# makingwayes

news from the International Marine Contractors Association

issue 49 – November 2008



## Scaling new heights in KL

Over 430 delegates gathered at the Hotel Nikko Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5-6 November, for the sixteenth IMCA annual seminar, entitled *Global alignment in marine operations*.

This was again a record attendance, by a substantial margin, and with 24 supplier members displaying their products and services the seminar exhibition broke all records too.

The seminar programme included a broad range of subjects, from the many innovative uses of technology in today's marine contracting industry through to current health and safety issues in the workplace.



Andy Bolton, Chairman of the IMCA Asia-Pacific Section, welcomed delegates to the event before handing over to IMCA President Knut Boe for the first of three keynote addresses. Knut Boe noted that, despite the 'credit crunch', economic fundamentals were still strong and that IMCA's growth should continue given a collective effort from all members, particularly with regard to the challenge of ensuring safety as new vessels and new crews enter the marketplace. Harry van Langen of Shell continued with a review of Shell's local operations, reiterating that the fundamentals remained strong, then Steve Bertone of J Ray McDermott concluded by outlining the importance of IMCA in providing a common language for taking forward global alignment in marine contracting.

The seminar then split into three parallel sessions – marine, diving and, for the first time, an offshore survey and ROV stream which proved a popular innovation. These sessions included specialised technical ground, covering subjects as diverse as the use of extended diving umbilicals, standardisation of DP vessel FMEAs and multibeam sonar wreck visualisation technology.

Day two's programme included a variety of plenary presentations, including an interesting talk on human factors in safety and a poignant presentation on the rediscovery of the sunken HMAS Sydney. The technical sessions included discussion of new technology for 3D visualisation of underwater assets, the evolution of diving technology and the testing of large diameter wire ropes used offshore.

Each afternoon a number of workshops took place, on topics such as risk assessment, diver training and ROV training, amongst other subjects. Another innovation was the inclusion of a partner programme which included city and country tours, taking in a number of local tourist highlights. Delegates' own social programme included a drinks and buffet reception on the first evening, a dinner at Restoran Seri Melayu — a popular cultural venue in the city — and a closing drinks reception in a revolving restaurant atop KL Tower, affording outstanding evening views of the city and surrounding hills.

The seminar was very well received by delegates, with interesting presentations, constructive debate and wide ranging discussions. A CD of the presentations and summaries is now being prepared for issue to delegates and other members.

The 2009 event is already being planned, for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November with expectations high after this year's amazing successes.

Keep up to date on the 2009 seminar plans and other events via our website: www.imca-int.com/events







Also in this issue:

#### New wire rope guidance

An IMCA workgroup with specialist input has developed new guidance on wire rope integrity management for the offshore industry.

Find out more on page 4

#### **IMCA** risk assessment **DVD**

A new DVD sets out the benefits of and ways of undertaking risk assessment for use with the global offshore workforce.

More details on page 4

#### **IMCA**-funded trials a success

Trials on the use of extended umbilicals have both helped to demonstrate the safety of their use and provide further guidance to members on procedures.

For the full report, turn to page II



## makingwaves

The IMCA Newsletter

issue 49 – November 2008

#### In this issue:

News from around IMCA	2
Regional news	
IMCA Directory	
Divisional news	П
Marine	
Offshore Survey	
Remote Systems & ROV	
Spotlight	15

### Forthcoming events

- 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)

#### News from around IMCA

#### Spreading the word - technical team out and about

Over recent months, members of the IMCA staff have been travelling the world, presenting at, exhibiting at and attending a variety of industry meetings and events, to help promote the association, its work and key messages to an ever wider audience.

- Chief Executive Hugh Williams attended the Safety Committee of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) in Doha, Qatar.
- Together with events administrator Claudine Bleza, Hugh also attended Subsea Europe in London, UK, where they exhibited alongside several IMCA members, with Hugh also chairing a conference session.
- Technical Director Jane Bugler gave a well received presentation on 'IMCA's approach to training and competence for diving and ROV personnel' at the Canadian Underwater Conference & Exhibition in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 7–9 September.



Jane Bugler with other speakers at the Canadian Underwater Conference & Exhibition

As well as the presentation, Jane participated in two panel discussions on international standards for diver competency. The first panel discussion proved so popular that it was reconvened on the second day to allow the debate to continue. Discussion focused on the importance of good, well-run initial diver training courses and third-party audits of them and that competence was a combination of training, skills and experience.

Philip Wiggs is speaking at the Offshore Support Vessels conference taking place in London, UK, on 11-12 November, where he will describe the work of IMCA's workgroup addressing issues arising from the IMO review of the Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code. His presentation will identify the issues affecting the marine contracting sector that have arisen and describe the progress of the workgroup. See page 12 for more details on this issue. Nick Hough joined several leading safety professionals from an IMCA member in Aberdeen, UK, for the Step Change Network Share Fair, a safety share fair event intended as a learning opportunity for offshore and office personnel at every level. IMCA's stand was laden with safety promotion materials (DVDs, pocket cards and posters) together with recent safety-related publications, all of which were very well received. Delegates at the event were keen to learn more about IMCA and the key role it plays in improving safety offshore.



Attendees visit the IMCA stand at the Step Change Network Share Fair

- Ian Giddings attended the dynamic positioning conference organised by the Marine Technology Society in Houston, USA, on 9-10 October. He presented a paper on revisions to the International guidelines for the safe operation of dynamically positioned offshore supply vessels (IMCA M 182) which are currently being prepared by an IMCA-led cross-industry group.
- ◆ IMCA held its second briefing seminar of the year in Mumbai, India, on 15 October. The event was again well attended, with a higher number of oil company representatives present this time, as well as contractor and supplier members and potential new members for presentations on the association, its work and key guidance in relation to diving, marine and positioning issues. See page 6 for details.
- The IMCA annual seminar attracted record attendance in Kuala Lumpur on 5-6 November (see cover), with members from around the world attending a special session of the Asia-Pacific Section (see page 6).

IMCA is keen to continue raising its profile at relevant industry events around the world, by speaking, exhibiting and/or supporting with additional materials and welcomes suggestions of additional events that members are aware of. Information on forthcoming IMCA-supported events can be found online at www.imca-int.com/events

#### **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:

- Get ready to contribute to the annual safety statistics exercise next January – see page 4
- Share your story to attract new recruits to the industry see page 5
- Provide feedback on the entry level requirements needed by the ROV industry to enhance IMCA's guidance see page 14
- Attend an event see the IMCA calendar on page 16

#### New faces at the IMCA secretariat

#### Genine da Cruz Harvey

Genine has joined the London secretariat as Certification Schemes Administrator, taking over from Vicki Graham who will retire later this year after over twenty years in the role.

Genine will organise IMCA's internationally recognised certification schemes, through liaison with examination



candidates, IMCA-approved training establishments and invigilation centres throughout the world; as well as preparation and assessment of examination papers and issue of certificates.

She will also support the work of the Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC) core activity.

Genine comes to IMCA from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), an organisation promoting and supervising effective marine spill responses, where she managed the membership scheme.

#### **Andy Butler**

Andy has joined the support team as an additional administrator focused on document production.

With a growing range of output in terms of guidance and information notes, committee and workgroup minutes plus new brochures and factsheets, Andy's experience in document



preparation and print production using a variety of publishing and design software, is already proving useful.

In due course, Andy will also act as support for Genine, providing additional backup and continuity for members and their examination candidates when Genine is away.

#### Supporting a growing membership

The substantial and consistent growth in membership over many years has enabled significant expansion of the work programme. To support this, the secretariat has grown too. The latest addition will be a new technical adviser, focusing on international legislative affairs, currently being recruited.

#### Update on IMCA membership survey

The results of the IMCA membership survey which took place over recent weeks are now being analysed, with a summary due to be reported to members shortly.

Participation has been very high — with around 350 member respondents — our thanks to all who took part. Interim results show high levels of satisfaction in terms of the benefits members receive and the services IMCA provides, with some useful suggestions identified that will be taken forward by the secretariat and committees.



#### From the President

The credit crunch is dominating the news these days.

The banks are the first to take the hit, but there is no doubt that this will spread to the

wider economy - clearly our industry will also be affected.

My concerns are not primarily with the market, despite the fact that the next few years may prove to be challenging on the market side as well. However, the fundamentals of the demand for oil and gas are so strong that in a three to five year perspective I do remain optimistic.

My main concern for our industry is the short-term effect on financing, given our long tradition in leveraging ship investments. The paradox we may witness is that member companies with a sound and solid business could face financing difficulties due to the banks' reluctance to lend, rather than problems with their businesses or our industry.

I do hope that our members will manage to mitigate these problems to the greatest possible degree.

Regardless of the credit crunch the number of new vessels coming into our business will continue to remain at a high level over the coming years. With this in mind it is encouraging to read the IMCA safety statistics for 2007; not because the results are any better than they need to be, but because we are able to maintain the safety performance at a constant level despite all the pressures which we experience in our industry. The long term objective is clearly to improve, but with the continuous inflow of vessels to the industry I believe just to maintain this level will be a tall order in the years to come. A clear and visible personal commitment from the leaders of our member companies is a necessity to keep us on the right track.

As I write this, the IMCA annual seminar is just around the corner and I hope to see many of you there.

Finally, since this is the last issue of Making Waves before year end I would like to wish our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Knut Boe, Technip IMCA President 2007-8

#### News from IMCA's core activities – SEL and TCPC

#### Risk assessment DVD

Risk assessment is a very important process. The more it is used, the better we will get at controlling hazards and the less likely the occurrence of injuries to people, damage to equipment or harm to the environment. IMCA has developed a Risk assessment DVD (IMCA SEL 021) to help.

The video covers the basic definitions of risk and hazard, particularly offshore, and goes on to introduce the concept of risk assessment. This is dealt with in a number of basic, well understood steps: identifying the hazards; deciding who might be harmed; evaluating the risk of harm and the possible consequences; and then working to control those risks.

The importance of keeping written records of formal risk assessments is covered, as is the need to review the entire process after significant change. Viewers are reminded that if work is not going safely, they should feel able to stop the job at any time to put things right.

The DVD, in PAL and NTSC formats, includes ten language versions to enable wide use with the offshore workforce.

For more details, please visit www.imca-int.com/publications

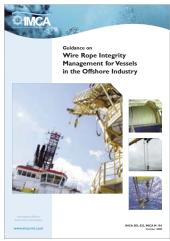
#### Wire rope integrity management

IMCA has published new Guidelines on wire rope integrity management for vessels in the offshore industry (IMCA SEL 022/ M 194).

In early 2007, prompted by discussion within IMCA committees, a questionnaire was issued seeking feedback from members on wire rope examination and use. This identified that guidance on wire rope discard criteria was needed by the industry and a workgroup was formed.

The group swiftly identified that broader guidance on wire rope integrity management would be useful and began work on its development. The group grew as news of the work spread and included contractors, manufacturers and a wide range of specialist and official organisations.

The resulting guidance sets out an industry consensus on discard criteria, supported by an 'integrity assurance toolbox' approach to wire rope management, with a flowchart on information flows and guidance on records and documentation systems.



The workgroup included representation from the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE), whose guidelines DVIS 6 - Maintenance of diving bell hoist ropes - are expected to be withdrawn in favour of this guidance. The next revision of IMCA D 018 -Code of practice on the initial and periodic examination, testing and certification of diving plant and equipment - will take this into account.

The guidelines supersede the earlier Guidance on the management of life cycle maintenance of non-man riding wire ropes (IMCA SEL 012) which is now withdrawn.

#### Get your safety statistics ready

As we draw near the end of 2008, plans are being made for the annual exercise to collect and analyse safety statistics for IMCA members.

A call will be issued to all contractor (ICO/Co) SEL reps early in the new year seeking member input of both lagging and leading safety data. We hope to beat last year's record number of contributors and to show the results of ongoing IMCA work to further improve safety in the industry.

#### **Review of LTI categories**

The SEL committee has been reviewing its categorisation of lost time incidents (LTIs). In the analysis for 2007 it was found that one sixth of the total number of LTIs could not be fitted into a category used in IMCA's analysis.

A challenge has been to ensure that the categories reflect immediate causes of incidents rather than trying to explore their root causes which, of course, often requires a deeper and more complex analysis.

Several new categories have been identified and should be agreed by the committee for use in the 2008 exercise.



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#### Simulator workgroup underway

Simulators play an important role in training and competence within the offshore industry, particularly in relation to vessel bridge/DP, ROV and crane operations.

The wide range of systems and variety in their functionality and realism mean that it can be hard to determine to what extent simulator experience should be



counted and relied upon as compared to true offshore experience, yet the ability for users to experience operational and, in particular, emergency situations that are seldom found offshore can help ensure preparedness for any situation.

A member questionnaire exercise in 2004-5, the results of which were published as IMCA C 009, solicited useful feedback from members around the world working in a variety of operational situations, which has enabled further debate to take place.

A new IMCA workgroup has now been founded, under the TCPC committee with cross-divisional membership, to consider the issues relating to the use of simulators in relation to training and competence in the offshore industry, with the intention of



better defining classes of simulator and providing guidance on the extent to which they can be used and relied upon to provide offshore personnel with the skills to operate safely and efficiently within their team.

Contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com for more details on the workgroup.

#### **Competence & Training - TCPC relaunch**

The TCPC core activity, since its establishment in 1997, has been at the heart of IMCA's objective to "provide the framework for training, certification, competence and recruitment to support and sustain the industry globally".

More than ten years on, the competence assurance and assessment guidance framework launched in 1999 is well used and recognised in the industry, shortly to be further enhanced by the results of the latest review which is aiming to improve clarity and consistency within the competence tables as well as considering possible additional positions where applying the same approach could be useful to members.

Keen to build on these successes, the TCPC committee recently held a review of its own composition, objectives and activities. The most noticeable outcome is a change of name, which will be implemented in the new year, to Competence & Training – setting out more clearly the committee's role. The committee will continue to work directly on these issues from an industry-wide perspective and to provide co-ordination of work within the four IMCA technical divisions.

Existing document references will remain, but from I January information notes will follow a new IMCA C series.

#### Could your story help attract new recruits?

The relaunched IMCA website contains a vast amount of new and updated material, nowhere more so than in the careers zone at www.imca-int.com/careers

The facts articles describe the exciting careers available in the industry such as educational background needed, skills and training requirements, working conditions and career paths.

New in depth feature articles describe a number of personal passions, from cranes and offshore lifting through diving, DP, materials and survey to ROVs.

Make the move articles help identify the options for those thinking of entering our industry both from college or university and from various other careers.

However, gaining a personal insight to the rewarding careers available can particularly attract new personnel. With this in mind, IMCA is looking to expand its series of My story case studies. We are looking for people in a broad range of roles from around the globe to tell their story.

To tell your story, please contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com





#### Americas Deepwater Section

As we go to press, the first in a new style of meeting is being held by the Americas Deepwater Section. Following a more traditional member session, the afternoon of 11 November sees the first *IMCA Americas Seminar*, which will take place at larger hotel venues in Houston and will focus on presentations from guest speakers on a variety of topics of interest to members and the wider industry, as well as providing time for oil company representatives and potential members to find out more about the association and its work. A good turnout from both members and guests is expected for the first event, which includes presentations on: the Jubilee project offshore Ghana; Hurricane Ike and business continuity planning; and successful self-regulation in the marine contracting sector.

The section is also looking forward to the 2009 IMCA safety seminar, being organised together with the Gulf Coast Safety & Training Group, which will take place on 11-12 March at Minute Maid Park in Houston – see back cover for outline information. Full details will be circulated to members and placed online at www.imca-int.com/events shortly.

#### Asia-Pacific Section

Guests in Kuala Lumpur for the annual seminar on the following two days helped swell attendance at the 4 November Asia-Pacific Section meeting to over 50 persons. Representatives from IMCA's global committees and workgroups were present, providing an excellent opportunity for two-way dialogue on current projects and suggested future work.

Among the issues discussed were representation on the global committees from the Asia-Pacific region, the new IMCA careers information packs, the proposed IMCA supervisor training syllabus and the ongoing review of the Common Marine Inspection Document.

The next meeting will take place on 22 January 2009 in at the Sheraton Perth in Western Australia.

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

#### **Europe & Africa Section**

Wim de Boer of Heerema Marine Contractors has been elected as the new Chairman of the Europe & Africa Section, taking over from Brian Leith (Acergy) with Jim Sommerville (Fugro-Rovtech) remaining as Vice-Chairman.

The next section meeting is being planned for early 2009, to be held as a joint seminar with the relaunched Competence & Training (currently TCPC) committee – see page 5 for details.

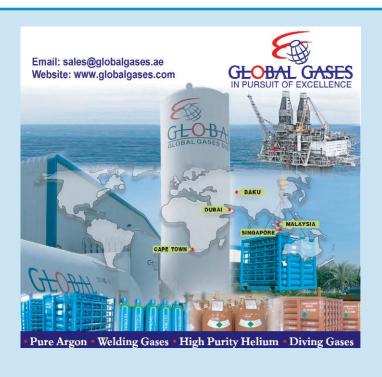
#### Middle East & India Section

Around 30 members were present for good discussion at the latest section meeting, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 13 October. Discussions on current work within IMCA's global committee and various local issues were wide-ranging, reflecting the growth in membership across all of IMCA's technical divisions.

It was reported at the meeting that Charlie Rogerson, who served for many years as Hon. Secretary and subsequently Vice-Chairman of the section, was taking up a new position in Australia and thus moving out of the region. Section chairman Steve MacMillan and members noted their thanks to Charlie for his considerable contribution to the growth and success achieved by IMCA in the Middle East.

The same week saw IMCA hold its second briefing seminar of the year in Mumbai, India. The event was well attended by oil companies and contractors and included presentations on diving, marine and positioning issues. Delegates asked for further similar seminars to be held in the future.

The next section meeting will take place in early January 2009.





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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 Genine da Cruz Harvey Certification Schemes Administrators 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

#### Andy Butler, Administrator

- document production and member records

#### Jean Carmichael, Bookkeeper

**IMCA** 5 Lower Belgrave Street London SWIW ONR, 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

#### Regional Section Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Americas Deebwater

Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors

Tony Duncan, Acergy

Asia-Pacific

Andy Bolton, Technip Subsea 7 Asia Pacific Mark Shepherd, Mermaid Offshore Services

Wim de Boer, Heerema Marine Contractors

Jim Sommerville, Fugro-Rovtech

Middle East & India

Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Roy Donaldson, BUE Marine

Hugh Williams, Chief Executive Jane Bugler, Technical Director

#### Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG

Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip

Mark Elder, Subsea 7 Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman - election underway

Pete Somner, Technip Marine: Pete Fougere, Transocean

Offshore Survey

Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services

Walter Steedman, Veripos

Remote Systems & ROV:

**Marine Division MC** 

Alistair MacLeod, Acergy

John de Hartog, Saipem Geir Karlsen, Subsea 7

Kjell Egil Helgøy, Teekay

Derek Judd, Bibby Offshore

Quirien Grul, Allseas

Chairman: Pete Somner, Technip Vice-Chairman: Pete Fougere, Transocean

Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering

#### **SEL Core Committee**

Chairman: Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG

Vice-Chairman: Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

Bart Westerhout, Allseas

Jim Knight, Heerema Marine Contractors

Sal Ruffino, Saipem

Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Allan Hannah, Technip

Bram Sluiskes, Van Oord

Americas: Wayne Seelbach, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific: Matt Hort, Clough Oil & Gas

Middle East & India: Mohamed Osman, Maridive

## **TCPC Core Committee**

Chairman: John Greensmyth, Technip

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

### Offshore Survey Division MC

Americas: Mike Lawson, Transocean

Asia-Pacific: Mike Meade, M3 Marine

Chairman: Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services

Middle East & India: Ron Clark, NICO Middle East

Michiel Goedkoop, Heerema Marine Contractors

David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service

Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7/Veripos

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Michiel van de Munt

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ed Danson, C&C Technologies

Perry Balls, DeepOcean

Simon Barrett, DOF Subsea

lan McKenzie, Fugro Survey Robert van der Velden, Heerema Marine Contractors

Peter Thomas, Maritech

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

#### **Diving Division Management Committee**

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Joar Gangenes, Acergy

Hans Berkhof, Bluestream Alan Thomas, Cape Diving

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: Glyn Jones, Hallin Marine

Middle East & India: Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott

#### **Remote Systems & ROV Division MC**

Chairman: Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering International

Colin Mackay, Acergy

lim 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

Americas: Ian Edmonstone, Helix ESG Asia-Pacific: Ian Huggins, Hallin Marine

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



#### **International Contractors**

Allseas Group **Heerema Marine Contractors Helix Energy Solutions Group** J Ray McDermott Saipem Subsea 7 **Technip** 

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Con-Dive, LLC (Middle East & India)
Coral Alliance Sdn Bhd
CTC Marine Projects Ltd
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DCN Global LLC
DeepOcan

DeepOcean
Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc
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Hydra Marine (Pty) Ltd
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Kirby Morgan Dive Systems
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#### **GO** Offshore

An Australian company providing rig moving, vessel operation, crewing and consultancy services for a growing fleet within the Australasian oil and gas market.

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#### PW-Group

A Nigerian marine construction, engineering and logistics company providing heavy lifting, cable laying, subsea construction and platform services to the West African oil and gas industry. Tel: +234 805 829 6546/803 745 6175 Web: www.pwlimited.com

#### **Qatar Petroleum**

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#### **Trident Offshore Ltd**

A UK-based marine consultancy providing a range of services from moving, positioning and installing offshore units and mooring systems to subsea positioning and construction support. Tel: +44 (0) 1224 622 111 Web: www.trident-offshore.com

#### **Veolia Environmental Services Special Services**

#### Visser & Smit Marine Contracting by

A Dutch marine contractor specialising in offshore power cable and burial both on- and offshore, involved in the renewable energy sector with inter-turbine and export power cable Web: www.vsmc.nl

Tel: +31 (0) 78 641 7222

Yak Diving Academy
An Indian government-approved merchant navy training establishment offering maritime courses with diving aspects. NB These are not initial diver training or IMCA-approved courses. Tel: +91 9324 255 664 Web: www.yakindia.com/diving-academy-services.asp

#### Zamil Offshore Services Co Ltd

#### Recent name changes

- Falconer Bryan is now Braemar Falconer Pte Ltd
- The DP Centre Singapore is now C-MAR Asia Pte Ltd
- OSM Schiffahrt is now ER Offshore GmbH & Cie KG

## 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:**

- Risk assessment DVD (IMCA SEL 021)
- Guidance on wire rope integrity management for vessels in the offshore industry (IMCA SEL 022/M 194)
- Vessel security (Safety poster number 5)
- Caught between and pinch points: what you should know (Safety pocket card number 16)
- IMCA Document Register issue 3

#### **Safety flashes:**

- Safety flash 13/08 covering 2 incidents: Faulty governors;
   Seaeye ROV tether arcing incident
- Safety flash 14/08 covering 2 incidents: Serious injury incident during routine crane maintenance; Failure of fall arresters
- Safety flash 15/08 covering 4 incidents: Crew member injured during ROV maintenance; Risk of electrocution during routine work; Uncontrolled ascent of spool and diver during a lift bag operation; Near-miss incident involving a diver's umbilical
- Safety flash 16/08 covering 3 incidents: Laptop battery fire and explosion; Pallet lifter failure; Fire risks of intermediate bulk containers (IBCs)

#### Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL)

IMCA SEL 13/08 – Revision of the STCW Convention and Code 14/08 Long range identification and tracking (LRIT) 15/08 Special Purpose Ships Code: Draft UK marine guidance note 16/08 Guidance on health and safety whilst travelling on business

Training, Certification & Personnel Competence (TCPC)

IMCA TCPC 04/08 – Minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch on an offshore supply vessel

#### **Diving Division**

IMCA D 12/08 – The use of bell outer doors during saturation diving operations

13/08 Extended umbilical trials

#### Marine Division

IMCA M 16/08 – Revision of the STCW Convention and Code

17/08 Long range identification and tracking (LRIT)

18/08 Special Purpose Ships Code: Draft UK marine guidance note

19/08 Minimum standard of competence for officers in charge of a navigational watch on an offshore supply vessel

20/08 Election results: Marine Division Management Committee

Offshore Survey Division - None

Remote Systems & ROV Division - None

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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**K2 Subsea** is a division of K2 Specialist Services (K2). We provide a range of 3rd party auditing and quality assurance services to offshore operators and marine contractors involved in subsea activities.

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- RYA First Aid
- Overseas training



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#### **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 develop guidance to assist diving contractors when using a risk-based approach to decide if the use of bell outer doors is appropriate or not.

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

Historically, bell outer doors have been used to enable the option of bell-bounce diving, but advances in dedicated and certified bell launch and recovery systems have led some to question this requirement.

The workgroup developed information note IMCA D 12/08, which sets out guidance on the detailed aspects required in a risk assessment to be undertaken when reviewing the need for bell outer doors.



#### **Extended umbilical trials report**

In July 2007, IMCA was presented with the results of a regulatory questionnaire which raised potential concern over the practice of divers' umbilicals being passively tended through a remote tend point while diving from a DP vessel.

An IMCA workgroup was established to look into the practice, with a particular focus on diver rescue scenarios. It was agreed that a suitable way to proceed would be to carry out diving trials to test a number of scenarios and to compare active and passive tending techniques.

The workgroup developed a procedure to reflect current industry practice, with dry trials carried out to walk through the procedure. Diving trials took place on 25-28 January at the Professional Diving Academy in Dunoon, UK, using a three-man wet bell system with diver hat-mounted and fixed cameras for real-time in-water monitoring. The trials showed that both active and passive techniques, under appropriate conditions and subject to appropriate risk assessments, were viable for use.

Information note IMCA D 13/08 summarises the trials and details the procedures used, which can be modified to suit individual dive sites and modes of diving as appropriate.

A presentation was given on this work at the annual seminar in Kuala Lumpur and will be included on the forthcoming proceedings CD.

#### **NURGOD** update

The Norway/UK regulatory guidance on offshore diving (NURGOD - IMCA D 034), originally published in December 2003, is under review.

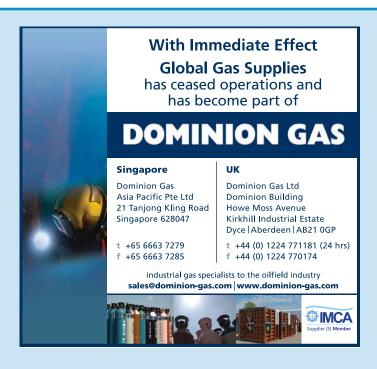
Produced jointly by IMCA with OLF, the Norwegian Oil Industry Association, the document sets out minimum requirements which contractors should follow when transferring a diving support vessel between UK and Norwegian waters.

Since its original publication there have been a number of developments - new and updated IMCA guidance, regulatory changes and notably revision of the Norwegian NORSOK U-100 standard. These are now being addressed with updated guidance expected next year.

#### Committee election

The Diving Division Management Committee is currently undergoing its biennial election with good participation at the nomination stage and a mix of new and familiar names on the ballot paper.

Alan Forsyth has been re-elected unopposed as chairman of the committee. Voting members are reminded to submit ballot papers by the 27 November deadline.





#### Marine Division

#### **CMID** update news

The 25 September CMID workshop in Amsterdam attracted around ninety delegates from as far away as the USA and Indonesia for a hugely productive day.

Members of the CMID Steering Committee, representing both IMCA and the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP), gave presentations on the aims of the Common Marine Inspection Document (IMCA M 149) and why the current cross-industry review is taking place.

A discussion session addressed topics such as the content of the CMID (with delegates having been sent the current draft revision for review ahead of the event), inspector competence and access to completed reports, perhaps via a secure online database at some point in the future.

Feedback is now being addressed by the secretariat, the steering committee and CMID Workgroup.

It is hoped that a new edition of the CMID will be published early in the new year (Q1 2009).

For more details on this work, contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com



## **OCSVs** in focus at IMO

IMCA is working with governments and other associations to address industry concerns and requirements in light of revised SPS Code application.

One year ago, an International Maritime Organization (IMO) working group produced a paper which brought surprise and caused concern for many IMCA members. The paper sought to categorise many types of offshore construction support vessels as 'special purpose ships'. A number of significant requirements would need to be met by such vessels, possibly involving significant changes, such as to ballast tank configuration.

As SPS is not a mandatory code, an implementation date could not be set at IMO, so flag states could adopt different dates or even be retroactive. Several vessels were on order at this point and it became unclear to

what code they should be built, especially with regard to multipurpose vessels.

Time constraints precluded IMCA from developing a paper within the required IMO timetable to respond at the next meeting, but IMCA attended the meeting and talked to a number of flag states and other nongovernmental organisation (NGO) representatives.

These discussions highlighted, not for the first time, that offshore issues are often relatively low profile at IMO. This is perhaps understandable as the size of even the entire international offshore fleet forms a very small portion of world-wide shipping

tonnage. Also, the offshore industry has thus far been pretty good at self regulating.

It became clear that we would not be able to defer acceptance of revised SPS Code, but we were able to gain support from the German delegation and others in proposing the possibility of a new OCSV code. This new code would be aimed at removing the confusion of applicability of codes and regulations presently used by flag states when classifying the wide range of offshore construction support vessel types.

The resulting IMCA workgroup has grown to include other associations and organisations and we have submitted a paper, jointly with Germany, to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee's November 2008 meeting. This will be presented in such a way that problems are identified and suggestions offered for solving them. At present these solutions appear to be clarifying the existing requirements, especially defining 'personnel onboard', or developing a new code.

It is hoped that the IMO Design & Equipment Sub-Committee can then be tasked with taking this forward in March 2009.

For more details or to get involved in the workgroup, please contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com





### Offshore Survey Division

#### Marine news in brief

#### **Election results**

The biennial election of the Marine Division Management Committee saw Pete Somner (Technip) and Peter Fougere (Transocean) re-elected unopposed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. With a number of personnel changes around the time of the election, some fresh faces have joined the committee, including Alistair MacLeod (Acergy), Quirien Grul (Allseas), Derek Judd (Bibby Offshore) and John de Hartog (Saipem).

#### Work programme priorities

The annual seminar in Kuala Lumpur (see page I) enabled the Marine Division Management Committee to seek the views of members and industry colleagues on the projects they would find most valuable through a questionnaire exercise. The results will be reviewed and future action identified at the committee's next meeting.

#### **UPS** guidance progresses

Draft guidance on the use of uninterruptible power supplies has now reached the committee review stage and is expected to be published around year end.



#### Addressing advances in digital video

In September 2005, IMCA published the first edition of Digital video offshore: A review of current and future technologies (IMCA R 012/S 008).

At that time, it was recognised that with the rapid advances in digital video technology, regular review and updating would be required. Over the past eighteen months this review has been taking place within a reconvened workgroup comprising both IMCA members and third-party experts. The workgroup has now submitted an updated version to IMCA's technical committees for review prior to publication.

The main areas in which the document has been updated address these technological developments, covering changes in practice brought about by continuing advances in digital data storage such as the use of portable hard disks and USBbased storage devices using flash memory for client digital data deliverables. The commercial rivalry between the new blue laser, higher-capacity DVD formats reflected in the original document is now over, with Blu-Ray being the technology of choice today. The revision also touches on high definition (HD) TV and 3D video stereoscopy.

The revision also takes account of upcoming technologies. Much of this change goes relatively unseen and is incremental, as much that was looked forward to in 2005 has now become established as industry practice, reflecting the increasing maturity of the digital video industry.

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

#### **Brian Beard**

The Offshore Survey Division Management Committee has lost one of its members with the death of Brian Beard. Brian had served on the committee representing Noordhoek Offshore for a number of years but lost his fight against a terminal illness in August.

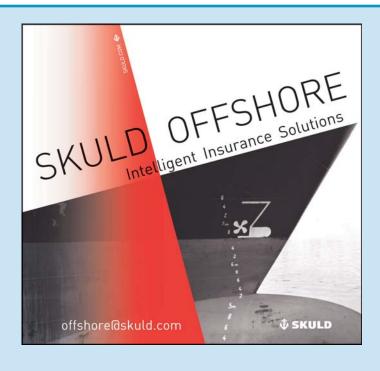
He began work as a land surveyor in the UK, working on projects such as the British Museum and London City Airport, then moving to Saudia Arabia before starting his offshore survey career in the Netherlands.

Brian was well known for introducing a social element to the projects he was involved in and had a keen interest in building personal relationships with colleagues and coaching younger staff. He will be missed.

#### **Survey Chairman**

Following his move to Oceanteam Subsea Services, Will Primavesi has been re-elected as Chairman of the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee.

Will is the subject of this issue's Spotlight – see page 15. The full committee list can be found in the IMCA Directory on page 7.







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### Remote Systems & ROV Division

#### **Global ROV focus** good all round

The Remote Systems & ROV Division has been expanding its global focus, with the result that membership has grown by 30% in the first ten months of 2008.

There is no question that remote technology is ever more important as the industry moves into deeper waters and harsher environments, hence a growing interest in the work of the division, but the benefits of working together on safety and related issues, of sharing good practice among companies operating world-wide and of networking with industry colleagues are just as important.

Recent initiatives have included:

- a regular ROV-focused workshop at the quarterly meetings of the Asia-Pacific Section which take place in locations around the region
- the successful addition of an offshore survey/ROV strand at the annual seminar in KL
- the ROV seminar held alongside Oceanology in London in March 2008
- the involvement of members active in the Americas ROV sub-group in meetings of the world-wide ROV committee, through both tele- and videoconferencing.

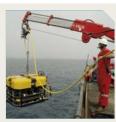
Project Risk Analysis

Project HAZIDS

Arbitration







#### **Reviewing ROV personnel requirements**

In discussions regarding the skills shortages being faced by members around the world, a key point has been that the shortages are not just in terms of the number of people applying for jobs in the industry (new entrants rather than inter-company moves), but also whether those applying are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in the positions in both offshore and onshore teams employers are looking to fill.

In the ROV sector, individuals are often involved in a wide range of tasks - not just flying an ROV but also being involved in electrical/hydraulic/mechanical technical aspects such as maintenance. Concern has been expressed to IMCA by a number of contractors that those applying to work in the sector do not always have the necessary background skills and qualifications to fulfil these requirements.

IMCA has previously issued guidance on entry level requirements and an initial training course for ROV personnel (IMCA R 002), which seeks to ensure that those undergoing ROV training are first skilled in at least one of the key disciplines - perhaps through technical training or experience in related industries - and that courses then meet industry needs.

The guidance is now under review and input would be welcome. IMCA is also in ongoing dialogue with training providers to promote awareness of these entry level requirements and wider industry needs.

Contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com for more details on this issue.

#### **ROV** news in brief

#### Ultra-high voltage guidance

The Remote Systems & ROV committee has suggested that guidance on ultra-high voltage (>6.6kV), to complement IMCA's existing syllabus on High voltage training (IMCA C 010), could be of benefit to members.

The secretariat is now looking further into the issue, including discussion with the Marine Division committee.

Members interested in receiving updates on this work should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

#### **ROV** competence review

The review of the competence assurance and assessment tables (IMCA C 005) that has been ongoing this year and at last is drawing to a conclusion.

IMCA engaged the services of a consultant to harmonise the language and layout of the competence framework across all divisions, while the ROV tables have also seen the inclusion of competencies for ROV tooling technicians at different levels of seniority, as well as a new ROV superintendent position.

The workgroup is reviewing a proposed final draft, which will be submitted to the full committee for review shortly.



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#### **KB Associates Pte Ltd**

No. 26 Changi North Crescent, 3rd Floor, Diethelm Keller Building, Singapore 499637 Tel: +65 6546 0939/+65 6546 0952 Fax: +65 6546 3986 Email: enquiries@kbassociates.org



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## Spotlight on Will Primavesi

Will Primavesi is Survey Services Director with Oceanteam Subsea Services Ltd and serves as Chairman of the Offshore Survey Division Management Committee and a member of the Overall Management Committee. In this article, he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the work his committee is currently undertaking on behalf of members.

#### Please tell us about your company and what it does

Oceanteam Subsea Services (OSS), part of the Bergenheadquartered Oceanteam ASA Group, is an Aberdeen based company with a subsidiary company in Angola.

OSS itself is a relatively new company which has only been going for one year; but a lot has been achieved already. The company is currently providing survey services on cable installation vessels and is also operating three work class ROVs in the oil and gas sector. OSS is currently working in the renewable energy sector (with wind farm-related projects ongoing at several sites), in relation to installation and operation of submarine power cable inter-connectors and looking to expand in the oil and gas sector. The delivery in 2009 of two new build vessels and associated survey and ROV services will help support these increased operations.

#### What is your current job?

I am the Director of the Survey Division of Oceanteam Subsea Services. As such, I am responsible for the reliable and cost effective implementation of survey services within Oceanteam and also for external markets on a global basis.

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

I joined Racal Survey Ltd in 1983 as a graduate surveyor. I spent four years working in Racal's overseas field pool, with time spent offshore as a hydrographic surveyor in the oil fields of the Middle East and India. I transferred to the UK in 1987 to work in cooler climes and was appointed area surveyor for the

North Sea in 1992. Three years later, I was posted to the Asia Pacific region. This was a fantastic opportunity both for me and my family and I have some great memories of Kuala Lumpur and South East Asia as a whole. In 1999 I returned to Aberdeen when the submarine cable industry was at its height, with deep water route survey operations for oceanic cables running for tens of thousands of miles across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

In 2004, I joined Saipem's Sonsub Division as survey manager., when Sonsub was growing from an ROV company to the construction company that it is today. This rapid growth presented many challenges in ensuring reliable survey services for some very complex subsea operations. I joined OSS in 2008.

#### What are the key areas affecting the industry at the moment?

I have to speak mainly of the survey industry, but from my activities with the Overall Management Committee of IMCA, I can see that the current issues are similar for all in the marine contracting world.

It almost goes without saying that the main challenge at present remains the sourcing of sufficient numbers of competent personnel. IMCA and its members have been working on this problem since 2006 when the latest 'boom' in the industry started. Progress is being made with personnel being utilised on a global basis from both the worldwide pool of offshore personnel and also from other industries. However, with the gradual influx of new personnel, a renewed vigilance is required to ensure that the resulting dilution of offshore experience does not

compromise either the safety or the technical success of projects.

The other key area affecting the survey industry is the rapid development of new technology, but this should be viewed as a positive effect which is being driven by the ever increasing use of digital systems. Advances in subsea acoustic positioning, seabed imaging, digital video recording and subsea vehicles such as ROVs and AUVs are pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved.

However, the combination of new technology and new personnel exacerbates the potential for mistakes, delays and incidents, which reinforces the requirements for good training, planning and monitoring of competence. IMCA is working on guidelines covering a number of these topics, including deep water acoustics, digital video, AUVs, DGPS and inertial navigation systems.

#### How can these issues be taken forward?

From a personnel point of view, the focus should be on the safety cultures which IMCA and its member companies have worked hard to implement, such that they remain at the forefront of offshore operations. In terms of finding new personnel, we must continue to raise the profile of our industry within the education systems and also within other industries and armed forces. Such work is being done by IMCA itself and together with other groups, involving OGP (the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers) and similar organisations.

The successful adoption of new technology is very much in the hands of the individual member

companies, but the work of the technical committees can assist in this process by the publication of technical reviews and guidelines.

#### How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

IMCA acts as a facilitator for the work that is required in ensuring safe operations offshore and also for maintaining a level of technical good practice. For the Diving and Marine divisions, this is very evident with a large number of guidelines and audit systems available to assist with self-regulation. In the Survey and ROV divisions, the high level of technical competition between the various member companies prohibits the production of in-depth technical guidelines, but there is a useful level of documentation on current technology being produced. It is hoped that these are of value to all the divisions of IMCA, including corresponding members, and that they provide a basis on which to create contractual specifications that are mutually beneficial to all parties.

#### How do you see the future?

As I write this, the 'credit crunch' is biting, manufacturing outputs are down in the US and in China, global energy demand is slowing, OPEC is reducing production, the USA has a new president-elect and the price of oil is dropping to around \$60 per barrel! I'm not sure that any of us would have expected such events a year ago, making this question very difficult to answer. I would say that next year may see a slight fall in general activity offshore, but as the world recovers from the current crisis, I think the medium term will remain positive for the marine contracting industry ... but don't quote me on it!



#### Forthcoming events

- Asia-Pacific Section

- Covering the global HSE bases IMCA safety seminar Houston, USA
- MCE Deepwater Development Copenhagen, Denmark
- OTC, Houston, Texas, USA

- IADC Environmental Conference & Exhibition Stavanger, Norway
- 8-11 September Offshore Europe Aberdeen, UK
- Middle East Workboats Abu Dhabi, UAE

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



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- Learning from incidents case studies

Round table discussions - bringing together managers, offshore personnel, clients, consultants and others to discuss a variety of safety issues, sharing lessons learnt and identifying areas for future IMCA work

Safety Share Fair - with displays from marine contractors on their successful safety initiatives, sharing ideas and spreading good practice throughout the industry

#### **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo at Reliant Park**

Highlight of the seminar's social events, delegates will be transported to the show with entry, food and drink, plus the rodeo events themselves – all included in the seminar fee!



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