and learn from each other. This is one of IMCA's most powerful tools for disseminating lessons learnt from incidents and is always really appreciated by those able to attend.

Safety training guidance updated

The new guidance on *Basic safety training and vessel induction for non-marine personnel working offshore* (IMCA SEL 007 Rev. 1) is now available.

The document sets out aspects that should be covered in basic safety training for non-marine personnel working onboard a vessel. Non-marine personnel are defined as those who, though not normally working onboard a vessel, may need to do so for a period of days or weeks in order to fulfil the needs of a given project.

The guidance offers examples of topics to be covered in basic

safety training programmes. It is not intended to be used directly as a training document, rather it provides a checklist on topics the contractor should consider for inclusion in a basic safety programme which should be adapted for the workforce and the vessel/work to be undertaken.

It should be noted that IMCA does not approve or certify basic safety training courses. Use of this guidance, however, will help those developing both commercial and in-house basic safety training and vessel induction programmes.

Submit your safety statistics for 2007

IMCA is aiming to produce its report on safety statistics for 2007 early in 2008, so is seeking prompt input from members.

As in previous years, a call for submissions was sent early last month, with an Excel reporting template and full guide for contributors included.

All submissions are treated in the strict confidence, with only anonymised summaries and totals presented to the SEL committee for review and included in the final IMCA report.

Any contractor wishing to contribute should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Efforts on skills shortages continue

The HR Specialist Workgroup established late last year has now met several times and is taking forward a number of projects to tackle the issues of recruitment and skills training being faced by members around the world.

Particular actions of note include:

- ◆ A workshop on training issues taking place on 27 February in Aberdeen which aims to bring together contractors and training establishments to discuss current training provision, industry requirements and how these can be taken forward
- ◆ Planned development of a new in-depth guide to careers in marine contracting, bringing together existing IMCA material with a range of new articles and illustrations. This is intended to be available via the web, on CD and in print
- ◆ Sponsoring student travel to the forthcoming *Oceanology International* exhibition in London to enable potential recruits to learn about career options and connect with IMCA members – their possible future employers
- ◆ Participation by members and jointly through IMCA in careers-related events, including the forthcoming *Getenergy 2008* networking event, exhibition and forum on education and training in the upstream global oil and gas industry
- ◆ Extending and enhancing www.imca-int.com/careers as part of a wider website redesign, to present the range of material in a clear new eye-catching format. Links are also being established to members' own web-based videos and virtual tours – submit yours to Adam.Hugo@imca-int.com

Additional input to the workgroup from contractor members is invited, either in person, via teleconference or by e-mail correspondence – please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com if your company is interested in participating or if you would like to suggest further ideas for tackling the skills shortage.

Reviewing the use of simulators

In May 2006 IMCA published *The use of and requirements for simulators in training and operations* (IMCA C 009), setting out the results of a member questionnaire exercise that reviewed both the simulator technology available and how its use fitted into the frameworks of training and competence for various roles and industry sectors.

It has always been recognised that simulators play an important role in training, but the dual issues of the wide variety of

equipment employed – ranging from a simple PC-based video simulation to a full-scale control room simulation with wide-angle video and motion feedback – and the need for real-life operational experience, properly reflecting simulator time in training and competence criteria have proved thorny.

A new workgroup has now been established to take forward these issues, develop IMCA's position and set out additional guidance. For more details please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

New IMCA logbooks on the way

Two new logbooks have just been sent to press. Prepared to allow offshore managers and offshore engineers to record their training and experience, they are intended to set out this information in a clear, recognisable and transferrable format that has proved so popular with the existing range. Details on the full set of IMCA logbooks can be found online at www.imca-int.com/publications



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Regional news

Americas Deepwater Section

Alan Allred of Aker Marine Contractors is the new chairman of the IMCA Americas Deepwater Section. He takes over from Roy Sijthoff, who had served for four years in the role. Under Roy's leadership recognition, participation and membership all grew and Alan takes over the reins at an exciting time for the industry.

Roy's final meeting in the chair was well attended, with over forty members and guests present. After the usual section business for voting members only,

the meeting continued with presentations on personnel security, Arctic engineering and warranty surveying.

The region's sub-groups also remain active, with the diving sub-group moving to a monthly schedule as members liaise with the US authorities on the revision of their diving regulations and the ROV sub-group addressing training and recruitment issues as its main priority.

The next section meeting will take place on 2 April at Heerema's offices in Houston.

Asia-Pacific Section

Andy Bolton and Mark Shepherd were re-elected unopposed in December as chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the IMCA Asia-Pacific Section with significant levels of support expressed by members in the region.

The section's latest meeting took place in Thailand in November where some 60 participants gathered for discussions on a wide range of topics, including Australian regulatory issues and personnel shortages and qualification issues. Andy Bolton gave an interesting presentation on drug and alcohol testing that prompted lively discussion on policies and their enforcement. The following day saw the section's second golf event take place – a relaxed event with no formal competition but an enjoyable day for all.

The next meeting is on 27 March in Singapore.

Europe & Africa Section

The Europe & Africa Section is planning a busy day on 12 March alongside the popular Oceanology International event in London at which IMCA will be exhibiting (stand 123).

A section meeting is to take place in the morning, where members will be updated on and have the chance to contribute to the association's global and regional work programmes. Charles Bowen, Executive Director of OGP (the international trade association for oil and gas producers), will give a presentation on OGP and the opportunities for working together with IMCA on common issues.

The afternoon will then see IMCA's second ROV seminar – *Developments in ROV technology* (see page 14).

IMCA's day will close with a drinks reception for IMCA members and invited guests.

Middle East & India Section

Doha was the venue for the third briefing seminar in the Middle East & India Section's recent history, attracting 34 guests and members.

Steve MacMillan, section chairman, welcomed delegates as well as presenting key Diving Division guidance and activities. Alan Adamson of MENAS gave an overview of Marine Division guidance, while IMCA's Jane Bugler and Paul Evans gave updates on the global work programme before a question-and-answer session closed the day.

More recently, the section played host to the IMCA safety seminar (see front cover) and held a joint meeting with the SEL core committee that attracted 38 local member representatives and visiting guests for global updates, discussion of local issues and direct input to the SEL committee's work.

The next meeting will take place on 12 May 2008 in Jebel Ali, UAE. The next briefing seminar is also being planned and will take place in India shortly after this meeting.



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Who to contact at IMCA:



Hugh Williams
Chief Executive



Jane Bugler
Technical Director



Philip Wiggs
Technical Adviser



Nick Hough
Technical Adviser



Ian Giddings
Technical Adviser



Paul Evans
Technical Adviser

Vicki Graham
Certification Schemes Administrator
for diving supervisors and LSTs

Adam Hugo
Support Services Manager

Nina Adams, Senior Administrator
- publication sales

Parul Patel, Administrator
- seminars and committee meetings

Claudine Bleza, Administrator
- social events and exhibitions

Ann Barnatt, Administrator
- document production and member records

Jean Carmichael, Bookkeeper

IMCA 5 Lower Belgrave Street
London SW1W 0NR, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7824 5520

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7824 5521

E-mail: imca@imca-int.com

Web: www.imca-int.com

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

Knut Boe, Technip

IMCA Vice-President

Johan Rasmussen, Acergy

Hugh Williams, Chief Executive

Jane Bugler, Technical Director

Regional Section Chairmen

Americas Deepwater

Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors

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, Helix ESG
Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip
Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7
Derek Beddows, Technip

Marine: Pete Somner, Technip
Pete Fougere, Transocean

Offshore Survey:

Will Primavesi, Saipem
Walter Steedman, Veripos

Remote Systems & ROV:

Andrew Beveridge, Fugro-Rovtech
Neil Milne, Subsea 7

SEL Core Committee

Chairman: Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG

Vice-Chairman: Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

Norman Smith, Acergy

Bart Westerhout, Allseas

Jos van der Horst, Heerema Marine Contractors

Mat Schreurs, Heerema Marine Contractors

Finn Brodersen, Maersk Supply Service

Sal Ruffino, Saipem

Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Allan Hannah, Technip

Bram Sluiskes, Van Oord

Foeke Tulner, Workshops Contractors

Americas: Wayne Seelbach, Helix ESG

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

Middle East & India: Mohamed Osman, Maridive

TCPC Core Committee

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Jennifer Cook, Acergy

Pauline Irwin, DOF

Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG

Darren Bown, Subsea 7

Gavin Smith, Subsea 7

Roy Hay, Technip

Andy Stewart, UK Project Support

Americas: Vacancy

Asia-Pacific: Mike Kelly, SeaSafe

Middle East & India: Mohamed Omar, INW

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Derek Beddows, Technip

Joar Gangenes, Acergy

Hans Berkhof, Bluestream

Alan Thomas, Cape Diving

Keith Noble, CUEL

Steve Nairn, Helix ESG

Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services

Darren Brunton, KB Associates

David Smith, National Hyperbaric Centre

Norb Gorman, Oceaneering International

Calum Buchanan, RBG

Americas: Allan Palmer, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific: RP Singh, Sarku Engineering Services

Middle East & India: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott

Marine Division MC

Chairman: Pete Somner, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Pete Fougere, Transocean

Arnfinn Vika, Acergy

Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors, Inc.

Mike Houdijk, Allseas

Anders Waage, DOF Management

Michiel Goedkoop, Heerema Marine Contractors

David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service

Geir Karlsen, Subsea 7

Kjell Egil Helgøy, Teekay

Americas: Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors, Inc.

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

Middle East & India: Alan Adamson, MENAS

Offshore Survey Division MC

Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem

Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7/Veripos

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Perry Balls, DeepOcean

Jan Arvid Ingulfsen, DOF Subsea

Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey

Peter Thomas, Maritech

Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore

Martin Day, Subsea 7

Americas: Stephen Browne, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey Pte Ltd

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

Remote Systems & ROV Division MC

Chairman: Andrew Beveridge, Fugro-Rovtech

Vice-Chairman: Neil Milne

Colin Mackay, Acergy

Massimo Martini, DNT Offshore

John Davies, Global Marine Systems

Mike Arnold, Hallin Marine

David Rhodes, Integrated Subsea Services

Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International, Inc.

Espen Ingebrechtsen, Oceaneering International

John Pirie, Technip

Grant Cowie, TS Marine (Contracting)

Americas: Ian Edmonstone, Helix ESG

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

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

Regional Section Vice-Chairmen

Americas: Tony Duncan, Acergy

Asia-Pacific: Mark Shepherd, Mermaid Offshore Services

Europe & Africa: Brian Leith, Acergy

Middle East & India: Maurice Catt, Halul Offshore Services

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Helix Energy Solutions Group

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Canship Uglan Ltd
Cape Diving
CCC (Underwater Engineering) SAL
CDMS Ltd
CH Offshore Ltd
Clough Oil & Gas
CODERO
Coral Alliance Sdn Bhd
CTC Marine Projects Ltd
CUEL Ltd
Dalgidj Private Company
DeepOcean
Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc
DNT Offshore srl
Dockwise
DOF Management AS
DOF Subsea (Australia & Asia Pacific)
DOF Subsea Norway AS
DOF Subsea UK Ltd
DOF UK Ltd
Dolphin Drilling Ltd
Dolphin Offshore Enterprises (India)
Dulam International Ltd
EDT Offshore
EGS (Asia) Ltd
Eidesvik AS
PT Ekanuri Indra Pratama
EMAS Offshore Pte Ltd
Fairmount Marine bv
Far Eastern Shipping Company

Finstaship
Five Oceans Services GmbH
LLP FSDS
Fugro Marine Services bv
Fugro-Rovtech
Fugro SAE
Fugro Survey (India) Pvt Ltd
Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd
Fugro Survey (Singapore) Pte. Ltd
Fugro Survey Ltd
GB Diving BV
GeoLab srl
Global Industries Asia Pacific
Global Industries Ltd
Global Marine Systems Ltd
GOGAS Gulf Oil and Gas LLC
Great Offshore Ltd
Gulf Dredging & General Contracting
Gulf Marine Services
Gulf Offshore (North Sea) Ltd
Gulmar Offshore Middle East LLC
Halani Shipping Pvt Ltd
Hallin Marine
Halul Offshore Services Co.
Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc.
HEISCO
Horizon Survey Company (FZC)
Hull Support Services Ltd
Huta Marine Works Ltd
Integrated Subsea Services Ltd
Intl Marine Works - Alexandria
Intl Naval Works - Abu Dhabi
IRSHAD
Island Offshore Management AS
Jumbo Offshore VoF
Lamnalco Group
PT Lancar Rejeki Berkas Jaya
LD Travocean
Louisiana Overseas Inc
Maersk Supply Service
Maridive & Oil Services (SAE)
Maridive Offshore Projects
Marine Consulting srl
Marine Logistics Solutions (MarSol)
Marine Survey & Services Intl Ltd
Master Tech Diving Services
Med Marine
MENAS
Mermaid Marine Australia Ltd
Mermaid Offshore Services Ltd
Mohn Drilling AS
Mutawa Marine Works Est
Nexans Norway AS - Energy Division
NICO Middle East Ltd
Noordhoek Offshore BV
NOR Offshore Ltd
Northern Marine Management Ltd
NPCC Survey
Ocean Works Asia Inc.
Oceaneering International (UK)
Oceaneering International Asia Pacific
Oceaneering International Inc.
Oceanteam 2000 Ltd
Oceanteam Power & Umbilical Ltd
Offshore Geo-Surveys Sdn Bhd
Offshore Oil Eng. Co. Ltd (COOEC)
Offshore Subsea Works Sdn Bhd
Offshore Technology Solutions Ltd
Olympic Shipping AS
OSM Schiffahrt GmbH & Cie KG

OSM Ship Management AS
Pacific Richfield Marine Pte Ltd
PT Patra Dinamika
Pelican Offshore Services Pte Ltd
Petra Resources Sdn Bhd
Petroleum Marine Services Company
PFCE Ocean Engineering Sdn Bhd
Pride International
Prosaf Offshore Ltd
Rana Diving & Marine Contractor srl
RBG Ltd
REM Offshore AS
Riise Underwater Engineering AS
Rolv Berg Drive AS
Rubicon Offshore Intl Pte Ltd
Sahara Petroleum Company
Saipem sa - Saibos Division
SAL Shipping
PT Samudera Biru Nusantara
Sapura Diving Services Sdn Bhd
Sarku Engineering Services Sdn Bhd
SAROST SA
SBM Offshore NV
Seacor Marine (International) Ltd
Seadrill Management AS
Seahorse Services Co. Ltd
Sealion Shipping Ltd
SEAMEC
Seaway Heavy Lifting Engineering BV
Seaways International LLC
Seaworks Ltd
Secunda Marine Svcs/J Ray McDermott
Siem Offshore AS
SMIT
SMIT Subsea (Africa)
SMIT Subsea Middle East LLC
SMIT Subsea (Singapore)
Solstad Shipping AS
Stapem Offshore SA
Stena Drilling Ltd
Submersible Television Surveys Ltd
Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
Subsea Intervention Technologies
Subsea Petroleum Services
Subtec Middle East Ltd
Superior Offshore International
Superior Offshore Intl SA (Pty) Ltd
Svitzer
Swire Pacific Offshore Operations
Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
Technip USA, Inc.
Technocean AS
Teekay Norway AS
Tideway Marine & Offshore
Timsah Shipbuilding Company
TL Geohydrographics Sdn Bhd
Total Marine Technology Pty Ltd
Transocean
Troms Offshore AS
TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd
TS Marine Pty Ltd
Underwater Services Company
URS nv
Van Oord Offshore BV
Vastalux Sdn Bhd
Vroon Offshore Services BV
VTT Maritime AS
PT Wintermar
Workshops Contractors BV
Zakher Marine International

Suppliers

Suppliers of equipment

32Group Mid-Water LLC
ABB Ltd
Advanced Marine Pte Ltd
PT Advanced Oil & Gas Consulting
Air Products Singapore Pte Ltd
Analox Sensor Technology Ltd
Ashtead Technology (SEA) Pte Ltd
Bibby Offshore Ltd
Bourbon
Bridon
Brunvoll AS
Chesterfield Special Cylinders Ltd
Circle Technical Services Ltd
Clough Oil & Gas
Comanex SAS
Converteam Ltd
CUEL Ltd
Cynergetix Pte Ltd
Divex Asia Pacific
Divex FZE
Divex Ltd
DOF UK Ltd
Dominion Gas
Dominion Gas Asia Pte Ltd
Dräger Safety
Drass Galeazzi Underwater Technology
Franklin Offshore International Pte Ltd
Global Gases & Chemicals FZCO (Dubai)
Global Gases Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Great Offshore Ltd
Guidance Navigation Ltd
Halani Shipping Pvt Ltd
Hydra Marine (Pty) Ltd
Hyperbaric Technology BV (Hytech)
IXSEA
JW Automarine
Kenz Figuee BV
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Kongsberg Maritime AS
Kongsberg Maritime Ltd
L-3 Communications
Lexmar Engineering Pte Ltd
Measurement Devices Ltd
MJR Controls Ltd
Modern Computing Services (MCS)
Nautronix plc
Navis Engineering Oy
Offshore Joint Services
Offshore Logistics (Asia Pacific) Pty Ltd
Pacific Commercial Diving Supply Pty Ltd
Perry Slingsby Systems, Inc.
Perry Slingsby Systems Ltd
Proserv Abandonment & Decommissioning
Rolls-Royce Oy Ab
Rolv Berg Drive AS
ROV Supply Pte Ltd
Saab Seaeeye Ltd
SBM Offshore NV
Schilling Robotics LLC
Sea and Land Technologies Pte Ltd
Seaflex Ltd
Sealion Shipping Ltd
Seatools BV
Serimax Ltd
Skan-El Skipsprosjektering AS
Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd
Sonardyne Asia Pte Ltd
Sonardyne International Ltd
Submec Offshore Pty Ltd
Subsea Vision Ltd
Trim Systems Pte Ltd
The Tritanium Company
Underwater Technology Services Pte Ltd
Unidive Marine Services Pte Ltd
Unique System FZE
Veripos
Vroon Offshore Services Ltd

Suppliers of services

Abermed Ltd
Advanced Marine Pte Ltd
PT Advanced Oil & Gas Consulting
Air Products Singapore Pte Ltd
Anglo-Eastern Group
Anglo-Eastern Group (Asia-Pacific)
Auto Dynamic Positioning Services
Bachrach & Wood
Blade Offshore Services Ltd
C-MAR Services (UK) Ltd
Construction Specialists Ltd (CSL)
DMC Offshore
DOWC
El-Automation AS

Electrical Power Engineering Ltd
Falconer Bryan Pte Ltd
Franklin Offshore International Pte Ltd
Global Maritime
Goodrich, Riquelme y Asociados, AC
GTC Group
Houlder Insurance Services Ltd
Imes Ltd
Inchcape Shipping Services
Independent Risk Solutions BV
KB Associates Pte Ltd
Lexmar Engineering Pte Ltd
London Offshore Consultants Ltd
Marine Cybernetics
MJR Controls Ltd
Modern Computing Services (MCS)
Nautronix plc
Navigare International Inc.
Noble Denton Consultants Ltd
Noble Denton Marine, Inc.
Noble Denton Middle East Ltd
Noble Denton Singapore Pte Ltd
NUI AS
Offshore Commissioning Solutions
Offshore Joint Services
OTECH Marine Services AS
PAE Singapore Pte Ltd
Perry Slingsby Systems Ltd
Petroleum Development Consultants
Poseidon Maritime (UK) Ltd (PML)
Promarine Ltd
QinetiQ Ltd
Reel Group Ltd
Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc
Schilling Robotics LLC
SeaSafe Pte Ltd
Sebastian AS
Skan-EI Skipsprosjektering AS
Submec Offshore Pty Ltd
Subsea Vision Ltd
Thome Offshore Management Pte Ltd
The Tritanium Company
Veripos
Vroon Offshore Services Ltd
Wavespec Ltd

Training establishments

AI Safety Training Consultants (1995) Ltd
Aberdeen Skills & Enterprise Training Ltd
Adriamare Maritime Training Center
Ålesund University College
Banff & Buchan College
PT Barron International
Bergen University College - Diver Ed.
Bibby International Services Group Ltd
Centre for Marine Simulation
CFO - Centro Formazione Offshore
Commercial Diving Academy
De Moura Shipping Ltda
Delphinus Services - ROV Training
Divers Academy International
Divers Institute of Technology
Diving Diseases Research Centre
The DP Centre Singapore
Falck Nutech bv
Force Technology
Fundação Homem do Mar
Gdynia Maritime University
Global Marine Systems - Subsea Training
Holland College - Georgetown Centre
Holland College - Marine Training Centre
Hydrolab-HydroCAT
IDESS Maritime Centre (Subic), Inc.
INPP
The Institute of ROVs
Interdive Services Ltd
KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Lowestoft College
Maritech Group
Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz
Maritime Training & Competence Solutions
Marseille Maritime Academy
MOG Industry Training Co. Ltd
National Hyperbaric Centre Ltd
National Oceanography Centre
National Polytechnic College of
Engineering and Oceaneering
Netherlands Diving Centre
Offshore Skills Training Centre (OSTRAC)
The Ocean Corporation
PetroVietnam Manpower Training College
Poseidon Maritime (UK) Ltd (PML)
Power & Generation Services
Professional Diving Academy
Professional Diving Centre
Satakunta University of Applied Sciences

PT SBS Indonesia
SEATAG Offshore Ltd
Seneca College - Underwater Skills Prog.
Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre
Skilltrade BV
SMTC Global Inc.
Stord/Haugesund University College
SubNet Services Ltd
The Underwater Centre Fort William
The Underwater Centre Fremantle
The Underwater Centre (Tasmania)
Underwater Engineering Ltd
WA Maritime Training Centre - Fremantle
West Coast Commercial Diving School

Personnel agencies

Ace Diving Services CC
Amberjack Oil & Gas Recruitment Svcs
Aqua Omega Services Pvt. Ltd
Atlas DOOR
PT Bahana Galang Jaya
Dave Oliver Hydrographics Services
De Moura Shipping Ltda
Flare Project Services LLC
Hydrosb Ltd
Maritech Group
Oceanscan Ltd
Offshore Marine Services Pty Ltd
Oilfield Medics UK Ltd
Petroli SA
PR Offshore Services Ltd
Seatek India
SubNet Services Ltd
SubServPro
Superior Subsea Personnel Services
Total Marine Services
UK Project Support Ltd
Underwater Engineering Ltd

Naval units

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

Corresponding Members

Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company
Agi Kazakhstan North Caspian Op. Co.
AISI
Azerbaijan International Operating Co.
Bapco - The Bahrain Petroleum Co.
BG Group
BHP Billiton
BP America Production Company
BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd
BP Shipping
BP West Java Ltd
Brunei Shell Petroleum Company
Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd
Chevron Shipping Co.
Chevron Thailand E&P Ltd
CNR International UK Ltd
ConocoPhillips China
ConocoPhillips Indonesia
ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd
Dana Petroleum plc
Det Norske Veritas
Esso Australia Pty Ltd
GDF Production Nederland bv
Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company
Health & Safety Authority
Kuwait Oil Company
Maersk Oil Qatar AS
Mobil North Sea Ltd
Murphy Sarawak Oil Co. Ltd
Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij BV
Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd
Petro Canada - Terra Nova Project
Petrobras SA
Premier Oil Natuna Sea Ltd
PTT Exploration & Production plc
Sarawak Shell Berhad
Shell International E&P BV
Shell Petroleum Dev. Co. of Nigeria Ltd
Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd
Sonangol Pesquisa & Produção
Talisman Energy (UK)
Talisma Malaysia Ltd
Total Exploration & Production
Total Austral (Argentina)
Total E&P Nederland BV
Total E&P UK plc
Wintershall Noordzee BV
Woodside Energy Ltd
Zakum Development Company

IMCA welcomes the following new members:

◆ AdriaMare Maritime Training Center

◆ Ajang Shipping Sdn Bhd

◆ Arena Sub srl

Based in the North East of Sicily, Arena Sub provides ROV services particularly for geophysical and archaeological surveys. Its team of professionals includes pilots, divers and technicians with diverse experience and expertise, specialising in research and marine operations.

Tel: +39 090 397 4060

Web: www.arenasub.it

◆ Bumi Armada Berhad

◆ Canship Ugland Ltd

◆ Coral Alliance Sdn Bhd

◆ DMC Offshore

A marine and engineering consultancy operating out of Singapore but providing services on an international basis, DMC Offshore focuses on the delivery, operation, management and DP trials of dynamically positioned vessels, in particular drill ships, semi-submersible units and FPSOs.

Tel: +65 6323 2066

Web: www.dmcoffshore.com.sg

◆ DOF UK Ltd

◆ El-Automation AS

◆ Flare Project Services LLC

◆ Fugro SAE

◆ Gdynia Maritime University

A technical higher education institution of the Polish state, the university offers engineer and master's degrees for prospective merchant marine officers, specialists in ship and port operations and other maritime professionals, with training facilities including a state-of-the-art DP simulator.

Tel: +48 58 620 6759

Web: www.am.gdynia.pl

◆ IXSEA

◆ MJR Controls Ltd

◆ NOR Offshore Ltd

Singapore-based NOR Offshore specialises in the provision of anchor handling tug supply and construction support vessels to the offshore industries, particularly the oil and gas sector, with a fleet expanding to nine AHTS-DP2 vessels and 2 DPS2 diving support vessels by the end of 2008.

Tel: +65 6319 8787

Web: www.noroffshore.com

◆ Reel Group Ltd

◆ Rubicon Offshore International Pte Ltd

◆ SAL Shipping

◆ Seaworks Ltd

◆ Skan-EI Skipsprosjektering AS

◆ Skilltrade BV

Skilltrade has specialised in providing hydrographic training and courses for the survey, dredging and offshore construction industry since 2000,. It offers a wide range of courses, including technician and engineer training reflecting IMCA guidance for the offshore survey and ROV sectors.

Tel: +31 (0) 71 561 1365

Web: www.skilltrade.nl

◆ SMIT Subsea (Singapore)

◆ Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd

◆ Submec Offshore Pty Ltd

◆ Subsea Intervention Technologies Ltd (SITECH)

◆ Talisman Malaysia Ltd

◆ Trim Systems Pte Ltd

◆ Underwater Technology Services (S) Pte Ltd

Recent name changes

- ◆ Combined Diving Inspection Services is now *Bluewater Offshore Construction LLC*
- ◆ DOOR International BV is now *Atlas DOOR*
- ◆ Ecole Nationale de la Marine Marchande de Marseille is now *Marseille Maritime Academy*
- ◆ Geo Century Ltd is now part of *DOF Subsea UK Ltd*
- ◆ Nautika SeaSafe Ltd is now *SeaSafe Pte Ltd*
- ◆ Secunda Marine Services is now *Secunda Marine Services/J Ray McDermott Canada*

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:

- ◆ **Basic safety training and vessel induction for non-marine personnel working offshore** (IMCA SEL 007 Rev. I)
- ◆ **Marking and colour coding of gas cylinders, quads and banks for diving applications** (IMCA D 043)
- ◆ **Guidelines for the design and operation of dynamically positioned vessels** (IMCA M 103 Rev. I)
- ◆ **Proceedings of New Frontiers in Marine Contracting – IMCA annual seminar 2007, Paris, France** (IMCA M 188)
- ◆ **Marine inspection checklist for small workboats** (IMCA M 189/S 004 Rev. I)
- ◆ **Academic requirements for surveyors working in the offshore survey sector** (IMCA S 005 Rev. I)
- ◆ IMCA safety posters 03 – **Working at height: Safe use of ladders** – and 04 – **Avoiding dropped objects**

Safety flashes:

- ◆ **Safety flash 10/07** – covering 5 incidents: Small fire caused by portable heater; bell contamination; failure of a high pressure gas charging hose; Divex HSE alert HSE003-2007 – Helinaut sacrificial hose whips; Divex HSE alert HSE001-2007 – Valve seat retainer
- ◆ **Safety flash 01/08** – covering 1 incident: Management of simultaneous operations during demobilisation
- ◆ **Safety flash 02/08** – covering 4 incidents: Finger injury while casting off towing line; serious hand injury; use of spelter sockets; lift bags broke free

Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL)

IMCA SEL 14/07 – Use of halon

- 15/07 Environmental compliance framework
- 16/07 International Maritime Organization (IMO): Report of meetings June-November 2007
- 17/07 Basic safety training: North Sea mutual recognition agreements
- 01/08 SEL documents issued in 2007
- 02/08 Emission standards for marine diesel engines on oceangoing vessels
- 03/08 Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships
- 04/08 Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC): Update 3: Eligibility for foreign nationals

Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC)

IMCA TCPC 14/07 – OCIMF competency assurance guidelines for FPSOs

- 01/08 TCPC documents issued in 2007
- 02/08 TWIC update 3: Eligibility for foreign nationals

Diving Division

IMCA D 15/07 – Update on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)

- 16/07 Falsified diver competence certification
- 01/08 Diving Division documents issued in 2007
- 02/08 Minimum supervisory requirements for offshore diving operations carried out on the UK continental shelf
- 03/08 Diver and diving supervisor certification

Marine Division

IMCA M 20/07 – Platform contact whilst operating in DP mode

- 21/07 Update on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)
- 22/07 Use of halon
- 23/07 Environmental compliance framework
- 24/07 Dynamic Positioning Training Executive Group (DPTEG)
- 25/07 IMO: Report of meetings June-November 2007
- 01/08 Marine Division documents issued in 2007
- 02/08 Dynamic positioning operator survey
- 03/08 Emission standards for marine diesel engines on oceangoing vessels
- 04/08 Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships
- 05/08 TWIC update 3: Eligibility for foreign nationals

Offshore Survey Division

- IMCA S 04/07 – Update on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)
- 02/08 Offshore Survey Division documents issued in 2007

Remote Systems & ROV Division

IMCA R 05/07 – Update on global navigation satellite systems (GNSS)

- 01/08 Remote Systems & ROV Division documents issued in 2007

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

Colour coding of gas cylinders and quads

The diving industry uses a variety of gases and gas mixtures in its operations, each of which has distinct qualities, a specific purpose and, of course, hazards.

IMCA D 043 updates guidance note AODC 016 setting out a common industry approach enabling anyone working with gas containers to be able to clearly identify the nature of the contents by means of relevant markings.



A diver entering the three-man wet bell at Dunoon

IMCA funds extended umbilical trials

In July 2007, the UK Health & Safety Executive gave a presentation to IMCA on the results of a questionnaire exercise it had undertaken, one of which was potential concern expressed by offshore diving personnel regarding the practice of divers' umbilicals being passively tended through a remote tend-point whilst diving from a vessel maintaining station by dynamic positioning.

An IMCA workgroup was formed to look into this practice, with particular focus on diver rescue scenarios. It

was agreed to carry out diving trials to test a number of scenarios and to compare active and passive tending techniques.

The workgroup prepared a procedure that reflected current industry practice and held dry trials in November, where a walk-through of the procedures was completed. Diving trials were carried out last month at the Professional Diving Academy, Dunoon, using a combination of training and industry personnel. A three-man wet bell system was used, enabling the trials team to simulate

various scenarios and diver deployment techniques, including surface supplied and closed bell operations.

The trials showed that both active and passive tending techniques, under appropriate conditions and subject to the necessary risk assessments, were viable techniques for industry to utilise.

The workgroup will now evaluate the trials results and disseminate the findings and guidance to industry via future IMCA documentation.

For more details, contact Paul.Evans@imca-int.com

DESIGN review

The Diving Equipment Systems Inspection Guidance Note (DESIGN) suite sets out IMCA's key guidance on diving equipment auditing and records. Four volumes exist, covering air, bell, mixed gas and mobile/portable diving systems. Each is available in printed and electronic (Word/Excel) formats.

A review is to be undertaken, particularly of the air and bell volumes published in 2000/1, to ensure their currency. Worked examples are also proposed to aid those undertaking the audits.

Training approval

IMCA approves courses for trainee air and bell diving supervisors, assistant life support technicians and diver medics. The first three courses form part of the supervisor/LST certification scheme process.

Such courses are subject to a regular audit, with spot inspections also undertaken. A number of establishments have recently been re-audited and had their approval successfully extended, while reported concerns have been addressed through auditing and dialogue with training providers.

Complete lists of recognised establishments can be found at www.imca-int.com/training

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Interdive Services Ltd, Stoke Damerel Business Centre,
3 & 3A Church Street, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4DT, UK

Marine Division



Two, six – heave!

IMCA's work on lifting operations in focus

Working on deck, many mariners became used to the old cry of “two six”, which derived from the gun crews of ships’ cannons. Each of the gun crew had a number, applicable to a specific task in the loading and firing of the cannon, with two and six the hands who would heave the gun back out to its firing position.

It was, of course, essential for both men to work in unison, heaving efficiently and in time on the gun tackles either side of the cannon, so the call “two, six – heave!” became associated with having to heave on a rope together and there lies the basic element of any lifting operation – teamwork, doing it right.

Lifting is endemic to much of the work that IMCA members do, but throughout the offshore industry lifting operations have been the source of numerous incidents and fatalities.

IMCA has long had guidance on aspects of lifting associated with diving and ROV operations, as well as the more recent *Crane specification document* (IMCA M 171), but there was for a long time a gap where there was no guidance for other subsea or deck lifting operations. In June 2005 this was addressed, as the Marine Division formed its Crane & Winch Operations Workgroup.

The workgroup’s members have dedicated themselves to the work, in spite of busy day jobs in this boom time for the industry.

Key publications include:

- ◆ *Guidelines for lifting operations* (IMCA SEL 019/M 187) – the centrepiece of the new lifting suite, these guidelines set out the necessary parameters and planning considerations for ensuring a safe lift

- ◆ The *Crane operator’s logbook* (for offshore vessels), which provide a recognisable, consistent format for recording work experience, training and competence assessments
- ◆ Safety pocket cards on lifting equipment and operations
- ◆ Currently being finalised, guidance on operational communications for lifting

Guidance on non-man-riding wire ropes is being reviewed with a proposed change to guidance on wire rope integrity management, with the group also monitoring developments such as the effects of the new harsh environments the industry is expanding into and the use of fibre ropes.

Whatever demands are made on the offshore industry in the future, lifting operations will be a major part of them. To survive, old gun teams had to do their job properly. To survive in lifting is no different. IMCA will continue to provide guidance aimed at safe and efficient lifting.

DP Training Executive Group begins

The inaugural meeting of the DP Training Executive Group (DPTEG) took place last month under the chairmanship of Captain Mark Pointon, DP Manager of the Nautical Institute.

Over the past few years much effort has been put into getting this group up and running and, although there had to be informal meetings prior to this, this was the first official meeting with nominated representatives of various stakeholders in attendance. Among the drivers for establishing this group has been the growth in the number of DP training centres and the need to strengthen and close the links between training providers and industry.

The group includes training representatives elected for the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Middle East and the Asia and Pacific regions plus industry representation in the form of IMCA, the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the UK Chamber of Shipping. All but ICS and IADC were able to attend on this occasion.

Items covered by the agenda included a review of the DP training system, electronic certification and the proposals for DP operator competence in the forthcoming STCW review. In addition to the minutes, a DPTEG newsletter has been produced by the institute to spread this information to a wider group, which is available on request from IMCA. The next meeting of the group will be hosted by IMCA in May.

For further information, contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com

IMCA lobbies IMO on SPS Code

IMCA is attending the February meeting of the IMO Ship Design & Equipment (DE) sub-committee in Bonn, Germany, where one of the key issues to be debated affecting IMCA members is a review of the Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code.

The code has been implemented by states either in law or through their national guidance regimes and a number of flag states have recently been reviewing their policies regarding the code.

Originally developed in the early 1980s, prior to the expansion of the offshore industry, the code was not specifically focused on offshore construction vessels as operated by IMCA members. This has led to recent problems in acceptance of some vessels by coastal states who try to apply the code to a vessel for the specific role being undertaken.

An example of this could be a supply vessel being tasked to act as an ROV support vessel, which could mean a significant number of non-crew personnel placed

onboard for the ROV operations. It might be possible to show that such a vessel has sufficient stability and safety criteria for the coast state to issue an exemption from certain parts of the code, with certain provisos such as not being allowed to carry cargo.

As part of the review now underway at IMO, a number of papers have been submitted to the IMO DE sub-committee.

Proposals now being considered specifically identify vessel types such as “salvage, cable-laying, seismic survey, diving support, pipe layer, floating crane” to come within the definition of ‘special purpose ship’ and could exclude “ships used to transport and accommodate industrial personnel not working onboard”.

Briefing on discussions at the meeting will be provided to members following the IMO meeting. Please contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com for further details on this issue or to relate particular experience as backup material for discussions.

Offshore Survey Division

Marine inspection checklist

The *Marine inspection checklist for small workboats* has been updated and is now available as a joint Offshore Survey and Marine Division document (IMCA M 189, IMCA S 004 Rev. 1).

The document provides a basic marine inspection standard for workboats used world-wide which are less than 500 gross tonnage and are therefore not required to have either an International Safety Management or an International Ship Security certificate (even though the principles outlined within the two codes are worth following).

The main purpose of the checklist is to verify that a workboat is being operated in a safe manner.

The revision has been carried out in light of revision of the small vessel code on which it was based, but with amendments to ensure the international applicability of this checklist.

The new version is available for downloading by members, including a Word version for electronic completion, or for purchase in printed form – visit www.imca-int.com/publications for full details.

Academic requirements guidance update

The Offshore Survey Division has updated its guidance on *Academic requirements for surveyors working in the offshore survey sector*, which is now available as IMCA S 005 Rev. 1.

The guidance sets out the skills and knowledge required of new recruits by survey companies, aiming to ensure individuals are well prepared for joining the industry.

Replacing the original 2002 edition, the guidance has been thoroughly reviewed and updated, taking current practices into account, particularly in relation to unfamiliar technology.

Topics covered include:

- ◆ expectations from offshore survey contractors
- ◆ health, safety and environment
- ◆ geodesy
- ◆ hydrography
- ◆ oceanography
- ◆ geology and geophysics

- ◆ mathematics
- ◆ survey computations
- ◆ surface positioning systems
- ◆ acoustics
- ◆ marine survey industry
- ◆ land and engineering survey
- ◆ data management and presentation
- ◆ databases
- ◆ IT skills
- ◆ technical report writing
- ◆ project management

IMCA is circulating the guidance to university departments around the world, with offers to assist in review or development of survey courses.

Work is ongoing on updating the dossier of survey course providers (IMCA S 002) which facilitates this distribution – updates from members on courses available in their own region would be welcome.

For more details, please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Election underway

As we go to press, the biennial election of the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee is underway. Voting members in the division should watch out for ballot papers and ensure that their vote is cast by the deadline. A report on the new committee will be included in the next issue.



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Remote Systems & ROV Division



ROV research plans progressing

During 2007, the Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee identified a number of areas in which engineering research would be of potential benefit to ROV operating companies and invited universities to consider partnerships on:

- ◆ umbilical corrosion
- ◆ buoyancy
- ◆ composite materials
- ◆ 'environmentally friendly' hydraulic fluids

Although the initial response was slow, there have now been useful discussions with one university over a possible three year PhD research programme, while representatives of another are to meet with the division's management committee to discuss how they could play a role in the research plans. A third institution has also expressed interest. The committee will now consider the proposals received and decide a way forward.

ROV activity statistics

IMCA's ROV contractor members have been asked to submit data on offshore activity levels for 2007.

A revised and simplified submission template has been prepared. This requests a single figure for ROV personnel employed world-wide on two dates, replacing the more complex North Sea and rest-of-world breakdown on three.

Members are asked to break down the information according

to the activity that best describes the work being done, such as construction, inspection repair and maintenance (IRM), drill support and cable laying.

All ROV contractors are encouraged to submit a return, to help enable an accurate picture of the industry to be produced. All individual returns will be kept confidential within the secretariat, with only the totals being released to the ROV committee and in the resulting information note.

Developments in ROV Technology

IMCA is holding a seminar on ROV issues alongside the *Oceanology International* exhibition and conference at London's ExCeL on 12 March, in a repeat of the successful event held two years ago at the same venue.

Presentations will be given on the following topics:

- ◆ Robotic convergence
- ◆ Motion forecasting for ROVs
- ◆ ROV DP - where are we now and where are we going?
- ◆ ROV operator training needs

with a panel discussion concluding the half-day programme.

The event is free of charge, but pre-registration is requested to allow suitable catering and other arrangements to be made. A CD of the presentations will be circulated to members and other delegates shortly after the event.

See www.imca-int.com/events for full details.





Widmore Business Centre
Oldfield Court
Widmore
Cambs. LA23 2HF
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)15394 48233
Fax: +44 (0)15394 58999
Email: enquiries@mtcs.ltd
Website: www.mtcs.ltd



High Voltage Training and Competence Assurance

MTCS Ltd specialise in providing training and competence assurance to the ROV industry on an international basis.

As part of our on-going commitment to the implementation of competence schemes, we are now offering an assessment program for the competence of personnel in the 'Safe Isolation of ROV High Voltage Systems'.

The assessment is designed to assess the competence of senior personnel who are required to take on the role of 'Isolating Authority' for ROV systems. The assessment will be conducted in accordance with nationally recognised standards of skills assessment.

Prior to assessment, candidates must have successfully completed a High Voltage Safety Awareness course and will be required to be competent to a minimum of 'Submersible Engineer' (Senior Pilot Technician) grade (or equivalent) within their companies Competence Scheme.

Candidates will undergo practical assessment on their companies specific equipment and procedures relating to all aspects of High Voltage isolation.

For further information on High Voltage Competence Assurance please contact MTCS Ltd.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Equipment valuation ◆ Safety management ◆ Technical authorship ◆ Procedure writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dive system build ◆ Project risk analysis ◆ Project HAZIDs ◆ Arbitration
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Fax +65 6546 3986
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Spotlight on Steve MacMillan

Steve MacMillan is General Manager of J Ray McDermott's Diving Division and has served as Chairman of the IMCA Middle East & India Section since 2002, as well as being the section's representative on the Diving Division Management Committee. In this article he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the work being done on behalf of members.



Please tell us about your company and what it does

J Ray McDermott ('J Ray') is a geographically diverse marine energy services company that creates the infrastructure necessary to produce and transport offshore oil and gas. We design, fabricate and install fixed and floating platforms, FPSO topsides and subsea production systems; and we have operations through the Americas, Middle East, India, Caspian and Asia Pacific regions.

Completing J Ray's integrated engineering, procurement, construction and installation (EPCI) portfolio, our marine division offers a versatile construction fleet of primary and support resources, experienced engineers and diverse capabilities in varying water depths.

What is your current job?

I am the General Manager for international diving operations undertaken by J Ray. Presently I am located in Dubai, UAE.

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

I started my diving career in 1981 with Taylor Diving out of Singapore, primarily working on Brown & Root barges. In 1985 I started with McDermott, working mainly in the Far East. I also worked with OPI for a few years in early 90s and ended up back with J Ray when the two companies merged in 1994. In early 1995 I was hired as an area manager for J Ray in the Far East.

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

At the moment, one of the key areas affecting the industry and our operations is the shortage of key personnel. On the one hand we have an ageing population and on the other we have a large number of young, inexperienced personnel joining us. Both present unique challenges.

What we are seeing here is one of the fall-outs from the downturn in the oil and gas industry that we experienced in the late 80s and early 90s. We basically lost an entire generation of personnel who would now be in their 30s and 40s and would be filling the roles of saturation supervisors and superintendents, as well as a number of other key positions throughout the marine, diving, ROV and survey divisions.

How can these issues be taken forward?

In my opinion there are no quick fixes to the present shortage of personnel. We can fast-track people into the industry at entry level, but the personnel we really need are experienced personnel. Experience cannot be fast-tracked. I believe that we will see a move towards engineered solutions as well as a move towards automation. Long term, I believe that the oil and gas producers need to work towards ensuring a long-term stable industry.

How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

We're a widespread group. IMCA provides the world's marine, diving, ROV and survey contractors with a single forum for sharing and promoting best practices throughout our industry and it provides others, such as our clients, with a single point of reference for communications back to the contractor ranks. Fact is, we share a community of issues and challenges and IMCA provides an organised, legally-permissible framework for us to promote what's good for us and good for the industry.

How do you see the future?

I see a very promising future. There is a substantial amount of development happening in many areas of the world. I don't think we have ever experienced this magnitude of work. Certainly there are many challenges ahead of us – as mentioned above, personnel will continue to be a very serious issue for all contractors as well as the oil and gas producers.

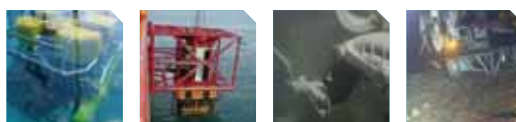
Forthcoming events

- 3-5 March 2008
Subsea Tieback Forum
Galveston, Texas, USA
- 5 March
IMCA Social Reception
HQS Wellington, London, UK
- 11-13 March
Oceanology International
ExCeL, London, UK
- 12 March
Developments in ROV Technology (IMCA seminar)
alongside Oceanology International
- 12 March
Europe & Africa Section
alongside Oceanology International
- 27 March
Asia-Pacific Section
Singapore
- 2 April
Americas Deepwater Section
Houston, USA
- 3-4 April
China Offshore Summit
Beijing, China
- 15-17 April
SPE 9th HSE Conference
Nice, France
- 28-30 April
Middle East Workboats
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 5-8 May
OTC – *Waves of change*
Houston, USA
- 12 May
Middle East & India Section
Jebel Ali, UAE
- 21-22 May
All Energy
Aberdeen, UK
- 22 May
IMCA Golf Day
Aberdeenshire, UK
- 6 June
IMCA Midsummer Ball
Aberdeenshire, UK
- 26-29 August
ONS – Offshore Northern Seas
Stavanger, Norway
- 5-6 November
Global alignment in marine operations – IMCA annual seminar
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Third party IMCA-supported events are listed above in plain (not bold) text

For full details on forthcoming events, including downloadable brochures, online registration and a more detailed calendar, please visit the website:

www.imca-int.com/events



Developments in ROV Technology

Wednesday 12 March 2008
alongside Oceanology International

Waterfront Room 12, ExCeL Exhibition Centre,
London, UK

- ◆ Robotic convergence
- ◆ Motion forecasting for ROVs
- ◆ ROV DP – *Where are we and where are we going?*
- ◆ ROV operator training needs
- ◆ Panel discussion

Admission free of charge with pre-registration

Full details available at www.imca-int.com/events

Visit IMCA on stand 123 at Oceanology International – www.oceanologyinternational.com

Reception aboard HQS Wellington

IMCA is holding a second social reception aboard HQS Wellington in London on **5 March 2008**.

The event, again attracting a high level of interest, is aimed at bringing members and industry colleagues together for a social evening and to spread the word about the Association and its work among a variety of guests.

Places are strictly limited, so please get in touch soon if you wish to attend.

Contact events@imca-int.com or call +44 (0) 20 7824 5520 for full details



IMCA Golf Day 2008

The fourth annual IMCA golf day will take place on **22 May** at the Newmachar golf course near Aberdeen.

Competing individually for the IMCA Quaich and in teams for the PML Challenge Trophy, members and their guests will have a morning shotgun start Stableford competition, lunch and prize giving.

The day has proved ever more popular, so start planning your team now and look out for registration details coming soon.

Booking opens early March – full details to come at www.imca-int.com/events



IMCA Midsummer Charity Ball 2008

Following the huge success of the 2007 event at Fyvie Castle, the 2008 ball will be held at Castle Fraser, Aberdeenshire, on **6 June**.

Once again, an exceptional National Trust for Scotland property set in stunning scenery will provide the backdrop for an elegant and engaging evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment.

Arrangements are well in hand, with sumptuous menus and first class entertainment planned. Make sure you and your team are there to join us for what will be a truly great evening.

Booking opens mid March – full details to come at www.imca-int.com/events

