

makingwaves

news from the International Marine Contractors Association

issue 48 – August 2008



IMCA membership is continuing to grow at a phenomenal rate but, just as importantly, is spreading around the world with companies active in more countries than ever before. There's far more to these figures than simply the numbers themselves, however, so what does this growth mean for our members around the world both new and old?

Less than a year after announcing our 400th member, IMCA has now grown to over 500 members. Not only that, but these members are active in more than 50 countries, showing a significant and increasing global spread.

While in many businesses growth of such numbers is a key goal, there's far more to the story of IMCA's recent success and to why we continue to promote membership to relevant organisations.

When IMCA was formed in 1995, its slogan was "representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies". That's still the case, but how is that achieved and what does the growth mean? In 1995 the association began with just 100 members – a strong voice in certain offshore sectors, but with 500

we speak on behalf of a much larger part of the global industry, which helps strengthen our voice and influence in discussions with regulators and client organisations around the world.

Each new member brings its own experience and expertise, which can be contributed during development of new and updated industry good practice guidance, helping to ensure and enhance its global focus and applicability.

Each new member also helps broaden the spread of critical information set out in IMCA's safety flashes that raises awareness of potential hazards and can help avoid repeat incidents; as well as providing new sources of such information, which can help all members in this regard, thus further enhancing offshore safety for us all.

Growth in every region is particularly noticeable at IMCA section meetings, which are attracting ever greater numbers of members and guests – potential members who often subsequently join the association.

While the secretariat itself monitors a variety of sources of information on national and international regulatory developments, local contacts held by individual members often have even better links, so as IMCA gains members in new countries, so the opportunities for dialogue with regulators in new areas increase, helping spread the word, raise awareness of IMCA guidance and other initiatives that have helped the industry achieve successful self-regulation and minimise unnecessary variation in national requirements.

Similarly, the growth in corresponding membership combined with the direct contacts of more and more contractors operating around the world helps raise awareness and opportunities for dialogue with oil companies and other clients, promoting good practice, discussion on important safety issues and providing aids to efficiency in non-competitive areas.

Turn the page to find out how IMCA is working to build on these achievements.

The full list of IMCA members, together with introductions to new companies joining, can be found in the centre pages of Making Waves and online at www.imca-int.com/members

Information for potential members can be found at www.imca-int.com/join

Also in this issue:

Help shape IMCA's future

IMCA is preparing to launch a survey of members' experiences of and priorities for the association. Make sure your voice is heard.

[find out more on page 2](#)

Ball raises record for charity

The 2008 IMCA Midsummer Charity Ball at Castle Fraser raised a record £3,000 for global seafarer support through the Sailors' Society.

[read the full report page 3](#)

Regional meetings growing

IMCA's regional section meetings are seeing a growth in attendance, interest and membership around the world. Don't miss out on your next gathering.

[get up to date on page 6](#)



International Marine Contractors Association

www.imca-int.com

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IMCA golf day goes with a swing

The fourth annual IMCA golf day took place on 22 May 2008, returning to the popular venue of Newmachar golf course in Aberdeenshire, UK.

Eighty players gathered for a shotgun start and 18-hole Stableford competition, followed by a fine lunch and prizegiving. An array of individual, team, 'skins' and novelty prizes was shared among competitors who reflected on this successful event and its regular good weather – another great day.

Jean Pritchard, a guest of the National Hyperbaric Centre, won the IMCA Quaich as best individual player, with 42 points – "I played out of my skin," she said, while the Poseidon Maritime Challenge Trophy for best team went to Houlder Insurance Services, with an aggregate 134 points.

Looking back at previous years' results, winning trends are emerging, with successful member companies including Subsea 7, Helix Energy Solutions Group, RBG and Kongsberg Maritime. The event not only attracts teams from Aberdeen, but also 'day trippers' from further afield. Both familiar and new faces were there, with a significant increase in lady golfers led, of course, by Jean, this year's winner.



Jean Pritchard leads the way at the 2008 IMCA golf day at Newmachar

Make your voice heard in our member survey

September will see the launch of a survey to capture members' views on the association, the services it provides and ideas for the future.

All member representatives, committee and workgroup members will be contacted early in the month with details of the web-based survey. We ask everyone who can to spend around 15 minutes completing it to help shape the future direction of IMCA – your association.

Perhaps there's an area where you think IMCA should be developing guidance. Maybe there's an issue where you think we should be liaising more closely with regulators and/or clients to put contractors' voices forward. You might think our publications could be improved, or you might want to say "actually you're doing well at this – don't change it".

Whatever your opinion, it's important that you make your voice heard so that the Overall Management Committee and secretariat can address it when co-ordinating the association's future activities.

New materials for promoting IMCA

Mid-2008 has seen the updating of a wide range of materials that help promote and explain IMCA and its activities.

- ◆ The new *IMCA in depth* brochure has been circulated to members and others
- ◆ Additional copies of this newsletter are also available on request, either on a one-off or regular basis as needed
- ◆ In line with the new brochure and recent website relaunch, our factsheets are also being redesigned and reviewed.

Copies of all of these materials are available for use within company offices, for sending to members' vessels (particularly so the newsletter), at trade shows and for promoting IMCA in any other situations.

You may wish to borrow an IMCA exhibition stand for use at internal company events where members wish to explain their involvement with the association.

Contact publications@imca-int.com or visit www.imca-int.com/documents for copies of any of these materials

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:

- ◆ Take part in the forthcoming membership survey to help shape the future direction and activities of the association see page 2 (left)
- ◆ Submit an abstract for the IMCA safety seminar in Houston next March see page 4
- ◆ Encourage discussion on bed space provision for trainees with your colleagues and clients see page 5
- ◆ Contribute your company policy to help develop guidance on diving hoses and whips see page 11
- ◆ Contribute to ROV activity statistics for 2008 see page 14
- ◆ 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)



Midsummer charity ball

The IMCA midsummer charity ball took place on 6 June at Castle Fraser in Aberdeenshire, UK. A piper welcomed over 250 guests from the turrets of this fantastic National Trust of Scotland property.

A champagne reception was held in the castle's great hall and library with a pianist and harpist providing musical accompaniment. When dinner was announced, guests were piped in to a beautifully decorated marquee in the grounds. Hugh Williams welcomed guests to the ball while Rev. Howard Drysdale said grace as the exquisite three course dinner commenced. During dessert, group te POOKa began the main entertainment with a juggling and comedy performance accompanied by percussion music, with a pirate among their theatrical characters.

Ahead of the Euro 2008 football championship, the annual 'heads and tails' game was replaced with 'red card, yellow card' which, together with a casino, raised a record £3,000 for the Sailors' Society, "a worldwide organisation providing a personal lifeline for seafarers without distinction for nationality or faith which exists to enrich and enhance seafarers' lives, replacing their isolation with belonging". IMCA President Knut Boe of Technip gave a brief address after coffee before dancing got underway with the Simon Howie Dance Band providing a mix of traditional Scottish folk tunes and modern music.

Approaching midnight, guests moved out into the castle grounds for a theatrical acrobatic fire show by te POOKa, performed to traditional and modern celtic music, with a combination of torches and fire sculptures in the background.



Hugh Williams presents a cheque for £3,000 raised at the midsummer charity ball to Robert Adams, General Secretary of the Sailors' Society

Changes to certification scheme administration

After over twenty years' service to the association, Vicki Graham is to retire as Certification Schemes Administrator later this year and a replacement is being recruited to work in IMCA's London offices.

There will be a handover period and Diving Division members will be notified shortly, but from 1 October all correspondence regarding examinations and certificates should be sent to London (see page 7).

From the President



6 July was the twentieth anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster.

I think it is fair to say that this tragic event led to a definitive change in the approach to safety

around the world. Safety remains at the top of the agenda for the marine industry. Reminding ourselves what has happened and what can happen is the best way of avoiding complacency, which is one of the greatest threats to good safety performance.

IMCA membership has reached and passed 500. I would like to welcome our new members and hope that they will derive significant value from their membership of the association. The spread of IMCA throughout the world is increasing month on month. I encourage all readers to study the list of new members in this issue and recognise that it is not only the size but also the breadth of the organisation which is increasing.

We have commissioned a membership satisfaction survey that members will receive in September and I want all members to respond. By contributing you will be helping shape IMCA's future direction to better meet your needs.

IMCA continues to hold and get involved in a variety of events which are helping raise the profile of the association, spread the message and achieve our ongoing objectives.

- ◆ The midsummer charity ball which took place in June was a good follow-up to last year's event, with Castle Fraser providing an excellent venue for an enjoyable evening
- ◆ IMCA will be exhibiting at ONS in Norway later this month and we look forward to welcoming members and others who visit us there
- ◆ *Global alignment in marine operations* is the title of the 2008 annual seminar which will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5-6 November. The brochure for the event has been issued and I feel confident that it will be a very worthwhile event for members to participate in.

Finally, I would like to wish all our northern hemisphere members an enjoyable summer.

Knut Boe, Technip
IMCA President 2007-8

News from IMCA's core activities – SEL and TCPC

Call for papers for 2009 safety seminar

The IMCA safety seminar will take place on 11-12 March 2009 at Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros baseball team.

Submissions of abstracts for presentations are invited on the seminar theme – *Health, Safety and the Environment: Covering the Global HSE Bases* – as well as suggestions for topics for the small group discussion sessions that always prove so productive.

The first major IMCA event in the region since 2003, we hope to build on the growth and success of the Americas Deepwater Section, whose meetings have seen increasing participation from members and oil company clients.

As in previous years, the event will feature a mix of presentations and discussion, together with a safety share fair where contractors can display and discuss posters and other materials relating to their own successful safety initiatives.

Full details will be circulated to members and posted online in due course.

Contact events@imca-int.com to submit a paper for consideration.

Promoting safety and security

Latest products of the SEL committee aim to make vital guidance and key reminders visible to the workforce

Working at height

A revised safety pocket card on working at height has been published (number 6, issue 2).

This updates the previous version, issued in 2003, reflecting changes in regulatory approaches to the issue and introduces a 'hierarchy of risk' to help provide guidance both for planning purposes and for those working offshore to be aware of, covering avoiding working at height where possible, reducing the risk of incident (e.g. by using barriers) and minimising the severity of any incident which might occur (e.g. by using fall restraints and other personal protective equipment).

Sets of the card are available in printed form, with the print files available as always for downloading and adapting with members' own logos and references.

The card is a useful reminder of the messages in the *Working at height* DVD (IMCA SEL 009) and is part of the growing catalogue of safety promotion materials available from IMCA.

Avoiding pinch points

'Caught between' incidents continue to feature in members' safety statistics. A new pocket card is in development which will focus on simple steps to help workers spot potential pinch points and avoid such injuries.

Security

Two new IMCA posters are being prepared by the Security Task Force. The new posters will continue the humorous style of those on back injuries; slips, trips and falls; use of ladders; and avoiding dropped objects with specially commissioned illustrations.

The first addresses vessel security and is designed to tie in with IMCA's introduction to the International Ship & Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code (IMCA SEL 017) and will highlight the importance of security matters such as the use of identification badges, gangway watches, thorough checking of equipment being brought onboard and access to restricted areas.

A second poster will address personal travel security, allied with the existing guidance (IMCA SEL 014) and pocket card (13), covering the need to stay alert when travelling, avoiding attracting attention and the importance of treating officials with courtesy and respect.

Keep up to date with developments online at www.imca-int.com/sel and www.imca-int.com/security



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Enabling 'experience transfer' offshore

Whether it's vessel crews, drilling personnel, divers or ROV teams, practically all IMCA members have reported skills shortages and difficulty as they try to recruit, train and retain the skilled personnel needed to expand their global coverage to meet the growing global demand for projects and services.

IMCA, its members and their clients are all involved in a variety of initiatives to raise awareness of the range of exciting careers available in our industry, to engage with students and potential recruits working in other industries and to ensure that educational establishments and training providers equip their students with the range of engineering and technical skills needed by the industry in its operations.

However, even courses at the leading global establishments using the best facilities and equipment and following syllabi developed in conjunction with industry partners cannot fully prepare individuals for working offshore. There needs to be a transfer of experience from our current workforce to new recruits. This means the new recruits need to go offshore with working teams, which contractors are willing and keen to do, but which adds to accommodation requirements offshore.

Some IMCA members have reported an excellent level of support from their clients (including both oil companies and lead contractors), but this experience is not mirrored across the industry or in every part of the world. While some members are seeing success in agreeing acceptable levels of bed space for trainees, others report that clients are unwilling to meet requests for the extra space needed to enable experience transfer offshore.

If the industry is to meet the challenges of the global market in the coming years, *all* contractors and their clients need to work together to facilitate provision of bed space for trainees as a vital part of addressing the potential crisis that is the global skills shortage.



New medical guidelines nearing publication

The TCPC committee is leading work on two new initiatives on health and medical issues which are nearing completion.

First aid drills is a new document intended to help members ensure the standard by which their first aid drills are undertaken as part of on-the-job training follows current medical and triage guidelines.

It sets out a variety of credible scenarios by which all personnel – not just appointed first aiders – can participate in drills appropriate to the offshore workplace. 72 scenarios have been developed in sections such as saturation, machinery spaces, ROV spread and elevated work areas, providing drills suitable for the wide variety of different operations, equipment and workspaces that are part of members' offshore activities.

It is recommended that all those working on offshore vessels should be examined periodically to ensure their fitness to work in the offshore environment.

New Medical guidelines for non-marine crew working in the offshore environment set out a guide for physicians undertaking these examinations.

While marine crew are subject to the relevant flag state seafarer medical standard and divers undergo a specialised annual fitness-to-dive examination, other personnel can either be asked to be certified to varying regulatory or client requirements or, indeed, to no specific standard at all.

IMCA is aiming to fill this gap by producing a guide setting out a consistent approach for use on a world-wide basis by flag state-approved examining physicians.



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Regional news

Americas Deepwater Section

The section met on 23 July with 59 member and guest attendees. Following presentations on oil company activities in the Gulf of Mexico at the April meeting, John Sprot of Technip and Greg Donnelly of Subsea 7 provided interesting contractors' perspectives on these same GoM projects.

The next meeting is being planned for a hotel venue in Houston later in the year, as the section expands its ambitions.



Asia-Pacific Section

The Asia-Pacific Section held its latest meeting at the Ayodya resort in Bali, Indonesia. The well attended meeting included the usual member-only discussions followed by an IMCA general and technical update with clients and potential new members joining the meeting as guests (see photograph above).

In the afternoon, consultant Jon Machin gave an informative and thought-provoking presentation on recent advances in ROVs for drilling, trenching and mining applications in deep water. The presentation considered global market trends and focused on innovative projects in the region in recent years in which he had been personally involved. The meeting concluded with three workshops enabling discussion of current IMCA projects.

The following day a number of enthusiastic golfers enjoyed an informal round of golf in a beautiful setting on this lovely island.

Europe & Africa Section

While the section itself has not held a meeting this quarter, members in the region have come together at events such as the golf day and midsummer ball (see page 2).

Middle East & India Section

Members enjoyed the recent meeting held at the Jebel Ali Golf Resort Shooting Club. Following a world-wide update presented by Jane Bugler and Hugh Williams, the work of the technical divisions was discussed. World-wide and local diving issues were covered and useful feedback gained from members on the use of the Common Marine Inspection Document (CMID) and the status of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code. The skills shortage was discussed, as well as the new and updated material at www.imca-int.com/careers

Hugh, Jane and leading local members then travelled to Mumbai, India, where an IMCA briefing seminar took place on 14 May. The event attracted over 60 members and guests active in this region. Presentations were given on IMCA and its structure, the work programme, and then three presentations focusing on members' own experience of published Diving and Marine Division material (given by section chairman Steve MacMillan and Marine representative Alan Adamson respectively), as well as the experiences of a local training establishment. The high quality presentations encouraged a lively question and answer session with the attendees and have led to subsequent positive feedback.

The next section meeting will take place on 13 October in the UAE, with a further briefing seminar in India also being arranged.

Keep up to date on the latest regional developments, forthcoming meetings and third party events at www.imca-int.com/regions

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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

Knut Boe, Technip

IMCA Vice-President

Johan Rasmussen, Acergy

Regional Section Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Americas Deepwater

Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors

Tony Duncan, Acergy

Asia-Pacific

Andy Bolton, Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

Mark Shepherd, Mermaid Offshore Services

Europe & Africa

Brian Leith, Acergy

Jim Sommerville, Fugro-Rovtech

Middle East & India

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott

Roy Donaldson, BUE Marine

Hugh Williams, *Chief Executive*

Jane Bugler, *Technical Director*

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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:
Neil Milne, Subsea 7
Espen Ingebreetsen, Oceaneering

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Bart Westerhout, Allseas

Jim Knight, Heerema Marine Contractors

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

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Vice-Chairman: Pete Fougere, Transocean

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: Mike Lawson, Transocean

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

Middle East & India: Vacancy

Offshore Survey Division MC

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Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7/Veripos

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ed Danson, C&C Technologies

Perry Balls, DeepOcean

Simon Barrett, 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

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Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Craig Darroch, Acergy

Pauline Irwin, DOF

Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG

Gavin Smith, Subsea 7

Roy Hay, Technip

Andy Stewart, UK Project Support

Americas: Tony Greenwood, Cal Dive International

Asia-Pacific: Mike Kelly, SeaSafe

Middle East & India: Mohamed Omar, INW

Diving Division Management Committee

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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

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Colin Mackay, Acergy

Massimo Martini, DNT Offshore

Jim Mann, Fugro

John Davies, Global Marine Systems

Mike Arnold, Hallin Marine

David Rhodes, Integrated Subsea Services

Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International, Inc.

Mark Slessor, Saipem

John Pirie, Technip

Grant Cowie, TS Marine (Contracting)

Americas: Ian Edmonstone, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific: Ian Huggins, Hallin Marine

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

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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
Galliano Marine Service LLC
GeoLab srl
Global Industries Ltd (Americas)
Global Industries Ltd (Asia-Pacific)
Global Industries Ltd (Europe & Africa)
Global Industries Ltd (ME & India)
Global Marine Systems Ltd
GOGAS Gulf Oil and Gas LLC
Great Offshore Ltd
Greatship (India) Ltd
Gulf Dredging & General Contracting
Gulf Marine Services
Gulf Offshore (North Sea) Ltd
Gulmar Offshore Middle East LLC
Halani Shipping Pvt Ltd
Hallin Marine
Hallin Marine UK Ltd
Halul Offshore Services Co.
Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc.
HEISCO
Horizon Survey Company (FZC)
Hull Support Services Ltd
Huta Marine Works Ltd
IDMC – Impresub Diving & Marine
Impresub International LLC
Integrated Subsea Services Ltd
Intl Marine Works - Alexandria
Intl Naval Works - Abu Dhabi
IRSHAD
Island Offshore Management AS
Jack-Up Barge BV
Jumbo Offshore VoF
Lamnalco Group
PT Lancar Rejeki Berkati Jaya
LD Travocean
Louisiana Overseas Inc
Maersk Supply Service
Maridive & Oil Services (SAE)
Maridive Offshore Projects
Marine Consulting srl
Marine Logistics Solutions (MarSol)
Marine Subsea AS
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 Marine Services Inc.
Noordhoek Offshore BV
NOR Offshore Ltd
Nordic Heavy Lift ASA
Northern Marine Management Ltd
NPCC Survey
Ocean Works Asia Inc.
Oceaneering International (UK)
Oceaneering International Asia Pacific
Oceaneering International Inc.
Oceanteam Subsea Services Ltd
Offshore Geo-Surveys Sdn Bhd
Offshore Manpower SA
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
Phoenix International
Pride International
Prosafe 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
Seascope Surveys Pte Ltd
Sea Trucks Group FZE (ME & India)
Sea Trucks Group FZE (Asia-Pacific)
Sea Trucks Group FZE (Eur & Africa)
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 Europe
SMIT Subsea Middle East LLC
SMIT Subsea (Singapore)
Solstad Shipping AS
Stapem Offshore SA
Stena Drilling Ltd
Submersible Television Surveys Ltd
Subocean Group Ltd
Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
Subsea Explore Services (M) Sdn Bhd
Subsea Intervention Technologies
Subsea Petroleum Services
Subtech (Pty) Ltd
Subtech Offshore
Superior Offshore International
Switzer
Swire Pacific Offshore Operations
Target Engineering Construction Co.
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
Transoceanic Cable Ship Co. Inc.
Trico Marine Services Inc.
Trico Supply (UK) Ltd
Troms Offshore AS
TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd
TS Marine Pty Ltd
Underwater Services Company
Unidive Marine Services Pte Ltd
URS nv
Van Oord Offshore BV
Vastalux Sdn Bhd
Vroon Offshore Services BV
VTT Maritime AS
Wagenborg Offshore BV
PT Wintermar
Workshops Contractors BV
Zakher Marine International

Suppliers

Suppliers of equipment

ABB Ltd
Advanced Marine Pte Ltd
PT Advanced Oil & Gas Consulting
Air Liquide America LP
Air Products plc
Air Products Middle East FZE
Air Products Singapore Pte Ltd
Analox Sensor Technology Ltd
Ashtead Technology (SEA) Pte Ltd

Balmoral Offshore Engineering
Bibby Offshore Ltd
Bourbon
Bridon
Brunvoll AS
CAPE Group Ltd
CCC Arcadia (Subsea) Ltd
Chesterfield Special Cylinders 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
Eastar Offshore Pte Ltd
Franklin Offshore International Pte Ltd
General Robotics Ltd
Global Gases & Chemicals FZCO (Dubai)
Global Gases Group (Singapore) Pte Ltd
Global Gases South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Great Offshore Ltd
Guidance Navigation Ltd
Halani Shipping Pvt Ltd
Hydra Marine (Pty) Ltd
Hyperbaric Technology BV (Hytech)
IXSEA
JW Automarine
Kenz Figeo BV
Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
Kongsberg Maritime AS
Kongsberg Maritime Ltd
KTL Offshore Pte Ltd
Kystdesign AS
L-3 Communications
Lexmar Engineering Pte Ltd
Marine Solutions (Pty) 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
Redaelli Tecnica spa
Rolls-Royce Oy Ab
Rolv Berg Drive AS
ROV Supply Pte Ltd
Saab Seaeeye Ltd
SBM Offshore NV
Schilling Robotics, Inc.
Schilling Robotics Ltd
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
Submarine Manufacturing & Products Ltd
Submec Offshore Pty Ltd
Subsea Vision Ltd
Trelleborg Protective Products AB
Trico Supply (UK) Ltd
Trim Systems Pte Ltd
The Tritanium Company
Underwater Technology 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
CAPE Group Ltd
C-MAR Services (UK) Ltd
Construction Specialists Ltd (CSL)
Cosalt
DMC Offshore
DOWC
El-Automation AS
Electrical Power Engineering Ltd
Falconer Bryan Pte Ltd
Fender & Spill Response Services

For the current list of members, including website links, visit
www.imca-int.com/members

Franklin Offshore International Pte Ltd
 Global Maritime
 Houlder Insurance Services Ltd
 Imes Ltd
 Inchcape Shipping Services
 Inchcape Shipping Services – Americas
 Independent Risk Solutions BV
 K2 Specialist Services Pte Ltd
 KB Associates Pte Ltd
 Lexmar Engineering Pte Ltd
 London Offshore Consultants Ltd
 M3 Marine Pte Ltd
 Marex Marine Services 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
 Offshore Marine Management Ltd
 PAE Singapore Pte Ltd
 Perry Slingsby Systems Ltd
 Peterson SBS Den Helder BV
 PML (Noble Denton Consultants Ltd)
 Promarine Ltd
 QinetiQ Ltd
 Reel Group Ltd
 Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc
 Schilling Robotics, Inc.
 SeaSafe Pte Ltd
 Sebastian AS
 Skan-El Skipsprosjektering AS
 Sparrows Offshore Services Ltd
 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
 Alesund 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
 C-MAR Asia Pte Ltd
 Commercial Diving Academy
 De Moura Shipping Ltda
 Delphinus Services - ROV Training
 Divers Academy International
 Divers Institute of Technology
 Diving Diseases Research Centre
 Falck Nutech by
 The Faraday Centre Ltd
 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
 Intervide Services Ltd
 KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd
 Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
 Lowestoft College
 Marine Solutions (Pty) Ltd
 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 Science
 Netherlands Diving Centre
 The Ocean Corporation
 Offshore Skills Training Centre (OSTRAC)
 PetroVietnam Manpower Training College
 PML (Noble Denton Consultants Ltd)
 PNI Training Centre AS
 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
 SMTG 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

Personnel agencies

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

Naval units

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

Corresponding Members

Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company
 Agip 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 Energy Technology Co. – Subsea
 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
 Husky Energy
 International Diving Schools Association
 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
 Oilco North Sea Ltd
 Petro Canada - Terra Nova Project
 Petrobras SA
 Premier Oil Natuna Sea Ltd
 PTT Exploration & Production plc
 Ras Laffan Industrial City
 Sarawak Shell Berhad
 Shell International E&P BV
 Shell Petroleum Dev. Co. of Nigeria Ltd
 Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd
 Sonangol Pesquisa & Produção
 StatoilHydro
 Talisman Energy (UK)
 Talisman 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:

- ◆ **ACSM**
 Based in Vigo in Spain, the company is an agency providing ROV pilots/technicians for work class ROVs and subsea cable ploughs, together with other offshore personnel.
 Tel: +34 986 441 640 Web: www.acsmships.com
- ◆ **Air Liquide America LP**
 A supplier of industrial and diving gas mixtures tailored for the demanding requirements of offshore operations in the US and internationally.
 Tel: +1 713 499 6867 Web: www.us.airliquide.com
- ◆ **Air Products Middle East FZE**
- ◆ **Alam Subsea Pte Ltd**
- ◆ **Atlantic Resourcing Ltd**
- ◆ **CCC (Arcadia) Subsea Ltd**
- ◆ **Chevron Energy Technology Company Subsea**
- ◆ **CNS International srl**
 An Italian provider of diving and related services with a history of challenging projects in various water depths internationally.
 Tel: +39 0585 533 66 Web: www.cns-net.com
- ◆ **Con-Dive LLC**
 A US-based provider of subsea services including diving, pipeline and marine construction in the US and selected international locations with membership in all four IMCA regions.
 Tel: +1 713 358 8700 Web: www.con-dive.com
- ◆ **Exmed Stirling Ltd**
- ◆ **Galliano Marine Service LLC**
 Part of the US-based Edison-Chouest group, owner/operator one of the world's largest offshore service vessel fleets
 Tel: +1 985 601 4444 Web: www.chouest.com
- ◆ **General Robotics Ltd**
 A UK-based supplier of real-time subsea simulation software, including 3D visualisation, live data monitoring, engineering and training, with over 20 years of subsea involvement.
 Tel: 44 (0) 1908 224 670 Web: www.generalrobotics.co.uk
- ◆ **Global Industries Ltd - Europe & Africa**
- ◆ **Hallin Marine UK Ltd**
- ◆ **Husky Energy**
- ◆ **IDMC srl - Impresub Diving & Marine Contractor**
- ◆ **Impresub International LLC**
- ◆ **Inchcape Shipping Services – Americas**
 The US affiliate of our existing Middle East & India Section member, Inchcape delivers a range of tailored agency and logistics services to the offshore sector globally.
 Tel: +1 504 599 8700 Web: www.iss-shipping.com
- ◆ **Irish Naval Service**
- ◆ **K2 Specialist Services Pte Ltd**
 A specialist in quality assurance and asset integrity management, K2 provides specialist inspection, testing and engineering support services to the offshore sector.
 Tel: +65 6545 7646 Web: www.k2.com.sg
- ◆ **M3 Marine Pte Ltd**
- ◆ **Marine Subsea AS**
 A Norwegian company operating a growing fleet including multipurpose subsea intervention vessels, particularly involved in marine operations offshore West Africa
 Tel: www.marinesubsea.no Web: www.marinesubsea.no
- ◆ **Nordic Heavy Lift ASA**
 A newly established company which has ordered a DP3 high speed heavy lift crane vessel Borealis to provide global services in offshore transportation, installation and engineering.
 Tel: +31 (0)10 204 5565 Web: www.nordicheavylift.com
- ◆ **Offshore Manpower SA**
 Providing experienced ROV project personnel, with increasing operations in Asia, particularly the South China Sea, and active around the world.
 Tel: +86 0755 26677754 Web: www.offshoremanpower.com
- ◆ **Offshore Marine Services UK Ltd**
- ◆ **Peterson SBS Den Helder BV**
- ◆ **Phoenix International**
 A US-based provider of underwater operations, design engineering and project management services to the oil and gas, defence and other industries world-wide.
 Tel: +1 281 815 8050 Web: www.phnx-international.com
- ◆ **PNI Training Centre AS**
- ◆ **Sea Trucks Group FZE**
- ◆ **StatoilHydro ASA**
 A Norwegian-headquartered, integrated technology-based, international energy company primarily focused on upstream oil and gas operations.
 Tel: +47 51 99 00 00 Web: www.statoilhydro.com
- ◆ **Subsea Explore Services (M) Sdn Bhd**
- ◆ **Target Engineering Construction Co.**
 A long-established Abu Dhabi based multi-faceted engineering company with dedicated divisions for oil and gas and marine construction.
 Tel: +971 2 671 4700 Web: www.target.ae
- ◆ **Team Trident LLC**
- ◆ **The Faraday Centre Ltd**
 A UK-based organisation specialising in electrical training. Covering both high and low voltage, courses include practical hands-on sessions with theoretical training in purpose-built facilities.
 Tel: +44 (0)1642 467 236 Web: www.faradaycentre.co.uk
- ◆ **Transoceanic Cable Ship Company Inc**
- ◆ **Trico Marine Services Inc**
- ◆ **Trico Supply (UK) Ltd**
- ◆ **Wagenborg Offshore BV**

Recent name changes

- ◆ The DP Centre Singapore is now C-MAR Asia Pte Ltd
- ◆ GTC Group is now Cosalt
- ◆ Oceanteam 2000 Ltd is now Aquanos Ltd

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:

- ◆ **IMCA in depth** brochure Issue 2 – June 2008
- ◆ **Working at height** (Pocket safety card number 6, issue 2)
- ◆ **Diving operations from vessels operating in dynamically positioned mode** (IMCA D 010 Rev. 3)
- ◆ **Operational communications: Part 2 – Lifting operations** (IMCA SEL 020/M 193)

Safety flashes:

- ◆ **Safety flash 09/08** – covering 2 incidents: Loss of DP position caused by incorrect gyro heading; Abrasion of metal casing
- ◆ **Safety flash 10/08** – covering 4 incidents: Unsecured object fell and injured crewman; Dry suit installation onto a KM 37 helmet; GPS antenna problems; Fire watches for surface welding and burning operations
- ◆ **Safety flash 11/08** – covering 2 incidents: Catastrophic failure of vessel main crane wire; Incorrect lifting equipment used
- ◆ **Safety flash 12/08** – covering 3 incidents: Ballast tank hydrogen; Incorrectly colour coded oxygen cylinders; Hand injury

Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL)

IMCA SEL 09/08 – Safety statistics for IMCA members: Report for 2007

- 10/08 Risk assessment matrices: A brief overview
- 11/08 Helicopter operations
- 12/08 Election results: SEL core committee

Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC) – none

Diving Division

IMCA D 08/08 – Surface supply breathing requirements for Kirby Morgan helmets and band masks

- 09/08 Diving supervisor example offshore training schedules
- 10/08 Diver tools and skills training
- 11/08 Cal Dive International report on temperature-rise investigation: Underwater drilling and grinding

Marine Division

IMCA M 13/08 – Helicopter operations

- 14/08 Incidents where external factors affected DP
- 15/08 Dynamic Positioning Training Executive Group (DPTEG): Update

Offshore Survey Division – none

Remote Systems & ROV Division

IMCA R 03/08 – SERPENT: Scientific and Environmental ROV Partnership using Existing iNdustry Technology

- 04/08 World-wide ROV personnel statistics for 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:

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Diving Division



Diving from DP vessels

Since the 1970s it has been common practice to carry out diving operations from vessels operating in dynamic positioning (DP) mode. During this time several documents have been published which give guidance on ways of achieving safe operations using this system. However, incidents have occurred world-wide which have resulted in the injury and death of divers, so IMCA regularly reviews its guidance on the subject.

The latest edition of IMCA's guidance note on *Diving operations from vessels operating in dynamically positioned mode* has now been published (IMCA D 010 Rev. 3).

The objectives of the guidance are to ensure that valid and reliable controls are in place; and that personnel are competent to discharge their responsibilities in a safe and effective manner.

IMCA aims to achieve these objectives by providing diving contractors, vessel masters and clients with operational guidance that is based on sound safety principles and which highlights the need for: an adequate safety management system; hazard identification and an appropriate level of risk assessment; approved working procedures; and adequate briefings before operations begin.

The guidance covers all aspects of air, nitrox and saturation diving operations and also takes into account other relevant guidance and the status of vessel and operational technology.

The revision aims to reflect the latest operational experience and address feedback with changes as follows:

- ◆ Increased emphasis of the risks of diving within anchor patterns;
- ◆ changes to sections on safety management, umbilicals and shallow water to provide further clarification and to make the document easier for the reader.

The revision reflects other recent work within IMCA, including:

- ◆ the revisions in IMCA M 103 Rev. 1 – *Guidelines for the design and operation of DP vessels* – issued in December 2007;
- ◆ the results of the extended umbilical trials held in January 2008 on which we reported in issue 46.

The new guidance is available for downloading from the members-only website or for purchase – see www.imca-int.com/publications

Bell outer doors

Following communications and discussions with regulators in certain areas of operations regarding the use of bell outer doors during saturation diving operations, an IMCA workgroup was formed to assist diving contractors when using a risk-based approach to decide if the use of bell outer doors is appropriate or not.

Historically, bell outer doors have been used to enable the option of bell-bounce diving and when bell launch and recovery systems were not dedicated and specifically designed for purpose.

The advancement in dedicated certified launch and recovery systems has now led to the use of bell outer doors no longer being seen as commonplace or always necessary, but the decision to use or not use a bell outer door may not always have been part of a formal risk assessment.

Existing IMCA guidance covers the need for bell doors to be in place which are capable of providing a pressure seal against both internal and external pressure. However, it does not address the issue of when outer doors should be used or if circumstances exist when saturation diving without the use of bell outer doors could safely be carried out.

The issue is to avoid increased external pressure acting on the inner door causing the bell to flood should the bell fall below the planned working depth. Using a bell outer door could provide a positive means of avoiding external pressure acting on the inner door. However, using an outer door could only provide such a seal during the launch and recovery phases of the run, i.e. when divers are not locked out.

The workgroup is finalising text setting out preventative and control mitigation measures, detection and the actions to be taken in response to any emergency situations that might occur.

Flexible hoses & whips

The division's Safety, Medical, Technical & Training (SMTT) Committee is currently considering certification, guidance and discard criteria for flexible hoses and whips. Members have reported a variety of rules and requirements on use, inspection and rejection of these items and that such requirements can often be ambiguous.

A questionnaire has been circulated to members of the committee seeking feedback on members' own company policies, which will be collated for discussion later this month.

Other members are also welcome to contribute to and participate in this work. The SMTT committee is open to all contractor and supplier members in the division and is a key forum for development and review of new and revised IMCA guidance, enabling members' expertise and operational experience to be incorporated through discussion at its meetings and input via e-mail correspondence.

Any members wishing to contribute to this or other SMTT committee work items should contact
Paul.Evans@imca-int.com

Prof. Philip James

Diving industry figures gathered on 29 March to mark the retirement of pioneering diving doctor Professor Philip James.

IMCA, on behalf of its diving contractor members, recognises with gratitude the contribution of Prof. James to diving medicine through, for example, working for several diving contractors as a medical adviser and providing medical emergency assistance, the invention of the concept of 'diver medic' and the training of over 640 divers since 1976. Prof. James served for many years on DMAC – the Diving Medical Advisory Committee – and provided innovative advice on the management of diving gases which has resulted in improved therapeutic treatment and operational safety.

Marine Division

Arnfinn Vika

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Arnfinn Vika, an active member of IMCA's Marine Division Management Committee since the association was formed.

Originally from Bømlo, Norway, Arnfinn had a long career in the industry, going to sea at a young age and sailing on a variety of ships – beginning his education in marine engineering, which saw him become one of the country's youngest chief engineers.

He joined what would subsequently become Acergy back in 1976 as senior superintendent engineer, involved in new builds and various aspects of the company's vessel operations.

In addition to a series of senior roles within his company, Arnfinn saw the benefits of active involvement in DPVOA (the DP Vessel Owners' Association) and subsequently IMCA, where for over a decade he was a major contributor to the work of the marine committee.

He was also actively involved in the Norwegian Shipowners' Association.

Arnfinn will be greatly missed.



Common Marine Inspection Document

When the first issue of the Common Marine Inspection Document (IMCA M 149, the 'CMID') was published in 1999, the intention was to produce a common vessel inspection format that could be used by owners and charterers world- and industry-wide, identifying key aspects to be addressed in a recognisable format and helping to minimise unnecessary repeat audits and variation in requirements, thus improving efficiency and maximising operational uptime.

This goal is being achieved to an ever greater degree, with increasing use and client recognition around the world, but as the document has evolved through various revisions and as it has gained use in new markets, a variety of issues have arisen that are now being addressed through a workgroup comprising representatives of both IMCA and OGP (the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers).

There are three key elements to the group's work, each of which is intended to further improve the CMID and thus promote use and adoption by vessel operators and clients alike:

- ◆ Improving the CMID's format by reviewing the overall layout and technical content – such as inclusion of a new section on security, incorporation of key appendices into the main document and reference to related topic-specific inspection documents (such as DESIGN for diving systems)
- ◆ improving completion of CMID reports by clarifying inspector instructions and setting out guidance on the knowledge and experience they need
- ◆ improving access to completed CMID reports

A workshop for CMID users – ranging from contractor management and vessel personnel to consultants (vessel inspectors) and client representatives – is planned for 25 September in the Netherlands at which the changes to the CMID will be presented and the issues arising from the review process can be considered.

For more information on the CMID Workgroup, please contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com

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Offshore Survey Division

DP incident reports

The Marine Division Management Committee is establishing a workgroup to review the DP incident reporting system, including the layout of and definitions set out in the IMCA reporting forms.

The current system has served the industry well, with data on incidents over 28 years compiled and analysed to help identify and address common causes, helping to keep the ever growing global DP fleet safe and operational.

However, the committee is keen to promote a higher level of reporting to help make the resulting annual reports as useful as possible.

All vessel operating members are encouraged to submit reports either using the forms available online (www.imca-int.com/incidentreports) or in their own company format if preferred.

All submissions are treated confidentially within the secretariat, with anonymised analysis agreed with contributors before committee review and publication.

Anybody interested in contributing to this workgroup should contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com

New survey publications planned

The Offshore Survey Division Management Committee is embarking on a number of initiatives to develop new and updated guidance and related technical documents, aimed at expanding its existing catalogue to further assist members in their offshore operations.

Deepwater acoustics

Guidance on deepwater acoustic positioning is now nearing completion and is expected to be published later this year.

Satellite navigation

Guidance on the installation of GNSS (global navigation satellite systems) is also being finalised, with publication expected later this year. A presentation on specification and redundancy of satellite-based systems will feature in the IMCA annual seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, (see back cover), with a subsequent information note on the topic expected to be issued.

Inertial navigation systems

The scope of work and outline contents list for a proposed IMCA document setting out an overview of and considerations in relation to inertial navigation systems (INS) are being discussed by the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee. Once the outline contents have been agreed, work will start on developing the full document.

AUVs

Preparation of a document setting out considerations for the safe use of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) is under consideration, with a workgroup currently being established to prepare a draft outline for review by the committee later in the year.

DGPS

IMCA is planning to work together with the survey and positioning committee of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) on updating the earlier UKOOA guideline on DGPS to reflect current technology and practice.

It is expected that a joint workgroup will be formed, comprising contractors and oil company clients together with involvement from system manufacturers, with the intention of publishing an updated document during 2009.

Anybody interested in participating in these work items should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com



Survey course guide

The dossier on university courses in offshore survey, survey electronics and the marine sciences (IMCA S 002), originally published in April 2001, is being replaced with a new online resource as part of IMCA's growing careers website.

The new guide, which sets out both under- and post-graduate courses available at over 130 establishments in 25 countries, will make the information much more widely available to prospective students and those considering future employment in the survey sector.

It can also be updated much more regularly and easily, with corrections and input on courses and establishments not already included invited from visitors to the site and members.

To access the new listing, visit www.imca-int.com/careers/courses/

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Remote Systems & ROV Division



New format ROV personnel statistics give a global view

Statistics on the number of ROV personnel working across the industry world-wide were recently issued to members via information note IMCA R 04/08.

This new analysis uses information supplied by members on personnel working on two dates in 2007, in February and August, on a global basis, replacing the previous complex North Sea/rest of world reporting system.

The information note contains a breakdown of ROV activity into different operational areas, such as construction, inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM), drill support and cable laying.

Twenty ROV contractors submitted significant data, employing a total of between 1,700 and 2,000 individuals in offshore ROV-related activities, primarily in marine construction and drill support activities.

All ROV contractor members are encouraged to complete a return for 2008 (a call for submissions will be issued shortly) – with each response, the analysis becomes more accurate and useful both for benchmarking and to add weight to IMCA's discussions with clients and regulatory bodies. Individual company figures are kept confidential within the secretariat, with only the totals being released to the ROV committee and in the subsequent information note.

Please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com for more details.

Umbilical research proposals advancing

The ROV committee is currently finalising arrangements with a university to take forward a three year PhD research programme into the root causes of ROV umbilical corrosion.

A number of possible candidates are being considered and, subject to a suitable individual being identified, it is hoped that work will commence at the beginning of the new academic year, in October 2008.

Representatives from the university's engineering faculty will be discussing details with the committee over the coming months, including the formal scope of work, intellectual property rights, the technical balance of the programme and how information will be reported back to the committee and more widely to IMCA members.

An important part of the programme will be to source samples of ROV umbilical material, both new and corroded, for the student to perform tests.

Members interested in assisting with this programme should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

ROV committee leadership

Neil Milne, Managing Director of i-Tech, a division of Subsea 7, has been elected as the new chairman of IMCA's Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee, following the retirement of Andrew Beveridge. Neil served as vice-chairman since 2007 and takes the reins at an exciting time, with membership in the division increased by over one third in the past twelve months.

Espen Ingebreetsen, ROV Manager - UK & Europe of Oceaneering is the committee's new vice-chairman.



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Spotlight on Jim Sommerville

Jim Sommerville is Managing Director of Fugro-Rovtech and was elected Vice-Chairman of the IMCA Europe & Africa Section, also joining the Overall Management Committee, earlier this year.

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

Tell us about your company

Fugro-Rovtech is an Aberdeen-based operating company within the Fugro group. We provide professional, cost-effective solutions to ROV requirements and specialise in construction support, ROV drill support, IRM and ROV tooling. We have a fleet of four ROV support vessels and 50 ROVs and operate in the North Sea, the Mediterranean and West Africa. In addition, we have access to the worldwide fleet of Fugro vessels, ROTVs and survey services.

As a pure ROV and subsea engineering support company, we utilise only experienced and qualified offshore personnel, backed up onshore by management systems encompassing the highest standards in safety, quality and equipment maintenance.

What is your current job?

I am actually in a transition phase at the moment. When I took up the post of Vice-Chairman of Europe & Africa Section I was MD of Fugro-Rovtech, but I have recently been appointed to a global position within the group with responsibility for all subsea operating companies around the world. I will take up this new role at the end of the year and am presently working with organisational development issues relating to my new position.

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

I graduated from Aberdeen University in 1971 with a degree in geology. After some years in marine research, I started my offshore career with Fairfield Aquatronics in 1975 as a geophysicist and worked on various survey vessels in North Sea, Mediterranean and offshore

Greenland. My first venture into the subsea arena was in the late 70s when I spent some time as client representative on Intersub vessels carrying out inspection work on the Ekofisk-Emden pipeline, including dives in their manned submersibles. Following this, I established Geoteam UK, a subsidiary of A/S Geoteam of Norway, which I headed until it was acquired by Fugro in 1994. It was around this time that I first became involved in ROVs with the purchase of an MRV from Slingsby. Various acquisitions and reorganisations within Fugro have led me to my present position.

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

There is an ever-present and totally necessary focus on health and safety. If I think back to the way operations were handled in the 70s and 80s it makes me shudder to think what went on.

This focus must remain but it is clear that the biggest area affecting the industry at the moment is the skills shortage. We are suffering from the boom and bust cycles of previous years and with an ageing workforce, the loss of experienced staff in the past 10 years or so has not been matched by development of new entrants to the industry. The unprecedented growth we have seen recently including the drive to deeper and more complex operations has made that skills shortage even more acute – this all adds to the pressures of ensuring that we provide a safe and quality service.

How can these issues be taken forward?

Fugro, like other contractors and service companies, has been investing heavily in new entrants to the industry and providing

group-wide training programmes to develop our staff under the banner of Fugro Academy. While we have been focusing on new staff over the past three years, we are now working on the more experienced staff who need more training in the new technology which has also been introduced in the period.

The various IMCA initiatives on competence, recruitment and careers development, are extremely helpful in this regard. Again, like many others and in concert with IMCA, we are also forging closer links with universities and training providers.

How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

I mentioned the impact of the work carried out by TCPC committee above, which is leading and will continue to lead to improved standards in the industry. There is also no doubt that the cross-fertilisation of ideas and information that a trade association can bring about leads to improved performance. I would single out the safety flash system in particular in this regard, but I also believe that the work done to promote equitable contracting regimes is invaluable. The standardisation of working practices through the various guidelines produced also helps to raise the bar and establish non-competitive minimum performance measures.

There is always discussion as to the issues where guidelines and standardisation are necessary and those where individual members believe instead that they have competitive advantage from particular technologies or ways of working. This dichotomy will always exist and needs to be managed to ensure IMCA reflects the needs of its members.

What are your ambitions for the Europe & Africa Section?

While I have had corporate involvement with IMCA over a long time, I am very new to the IMCA committee system. For many years I was heavily involved with the International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC) including two years as Chairman of its EAME section. Through IAGC I first met Hugh Williams as both associations were working towards acceptable business principles and equitable contracting regimes.

My specific ambitions for the Europe & Africa Section are pretty straightforward – we need to meet the needs of our members in a growing but resource-constrained industry, we need to encourage open communication where it does not impact competition and we need to do so with the minimum of bureaucracy. As an association we should not always accept the status quo and if committees lose effectiveness or relevance as the industry changes then we need to change accordingly.

How do you see the future?

To paraphrase an advertising slogan, "The future's bright, the future's amber". All indications are of continued growth in the oil and gas and energy markets, driven by supply/demand balance, but we should proceed with caution. Growth is important and achievable for our companies but the time required to redress skills shortages and the increasing levels of investment required for deeper waters and more complex operations means we need to be very selective as we move forward to maintain the high standards demanded by all our stakeholders.

Forthcoming events

- 26-29 August
ONS – Offshore Northern Seas
Stavanger, Norway
- 10-12 September
Deepwater Asia Pacific
Guangzhou, China
- 9-11 October
Deepwater Southeast Asia
Congress, Shanghai, China
- 13 October
Middle East & India Section
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 15 October
IMCA Briefing Seminar
Mumbai, India
- 30 October
Subsea Europe, London, UK
- 4 November
Asia-Pacific Section
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 5-6 November
Global alignment in marine operations – IMCA annual seminar
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 11 November
Americas Deepwater Section
Houston, USA
- 2-5 December
OSEA – Offshore South East Asia
Singapore
- 3-5 March 2009
Subsea Tieback
San Antonio, USA
- 11-12 March
Covering the global HSE bases – IMCA safety seminar
Houston, USA
- 31 March-2 April
Ocean Business and
Offshore Survey '09
Southampton, UK
- 31 March-2 April
MCE Deepwater Development
Copenhagen, Denmark
- 4-7 May
OTC, Houston, Texas, USA
- 12-13 May
IADC Environmental
Conference & Exhibition
Stavanger, Norway

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

Global Alignment in Marine Operations

5-6 November 2008

Hotel Nikko Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

◆ Presentations

- Keynote session on the conference theme
- Plenary sessions for all delegates
- Parallel sessions for marine, diving and survey/ROV

◆ Workshops

A variety of discussion sessions dedicated to key issues facing the industry

◆ Exhibition

Supplier members of IMCA displaying their latest products and services

◆ Social and networking events

Full information, including programme, exhibition information and accommodation details plus online registration available at www.imca-int.com/events



Health, Safety and the Environment: Covering the Global HSE Bases

The 2009 IMCA safety seminar will take place on 11-12 March at Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros baseball team.

A call for papers has been issued, with submission of outlines for presentations on the theme *Covering the global HSE bases* invited – see our website or e-mail events@imca-int.com for more details.

See the call for papers plus additional information as it becomes available at www.imca-int.com/events

