

makingwaves

news from the International Marine Contractors Association

issue 50 – February 2009

IMCA sharpens focus on competence

In spite of wintry conditions, nearly one hundred delegates gathered at Aberdeen's Trinity Hall on 12 February for a workshop on competence and training issues.

The event was intended to introduce members to the relaunched Competence & Training (formerly TCPC) core activity and, at the same time, build on the success of the 2008 training establishment seminar which had brought together contractors, training providers and agency representatives to identify the industry's needs, discuss training provision and tackle the skills shortage.

The workshop was opened by John Greensmyth, outgoing TCPC committee chairman. He gave a report on the review of the role of the TCPC core activity within the broader IMCA structure.

The review had highlighted the ongoing importance of competence as a current issue for members – never more so at a time when new vessels are entering the market, new personnel are being integrated into offshore teams and external cost pressures are



being faced, particularly during the global 'credit crunch'.

The former TCPC core activity has been renamed 'Competence & Training' – a clearer title, with a mandate for its committee to provide the IMCA-wide framework for competence and training guidance on which the four technical divisions can continue to build.

The Competence & Training committee continues to include representatives from each division and each IMCA regional section, plus a small number of additional co-opted members to further reflect the range of IMCA members' own operations world-wide.

John concluded by introducing the new Competence & Training committee chairman, Steve Sheppard of Helix Energy Solutions Group.

Steve thanked John for his contribution to the work of the committee and IMCA in general over a number of years.

Steve then outlined the format of the rest of the day's competence workshop.

Discussion focused on a number of key questions, including:

- ◆ What are the expectations arising from the increased focus on competency and scheme administration by many clients, regulatory authorities and insurers?
- ◆ Does the offshore workforce believe in the concept of competence participating in it and promoting it?
- ◆ How do we maintain momentum once a competence scheme is up and running?

- ◆ Will competence and training be a casualty of the economic downturn as companies cut costs?
- ◆ How will smaller firms in particular cope with financial constraints?
- ◆ Is the role of the competence assessor being properly fulfilled?
- ◆ How can success stories from one company or discipline be made available as models for others?

These were addressed both by the workshop as a whole and in smaller workgroups that split off to discuss specific aspects relating to the four technical divisions – Diving, Marine, Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV.

A closing plenary session included feedback from the workgroup chairmen and discussion of various outcomes from the day's proceedings. Actions for IMCA and its committees to take forward and a number of ideas that delegates will find useful within their own organisations resulted.

A full report on the workshop will be circulated shortly.

Also in this issue:

New medical guidelines

IMCA has issued a new guide for physicians examining offshore workers (non-marine crew) to assess their fitness for working on offshore construction vessels.

For full information, turn to page 4

Syllabus for supervisor training

A new outline syllabus has been published by IMCA to help ensure those promoted based on technical ability are equipped with the necessary supervisory and leadership skills.

More details on page 5

IMCA at IMO

Did you know that IMCA is a non-governmental observer at the International Maritime Organization? Find out how this has helped IMCA represent your interests inside.

For the full story, turn to page 12

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News from around IMCA

IMCA facilitates useful insurance talks

Together with insurance broker Jardine Lloyd Thompson, IMCA organised a workshop to discuss 'construction all risks' (CAR) insurance at the Royal Automobile Club in London, UK, on 10 February 2009. Around sixty people attended, including key oil company, underwriter, marine warranty surveyor and contractor representatives.

Presentations providing background from a variety of viewpoints were given by IMCA President Johan Rasmussen (Acergy), Jean-François Corbel (Technip), Dominick Hoare (Watkins) and Sigurd Willoughby (StatoilHydro). Workshops then followed with delegates debating policy cover, good practice in procuring and delivering CAR insurance, loss prevention through technical solutions and during operations and several related issues.

A lively discussion highlighted a common theme – the need for better communication between the four attending groups to clarify a number of areas for the benefit of all. The meeting generated good feedback and a clear desire to make progress on these issues.

For more information on this work, please contact Hugh Williams, IMCA Chief Executive – Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com

Member survey

The results of the survey of member satisfaction carried out in mid-2008 have been published and circulated as a member information note.

Our thanks to all those who participated – around 340 of you – for making this a truly representative exercise.

Responses were highly positive in terms of the value members placed on the services provided by the association and how they felt these were delivered.

Several constructive suggestions were made and are being taken forward as appropriate by the secretariat and OMC.

Website news

As we go to press, the final touches are being put to the new members-only website.

Building on last year's relaunch of our public site, the members-only version builds on the well received format, with its simpler navigation and attractive design with over 1,000 member documents – guidance, information notes, safety flashes, minutes and more.

Current logins will remain valid – if you haven't yet applied for your company's, please e-mail information@imca-int.com and we'll set up access or advise who in your company already holds the necessary details.

Call for papers for 2009 annual seminar

This year's IMCA annual seminar is to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4-5 November 2009.

A call for papers has been issued, as we start to build an exciting programme on the theme *Integrated marine operations in challenging times*. Supplier members have also been offered the usual opportunity to exhibit alongside the seminar.

See www.imca-int.com/events to read the call for papers and for more details on this year's event as they are published.

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)

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:

- ◆ Be a part of the annual seminar in Rio this year – the call for papers is out see page 2
- ◆ Help us analyse safety performance in the sector by contributing your data see page 5
- ◆ Alert members to diving equipment advances see page 11
- ◆ Can you provide details on incidents involving diving umbilical kinks? see page 11
- ◆ Submit your ROV statistics see page 14
- ◆ Attend an event – see the IMCA calendar on page 16

2008 in brief

Last year saw a number of considerable achievements for the association:

- ◆ Membership grew by over 30%, passing 500 in July
- ◆ Events were held in new locations, in a variety of formats and with record attendance at the annual seminar in Kuala Lumpur
- ◆ The work programme included new and updated guidance as usual, but with additional major projects funded to tackle issues faced by members

Documentation output in 2008 included:

- ◆ Five new and five updated guidance documents and technical reports
- ◆ 64 information notes
- ◆ 18 safety flashes, covering some 46 incidents and other hazards
- ◆ a new safety DVD, three new posters and two new or updated pocket cards



New IMCA President – Johan Rasmussen

Johan Rasmussen, Corporate VP and General Counsel of Acergy, is the new President of IMCA and Chairman of the association's Overall Management Committee. He takes over from Knut Boe of Technip who completed his two-year term in December. Johan's first article for members is printed to the right. Andy Woolgar, VP Operations of Subsea 7, is the new Vice-President.



Vicki Graham retires from IMCA ...

Following a party in Aberdeen with long-standing industry colleagues, where she was given a fine set of golf clubs, Vicki Graham retired as IMCA's Certification Schemes Administrator at the end of December, with a special presentation of a scarf and card from her London colleagues made at the secretariat offices.

Vicki ran the schemes single-handed from their inception in the 1980s under AODC. Hence she was known and appreciated throughout the industry and good wishes for the future were sent to Vicki by many around the world.

Genine da Cruz Harvey is now administering the schemes on a full-time basis from the London offices (see page 11).



... while Adam celebrates ten years

Support Services Manager Adam Hugo has reached his tenth anniversary working for IMCA – a period that has seen him responsible for a number of innovations (such as implementing e-mail communications and building the public and members-only websites) as well as setting up the administrative procedures and practices required by a larger secretariat supporting an ever-growing membership.

Adam initially joined the association as a temporary secretary as the 1998 annual seminar got underway in Rio. It was fitting therefore, that the official anniversary came as the 2008 annual seminar got underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, demonstrating the growth in membership, participation and recognition around the world by drawing a record attendance to learn from and enjoy the broadest ever programme.

The secretariat team gathered again on their return for a special presentation of a chain and gift card and to celebrate together.

From the President

Johan Rasmussen, Acergy
IMCA President 2009



The economic situation and the falling oil price will inevitably influence the offshore service market.

Projects are being delayed, expectations of lower costs are clearly communicated and additional tonnage is expected to enter the market in the years to come, unless the credit crunch leads to order cancellations.

However, a shrinking of demand and prices being put under pressure do not change the fact that offshore services to the oil and gas industry are associated with risks. These risks are of a commercial nature as well in relation to operations and safety.

To take safety first: the need for attention to safety and to spend the resources needed to ensure a safe workplace for everyone onboard ships and barges, as well as onshore, cannot be compromised. It should be recognised by all stakeholders that safety should not be an area for cost cutting.

IMCA's latest safety seminar – *Covering the global HSE bases* – which takes place on 11-12 March in Houston will provide another opportunity for members to share lessons learnt, good practice and new ideas for addressing hazards both old and new and I encourage you all to ensure your company is represented.

Secondly, the contractual risk balance: a market downturn does not take away the risks which are inherent in our business.

In a shrinking market it may be tempting to take on contracts in order to secure utilisation at a lower margin – and with inferior protection against the risks which are unquantifiable and/or outside of the supplier's or contractor's control. We hope that customers do not increase their pressure on suppliers and contractors to take on more risks. For the supply side I cannot say anything else than the obvious: one knows what it costs to have a ship or a barge alongside the quay, while the costs of taking on contracts with unquantifiable risks or risks outside of the party's control are unknown.

IMCA will continue its effort in assisting its membership with standards of operation and in promoting the notion of balanced contractual terms. IMCA's contracting principles are available online at www.imca-int.com/contracts

News from IMCA's core activities



New guidelines on medical assessment

IMCA issues new guide for examining physicians to help ensure the health and work-fitness of non-marine crew

Assessment of fitness to work on offshore vessels is a complex and increasingly specialised assessment, requiring knowledge of not only general medical problems, but also occupational medical issues and a thorough knowledge of the working environment. Such assessments of fitness should be performed by a suitably qualified examining physician.

IMCA has now issued its *Medical guidelines for non-marine crew working in the offshore environment* (IMCA C 012) – a guide for examining physicians on assessing the fitness of non-marine personnel working on offshore construction vessels (it is assumed that the marine crew will be examined to a seafarer medical standard under the relevant flag state regime).

The guidelines cover both general principles and specific medical conditions, as well addressing the particular requirements for those in specific employment groups offshore. Example screening questionnaires, examination forms and certification formats are provided.

The guidelines recommend that such medical assessments be undertaken by a doctor approved by a flag state to undertake seafarer medicals, avoiding the need for any new certification or approval of doctors. It should be noted that IMCA does not approve individual doctors.

It is recommended that all individuals working on offshore vessels should be examined periodically and classified as medically fit to work in the offshore environment. Nevertheless, it remains the responsibility of the vessel operator to ensure that persons going offshore meet necessary standards of health and safety.

The guidelines are available to members for downloading and for purchase in printed form.

New C&T references

As highlighted elsewhere in this issue and in communications to members, the TCPC core activity is now simply 'Competence & Training'.

Existing documents keep their current references, with new information notes prefixed 'IMCA C'. Website addresses automatically redirect.

Personnel transfer

The safe transfer of personnel from the shore to offshore vessels and other worksites is an area of particular focus for the SEL committee this year, prompted by feedback from members on their own experiences and concerns.

The committee plans to develop guidance on the subject, looking at all types of crew transfer – personnel baskets, fast craft, etc. and is seeking input from members both in terms of highlighting the issues currently being faced around the world and through providing company procedures that could help form the basis of future IMCA guidance.

Contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com for more details or to contribute to this work.



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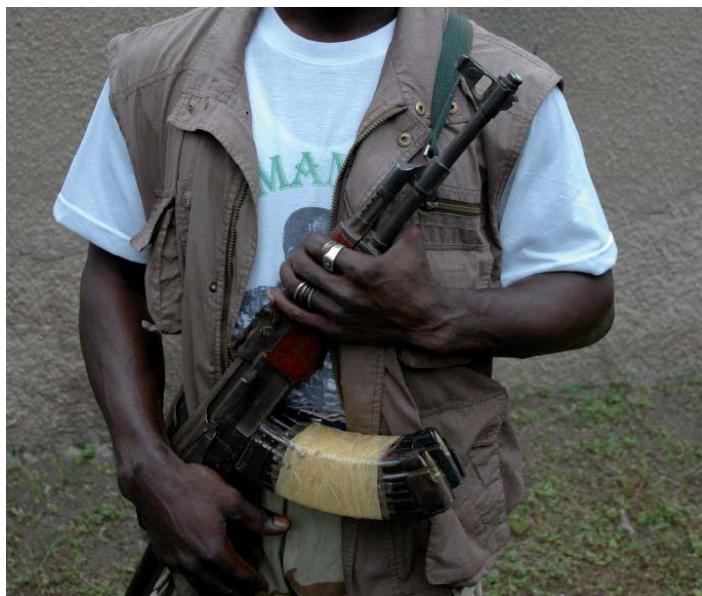


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Security



Piracy issues have been highlighted in the media recently and, although the focus of its attention is around the Horn of Africa, IMCA members are well aware of other areas with similar problems.

The nature of the problem demands confidentiality of information, but IMCA provides a forum for the anonymised sharing of information on members' experiences in a way in which

they can be confident does not compromise the security of personnel, vessels and other company property.

Philip Wiggs co-ordinates the Security Task Force within the secretariat and would be happy to receive input from members. The task force can then review material (either as submitted or further anonymised) and decide on the format for dissemination of such advice to other IMCA members.

Safety statistics

The secretariat is currently seeking input from contractor (ICO/Co) members on their safety statistics for 2008.

A record number contributed to this important benchmarking exercise last year and we hope this high level of participation will continue. Submissions are requested as soon as possible so that the full analysis can be carried out and the report published to members.

As always, submissions are held confidentially by the secretariat, with only anonymised figures, totals and trends published.

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

Supervisor training

IMCA has published a new *Outline syllabus for training of personnel in supervisory positions* (IMCA C 011).

The syllabus seeks to provide clear guidelines on supervisory and leadership skills, as this aspect of the role of the supervisor or manager is a difficult and important one.

Members had identified the need for such guidance, noting that those who demonstrate technical competence can often be promoted to positions of responsibility, whereupon it may be found that they have inadequate competence in supervisory skills, and an incomplete or superficial understanding of the business of leading and managing their fellow employees.

The guidance, drafted by a group under the Asia-Pacific Section before undergoing global committee review, sets out a framework for a training course suitable for supervisors and team leaders from all areas within the marine contracting sector, both on and offshore. It can also be applied to newly appointed managers and those who have some experience of managing but who have received no formal training.

IMO security briefing

The International Maritime Organization has recently issued a circular (MSC.1-Circ/1283) which addresses security issues for vessels not covered by SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code. Further details are available from the secretariat.

For full details on IMCA's work on security issues, visit www.imca-int.com/security or e-mail Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com



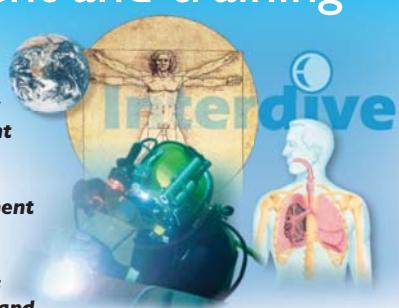
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Regional news

Americas

Around fifty members and guests gathered for the first open-format Americas Seminar in Houston, USA, on 11 November. The event followed a brief session for member-only business and featured a range of presentations not only on IMCA activities but on other issues relevant to the region's marine contracting industry, which proved popular with those present.

Dennis McLaughlin of Kosmos Energy provided an overview of the Jubilee Project – a large fast-track field development offshore West Africa. He was followed by Paul Byington of Helix Subsea Construction who spoke on the effects of Hurricane Ike and the preventative measures and response plans his company had implemented. Section Chairman Alan Allred of Aker Marine Contractors closed by discussing successful self-regulation in the industry.

Following March's IMCA safety seminar, the section will begin to organise further seminars in this format.

Asia-Pacific

The latest Asia-Pacific Section meeting took place in Perth, Australia, on 22 January, with 75 attendees.

The meeting began with a session dedicated to member business, including updates on global IMCA activities, review of a number of Australian regulatory developments and updates on discussions at the International Maritime Organization on the SPS Code, offshore vessels and DP operator training.

Guests were then welcomed to the meeting, with updates on the work of IMCA's global committees given by the section's elected representatives. Three well-received presentations were made, covering risk management (where Matt Hort of Clough spoke on plans to participate in the Indian Ocean Rowing Race) and by guest speakers on two health initiatives – 'Sustainable injury prevention' and 'Behaviour change weight programme'. The final session included workshops reviewing draft Australian accommodation guidelines, discussing offshore survey issues and reviewing draft IMCA guidance on safe isolation and intervention for diver access.

Europe & Africa

Nearly 100 people attended the 12 February 2009 meeting of the Europe & Africa Section, held at Trinity Hall, Aberdeen, UK, in conjunction with a competence workshop (see front page).

The first session of the day was dedicated to section business, with Hugh Williams introducing Wim de Boer of Heerema Marine Contractors, the new section chairman, who reviewed the history and role of the section before handing over to Jane Bugler for a brief overview of IMCA technical activities over the past twelve months and current work items.

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



Middle East & India

The Middle East & India Section's latest meeting took place on 16 February, as we went to press – a full report will appear in the next issue.



Steve MacMillan has indicated his intention to stand down as the section's Chairman, as he moves out of the region to a new role in J Ray McDermott, and an election will be organised shortly.

Steve has served in the role since 2002, during which time membership in the region has almost trebled, with section meetings featuring a much broader range of topics from across all technical divisions. Thanks have been expressed by IMCA members and staff alike for his significant service.



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Who to contact at IMCA:



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Chief Executive



Jane Bugler
Technical Director



Philip Wiggs
Technical Adviser



Nick Hough
Technical Adviser



Ian Giddings
Technical Adviser



Paul Evans
Technical Adviser

Genine da Cruz Harvey
Certification Schemes Administrator
for diving supervisors and LSTs

Adam Hugo
Support Services Manager

Nina Adams, Senior Administrator
- publication sales

Parul Patel, Administrator
- seminars and committee meetings

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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

Johan Rasmussen, Acergy

IMCA Vice-President

Andy Woolgar, Subsea 7

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

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

SEL: Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG

Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

CT: John Greensmyth, Technip

Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG

Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman – election underway

Marine: Pete Sommer, Technip

Pete Fouger, Transocean

Survey: Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services

Walter Steedman, Veripos

ROV: Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering

Competence & Training Committee

Outgoing Chairman (TCP): John Greensmyth, Technip

Chairman-Designate (CT): Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG

Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Craig Darroch, Acergy

Pauline Irwin, DOF

George Robertson, Fugro-Rovtech

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

Marine Division MC

Chairman: Pete Sommer, Technip

Vice-Chairman: Pete Fouger, Transocean

Alistair MacLeod, Acergy

Quirien Grul, Allseas

Derek Judd, Bibby Offshore

Anders Waage, DOF Management

Michiel Goedkoop, Heerema Marine Contractors

David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service

John de Hartog, Saipem

Geir Karlsen, Subsea 7

Kjell Egil Helgø, Teekay

Americas: Mike Lawson, Transocean

Asia-Pacific: Mike Meade, M3 Marine

Middle East & India: Ron Clark, NICO Middle East

Offshore Survey Division MC

Chairman: Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services

Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Subsea 7/Veripos

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Michiel van de Munt, Allseas

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ed Danson, C&C Technologies

Perry Balls, DeepOcean

Simon Barrett, DOF Subsea

Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey

Egbert Verweij, Heerema Marine Contractors

Peter Thomas, Maritech

Paul van Waalwijk, Noordhoek

Paul Bennion, Saipem

Martin Day, Subsea 7

Americas: David Fitzpatrick, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey Pte Ltd

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

Remote Systems & ROV Division MC

Chairman: Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering International

Colin Mackay, Acergy

Federico Morello, DNT Offshore

Keith Robathan, DOF Subsea

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

Americas: Ian Edmonstone, Helix ESG

Asia-Pacific: Ian Huggins, Hallin Marine

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

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Huta Marine Works Ltd
IDMC – Impresub Diving & Marine
Impresub International LLC
Inspectahire Instrument Co. Ltd
Integrated Subsea Services Ltd
Intl Marine Works - Alexandria
Intl Naval Works - Abu Dhabi
IOTA-Survey
IRSHAD
Island Offshore Management AS
Jack-Up Barge BV
Jifmar Offshore Services
Jumbo Offshore VoF
Knutsen OAS Shipping AS
Lamnalco Group
PT Lancer Rejeki Berkat Jaya
LD Travcean
Louisiana Overseas Inc.
Maersk Drilling
Maersk Supply Service
Maridive & Oil Services
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
Miclyn Express Offshore Pte Ltd
Mohn Drilling AS
Mutawa Marine Works Est
Neptune Marine Services
Nexans Norway AS - Energy Division
NICO Middle East Ltd
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 Power & Umbilical Ltd
Oceanteam Subsea Services Ltd
Octomar
Odijell Drilling
Offshore Geo-Surveys Sdn Bhd
Offshore International FZC
Offshore Manpower SA
Offshore Oil Eng. Co. Ltd (COOEC)
Offshore Subsea Works Sdn Bhd
Offshore Technology Solutions Ltd
Olympic Shipping AS
Orogenic GeoExpo Sdn Bhd
OSM Ship Management AS
Pacific Crest Pte Ltd
Pacific Richfield Marine Pte Ltd
PT Patra Dinamika
Pelican Offshore Services Pte Ltd
Peta Resources Sdn Bhd
Petroleum Marine Services Company
PFCE Ocean Engineering Sdn Bhd
Phoenix International
Pride International
Prosafe Offshore Ltd
PW-Group
Rana Diving & Marine Contractor srl
RBG Ltd
REM Offshore AS
Riise Underwater Engineering AS
Rolv Berg Drive AS
Rubicon Offshore Int'l Pte Ltd
Sahara Petroleum Company
Saipem sa - Sabos 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
Searov Offshore
Seascape 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
SC Shark srl
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 Technology Services (UK) Ltd
Subocean Group Ltd
Subsea 7 Asia Pacific
Subsea Explore Services (M) Sdn Bhd
Subsea Intervention Technologies
Subsea Petroleum Services
Subtech (Pty) Ltd
Subtech Qatar Diving & Marine Svcs LLC
Svitzer
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.
Troms Offshore AS
TS Marine (Contracting) Ltd
TS Marine Pty Ltd
UMC International plc
Underwater Services Company
Unidive Marine Services Pte Ltd
URS nv
UTEC Survey, Inc.
Van Oord Offshore BV
Varun Shipping Co. Ltd
Vastalux Sdn Bhd
Veolian Environmental Services Special Svcs
Visser & Smits Marine Contracting bv
Vroon Offshore Services BV
VTT Maritime AS
Wagenborg Offshore BV
PT Wintermar
Workshops Contractors BV
Zakher Marine International
Zamil Offshore Services Co. 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
Hydratight Ltd
Hyperbaric Technology BV (Hytech)
IXSEA
JW Automarine
Kenz Figee 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) Pte Ltd
OSM Ship Management AS
Pacific Commercial Diving Supply Pty Ltd
Perry Slingsby Systems, Inc.
Perry Slingsby Systems Ltd
Prosver Offshore
Redaelli Tecna spa
Rolls-Royce Oy Ab
Rolv Berg Drive AS
Rovsco Asia Pte Ltd
Saab Seaway 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-EI AS
Soil Machine Dynamics Ltd
Sonardyne Asia Pte Ltd
Sonardyne International Ltd
Submarine Manufacturing & Products Ltd
Submec Offshore Pty Ltd
Subsea Vision Ltd
Sundan Offshore Pvt Ltd
Technical Diving Equipment Pommecc bv
TGH AP Pte Ltd
Trelleborg Protective Products AB
Trim Systems Pte Ltd
The Titanium Company
Underwater Technology Services Pte Ltd
Unique System FZE
Veripos
Vroon Offshore Services Ltd
Suppliers of services
Abermed Ltd
Advanced Marine Pte Ltd
Advanced Offshore Contractors Pvt Ltd
PT Advanced Oil & Gas Consulting
Air Products Singapore Pte Ltd
Alfa Petroleum Services
Anglo-Eastern Group
Anglo-Eastern Group (Asia-Pacific)
ARV Offshore Co. Ltd
ASP Rope Access
Auto Dynamic Positioning Services
Blade Offshore Services Ltd
Braemar Falconet Pte Ltd
CAPE Group Pte Ltd
C-MAR Group
Construction Specialists Ltd (CSL)
Cosalt
DMC Offshore
DOWC
El-Automation AS
ETPM Ltd
Exmed Stirling Ltd
Fender & Spill Response Services
Franklin Offshore International Pte Ltd
Global Maritime
GW & Associates Ltd
Houlder Insurance Services Ltd
Imes Ltd
Inchcape Shipping Services
Inchcape Shipping Services – Americas
Independent Risk Solutions BV
Intercean Marine Services Ltd
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)

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 MOS Marine Offshore Service Pte Ltd
 Nautronix plc
 Navigate International Inc.
 Noble Denton Consultants Ltd
 Noble Denton Marine, Inc.
 Noble Denton Middle East Ltd
 Noble Denton Singapore Pte Ltd
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 Offshore Commissioning Solutions
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 Peterson SBS Den Helder BV
 Promarine Ltd
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 Schilling Robotics, Inc.
 SeaSafe Pte Ltd
 Sebastian AS
 PT Sirius Maritimindo Services
 Skan-El AS
 Skuld AS
 Sparrows Offshore Services Ltd
 Submec Offshore Pty Ltd
 Subsea Vision Ltd
 Thome Offshore Management Pte Ltd
 Trident Offshore Ltd
 The Tritanium Company
 Veripos
 Vroon Offshore Services Ltd
 Wartsila Electrical & Automation Services
 Wavespec Ltd

Personnel agencies

Ace Diving Services CC
 ACSM
 Advanced Offshore Contractors Pvt Ltd
 Alfa Petroleum Services
 Amberjack Oil & Gas Recruitment Svcs
 Aqua Omega Services Pvt Ltd
 Atlanta Ltd Maritime Agency
 Atlantic Resourcing Ltd
 Atlas DOOR
 PT Bahana Galang Jaya
 Bibby Ship Management Group - E&A
 Bibby Ship Management Group - ME&I
 Dave Oliver Hydrographics Services
 De Moura Shipping Ltda
 Flare Project Services LLC
 Hydrosub Ltd
 Lerus Ltd
 Maritech Group
 Naurex Resources
 Oceanscan Ltd
 Offshore Marine Services Pty Ltd
 Offshore Marine Services UK Ltd
 Oilfield Medics UK Ltd
 Petrolis SA
 PR Offshore Services Ltd
 Seatek India
 Sheffield Offshore Services Pte Ltd
 SubNet Services Ltd
 SubServPro
 Total Marine Services
 UK Project Support Ltd
 Underwater Engineering Ltd

Training establishments

AI Safety Training Consultants (1995) Ltd
 Aberdeen Skills & Enterprise Training Ltd
 Adriamare Maritime Training Center
 Ålesund University College
 Banff & Buchan College
 PT Barron International
 Bergen University College - Diver Ed.
 Bibby Ship Management Group Ltd - E&A
 Bibby Ship Management Group Ltd - ME&I
 Centre for Marine Simulation
 CFO - Centro Formazione Offshore
 Commercial Diving Academy
 De Moura Shipping Ltda
 Delphinus Services - ROV Training
 Divers Academy International
 Divers Institute of Technology
 Divers University Esporte Aquático Ltda
 Diving Diseases Research Centre
 The Dynamit Positioning Centre Ltd
 Elmbridge Subsea t/a The ROV Training Ctr
 Falck Nutec bv
 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
 Hydratight Ltd
 Hydrolab-HydroCAT
 IDESS Maritime Centre (Subic), Inc.
 INPP
 The Institute of ROVs
 Interdrive Services Ltd
 Jack's Dive Chest Commercial Diving School
 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
 MSTS Asia Sdn Bhd
 National Hyperbaric Centre Ltd
 National Oceanography Centre
 National Polytechnic College of Science
 Netherlands Diving Centre
 Noble Denton Consultants Ltd
 The Ocean Corporation
 Offshore Skills Training Centre (OSTRAC)
 PetroVietnam Manpower Training College
 PNI Training Centre AS
 Power & Generation Services
 Professional Diving Academy
 Professional Diving Centre
 Satakunta University of Applied Sciences
 PT SBS Indonesia
 SEATAG Offshore Ltd
 SEA Team Solutions Pte Ltd
 Seneca College - Underwater Skills Prog.
 Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre
 Skilltrade BV
 SMTG Global Inc.
 Southern Institute of Technology
 Stord/Haugesund University College
 SubNet Services Ltd
 Survie Mer Formation
 The Underwater Centre Fort William
 The Underwater Centre Fremantle
 The Underwater Centre (Tasmania)
 Underwater Engineering Ltd
 WVA Maritime Training Centre - Fremantle
 West Coast Commercial Diving School
 Yak Diving Academy

Naval units

Irish Naval Service
 Royal Saudi Navy Forces
 Salvage & Marine Operations IPT

Corresponding Members

Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company
 Asip 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 West Java Ltd
 Brunei Shell Petroleum Company
 Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd
 Chevron Energy Technology Co. - Subsea
 Chevron Nigeria/Mid-Africa
 Chevron Shipping Co.
 Chevron Thailand E&P Ltd
 CNR International UK Ltd
 ConocoPhillips
 ConocoPhillips China
 ConocoPhillips Indonesia
 ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd
 Dana Petroleum plc
 Det Norske Veritas
 Department of Labour (South Africa)
 Esso Australia Pty Ltd
 GDF Suez E&P Nederland bv
 Gulf of Suez Petroleum Company
 Health & Safety Authority
 Husky Energy
 International Diving Schools Association
 Kuwait Oil Company
 Lloyd's Register EMEA
 Maersk Oil Qatar AS
 Mobil North Sea Ltd
 Murphy Sarawak Oil Co. Ltd
 Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij BV
 Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd
 Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd
 Petro Canada - Terra Nova Project
 Petrobras SA
 Premier Oil Natuna Sea Ltd
 PTT Exploration & Production plc
 Qatar Petroleum
 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:

- ◆ **ABPro Pte Ltd**
 - ◆ **Advanced Energy Systems (ADES)**
Based in Cairo, Egypt, ADES operates with a prime focus on rigless offshore hydraulic workover, well servicing, platform maintenance and marine vessel operations. It owns self-propelled, self-elevating liftboats offering flexible, self-contained work platforms with 160 man accommodation.
Tel: +20 2 2754 8834/8
Web: www.adesegypt.com
 - ◆ **Alfa Petroleum Services**
 - ◆ **Arab Tanker Services**
 - ◆ **Argus Remote Systems AS**
 - ◆ **ARV Offshore Co Ltd**
A rapidly growing oil & gas services company headquartered in Thailand, ARV's prime business sectors are: offshore field development for small to medium oil & gas companies, and innovative solutions for medium sized projects (including EPCL work) for large oil & gas companies.
Tel: +66 (0) 2937 5155
Web: www.arv-offshore.com
 - ◆ **ASP Rope Access**
 - ◆ **Bibby Ship Management Group Ltd - Europe & Africa**
 - ◆ **Chevron Nigeria/Mid-Africa**
 - ◆ **ConocoPhillips**
The ConocoPhillips Global Production Marine Operations group provides upstream marine operations expertise to the company. Staffed with marine specialists with qualifications and experience in marine engineering, propulsion and machinery design, ship and cargo handling systems, mooring analysis, floating production system operations and port and terminal operations, it provides expertise and operational guidance to all company marine assets.
 - ◆ **Department of Labour**
 - ◆ **Divers University Esporte Aquático Ltda**
 - ◆ **EDT Marine Construction Ltd**
 - ◆ **Elmbridge Subsea Ltd t/a The ROV Training Centre**
 - ◆ **Hydratight Ltd**
 - ◆ **Inspectahire Instrument Co. Ltd**
Established in 1981, Inspectahire Instrument Co. Ltd was founded with the goals of applying engineering and optical solutions to diverse inspection applications. It hires, sells and contracts visual inspection and NDT technology throughout the UKCS and overseas.
Tel: +44 (0) 1224 789 692
Web: www.inspectahire.com
 - ◆ **Jack's Dive Chest Commercial Diving School**
 - ◆ **Jifmar Offshore Services**
A French operator of multi-purpose vessels, offering terminal services to the oil & gas community and providing inspection, maintenance and repair (IMR), line handling, hose handling and underwater intervention services.
Tel: +33 6 18 31 76 88
Web: www.jifmar.fr
 - ◆ **Lerus Ltd**
A manning agent located in Odessa, the largest port in Ukraine and home to thousands of seamen. The company has an extensive database of Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and other officers and ratings.
Tel: +380 48 717 3753
Web: www.lerus-online.com
 - ◆ **Maridive & Oil Services**
An Egyptian owned company founded in 1978, Maridive owns and operates an expanding fleet of fifty vessels (AHT, AHTS, DPI, DPII, DSV and mooring vessels), all are certified by ISO, ISM and ISPS with crews competent according to STCW requirements.
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Web: www.mosalex.com
 - ◆ **Miclyn Express Offshore Pte Ltd**
 - ◆ **MSTS Asia Sdn Bhd**
 - ◆ **Naurex Resources**
 - ◆ **SC Shark SRL**
 - ◆ **Searov Offshore**
 - ◆ **Sheffield Offshore Services Pte Ltd**
 - ◆ **Southern Institute of Technology**
 - ◆ **Survie Mer Formation**
A training centre specialising in survival at sea techniques in Marseilles (south of France), providing STCW 95 certification for seamen working onboard merchant ships (crew), on drill units (technicians, divers, staff team, etc.) and sailors, as well as BOSIET and HUET courses.
Tel: +33 6 12 91 34 00
Web: www.surviemerformation.com
 - ◆ **UMC International plc**
 - ◆ **UTECH Survey, Inc.**
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Web: www.utecsurvey.com
 - ◆ **Varun Shipping Company Ltd**
- Recent name changes**
- ◆ CTC Marine, DeepOcean and Trico Marine are now DeepOcean (*a Trico Group company*)
 - ◆ GDF Production Nederland bv is now GDF Suez E&P Nederland bv
 - ◆ Proserv Abandonment & Decommissioning is now Proserv Offshore
 - ◆ ROV Supply Pte Ltd is now Rovco Asia Pte Ltd
 - ◆ Skan-El Skipssprojektering AS is now Skan-El AS
 - ◆ Submersible Television Surveys Ltd is now Submersible Technology Services (UK) Ltd
 - ◆ Subtech Offshore is now Subtech Qatar Diving and Marine Services LLC
 - ◆ Cynergetix Pte Ltd is now TGH AP Pte Ltd
 - ◆ Electrical Power Engineering Ltd is now Wartsila Electrical & Automation Services

You may have missed ...

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

New publications:

- **Outline syllabus for training of personnel in supervisory positions (IMCA C 011)**
- **Medical guidelines for non-marine crew working in the offshore environment: A guide for examining physicians (IMCA C 012)**
- **Proceedings of the IMCA annual seminar 2008 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) (IMCA M 195)**

Safety flashes:

- **Safety flash 17/08** – covering 6 incidents: Accidental shutdown of main engines; Fatality – struck down by falling object during lifting operation; Stored energy – injury sustained whilst removing metal straps; Failure of webbing strop during lifting operations; Uncontrolled movement of crane jib during inspection; Failure of lifting padeye
- **Safety flash 18/08** – covering 2 incidents: Mini transponder falling from crane wire to deck; Failure of pipe handling system causes injuries and fatalities
- **Safety flash 01/09** – covering 3 incidents: Anchor drag near-miss incident; Dangers of medicine abuse; Counterfeit hydrostatic release mechanisms for life-rafts
- **Safety flash 02/09** – covering 2 incidents: Winch drum failure – deep water operations; Schat Harding product awareness notice – free-fall lifeboat hooks

Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation (SEL)

IMCA SEL 01/09 – SEL documents issued in 2008

02/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

03/09 Draft NWEA guidelines for the safe management of offshore supply and rig move operations – industry consultation

Competence & Training (formerly TCPC)

IMCA TCPC 05/08 – Training and certification requirements for personnel operating dynamic positioning systems

IMCA C 01/09 – TCPC documents issued in 2008

02/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

Diving Division

IMCA D 14/08 – Election results: Diving Division Management Cttee

15/08 New style certificates: IMCA Offshore Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician Certification Schemes

01/09 Diving Division documents issued in 2008

02/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

03/09 Member feedback sought on incidence of decompression illness

Marine Division

IMCA M 21/08 – Training and certification requirements for

01/09 Marine Division documents issued in 2008

02/09 Concerns about programmable logic controllers (PLCs) in marine operations: Note to senior management

03/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

04/09 Draft NWEA guidelines for the safe management of offshore supply and rig move operations – industry consultation

Offshore Survey Division

IMCA S 01/09 – Offshore Survey Division documents issued in 2008

02/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

Remote Systems & ROV Division

IMCA R 01/09 – Remote Systems & ROV Division documents issued in 2008

02/09 Results of the IMCA Member Satisfaction Survey 2008

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:

information@imca-int.com

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Diving Division

Umbilical kink tests

Investigation is underway into diver umbilical kink testing.

Concern has been expressed by diving contractors about the potential loss of gas to the diver due to a kinked umbilical and the issue has been discussed by the Diving Safety, Medical, Technical & Training (SMTT) Committee.

Committee members have personally noted a number of incidents they know to have occurred in the industry over the recent months.

Diving umbilicals are generally supplied with 'minimum bend radius criteria', but these are all too easily exceeded in the difficult environmental conditions encountered when diving offshore.

The committee is aiming to raise awareness of the issue among contractors world-wide and is seeking details from Diving Division members on any similar incidents and the remedial measures they have implemented, for anonymised compilation and analysis and to help develop IMCA guidance.

If you are able to provide such information or otherwise wish to contribute to this work, please contact Paul.Evans@imca-int.com

Wanted – advances in diving equipment

A workshop on the advances in safety-related diving equipment was held during the 2008 IMCA annual seminar, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November. Delegates were split into groups and tasked with discussing the developments they had experience of and putting forward items to form the following wishlist for future development:

- ◆ Online monitoring of gas purity for hydrocarbons
- ◆ In-helmet heads-up displays
- ◆ Umbili-wheel
- ◆ Electronic diver depth monitoring with excursion alarms
- ◆ Reduction in size of diver backpacks
- ◆ Hyperbaric evacuation policy, methodology to be developed by IMCA (a current project)
- ◆ Vitalink or similar system to be promoted and used more
- ◆ Ergonomics and comfort factor for dive teams to be addressed
- ◆ Hyperbaric defibrillator
- ◆ Investigation and guidance on maximum age of diving systems

The Diving Division Management Committee reviewed these discussions and is keeping a watching brief on developments. Members of the division are ideally placed to provide updates on equipment developments and are invited to provide feedback on whether some of these items already exist or are planned.

Please contact Paul.Evans@imca-int.com if you can help.

Competence guidance being extended

As part of the IMCA-wide review, the competence assurance and assessment tables covering diving personnel are currently under review.

The first phase, updating the existing tables to reflect industry developments, is complete. The 2008 annual seminar included a

workshop to discuss diving personnel competence. This resulted in a request to extend the competence tables with task-based information. This work is now underway within a Diving Division workgroup.

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

Certification schemes

IMCA's Offshore Diving Supervisor and Life Support Technician certification schemes are now fully administered from the London secretariat offices.

Please direct all enquiries regarding applications, examination arrangements and certificate verification to Genine da Cruz Harvey, Certification Schemes Administrator. Updated forms with these details are available.

Genine.daCruz-Harvey@imca-int.com
IMCA, 5 Lower Belgrave Street,
London, SW1W 0NR, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7824 5520
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7824 5521

Election results

The 2009 biennial election of the Diving Division Management Committee saw Alan Forsyth (Subsea 7) re-elected as chairman, with Paul Blewett (Technip) as the new vice-chairman (having held various committee roles under IMCA and AODC previously).

New members of the committee include Craig Cook of SMIT Subsea in Singapore, further enhancing the committee's global perspective.

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Brazil Vessel importation
EWT / EP FPSO Services

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Email: enquiries@dmcoffshore.com.sg www.dmcoffshore.com.sg

IMO report

The 2008 member satisfaction survey (see page 2) included a question on which organisations IMCA should be working with on behalf of members. A number of you mentioned the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In fact, IMO monitoring, briefing and attendance at meetings is already a major area of work for our technical team.

IMCA has held non-governmental observer status at IMO since 1999 and regularly attends meetings on a variety of topics at the IMO headquarters in London.

Briefing and opportunities for member input are provided on relevant issues by way of information notes – generally those sent to Marine Division and SEL representatives or more widely for issues of wider relevance – reports are included in the minutes of regular meetings and all of these are listed in our monthly documentation summary.

However, if you wish to put forward a particular area relating to IMO developments which IMCA could usefully address on behalf of members, please contact the secretariat's technical team (imca@imca-int.com).

Over recent months the secretariat has been especially active on two particular issues affecting members, which are the focus of the rest of this feature.

SPS Code and OCSVs

In January 2008 IMCA established a workgroup comprising IMCA members and other bodies, to look into issues arising from the IMO review of the Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code.

A joint paper with German delegation was submitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its November 2008 meeting. The following plenary debate resulted in the issues raised being passed to the IMO sub-committee on Ship Design & Equipment (DE) for addition to its programme. The intention is for the sub-committee to resolve the issue within two sessions (over about twelve months) and report back to MSC.

The first DE sub-committee meeting is scheduled for 16-20 March 2009. IMCA has arranged a lunchtime presentation at IMO headquarters during the meeting to demonstrate and discuss the variety of offshore vessel types and range of activities they undertake and to highlight the views of offshore construction industry vessel operators on this important issue.

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OTC, 4-7 May Booth 2341

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IMCA

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The Normand Installer, one of the industry's extensive and diverse fleet of offshore construction support vessels, which IMCA is bringing to IMO's attention
Photograph courtesy Solstad Shipping

Members are asked to submit details of the problems they are facing in respect of application of the revised SPS Code by flag or coastal states, together with any specific comments on the code itself, to the secretariat.

For more information or to contribute to this work, contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com

DP operator training

The fortieth meeting of the IMO sub-committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW) took place on 2-6 February 2009. A major topic for discussion was the revision of the convention and code on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), which is intended to be completed in 2010.

There was much of interest to IMCA members during the meeting, but of particular concern was a proposal from India to include training and certification requirements for personnel operating dynamic positioning systems within the STCW code.

Although IMCA, broadly speaking, welcomed the recognition of the need for training and certification, it was felt that the specific proposal needed further work and that the incorporation of this subject matter should be as

guidance in the voluntary section of the code, rather than as mandatory requirements.

Various maritime administrations endorsed the inclusion of such guidance and the sub-committee instructed India, IMCA and OCIMF (the Oil Companies International Marine Forum – also an observer organisation at IMO) to jointly develop draft guidance. This will then be considered by an inter-sessional workgroup (STW-ISWG) later this year before eventual submission back to the STW sub-committee during 2010.

It should be remembered that STCW deals with standards necessary for the safety of life at sea and prevention of pollution rather than more specific occupational standards.

The relevant parts of guidance set out in IMCA M 117 – *The training and experience of key DP personnel* – and IMCA C 002 – *Competence assurance and assessment: Guidance document and competence tables: Marine Division* – will, however, form an important basis of IMCA's initial contribution to this work as we seek to relay our members' collective expertise and industry good practice guidance.

For further details or if you wish to be involved in this work, please contact Ian.Giddings@imca-int.com

Guidance on UPSs

Draft guidance on the design, selection, installation and use of uninterruptible power supplies (UPSs) onboard vessels has been developed and submitted to IMCA by its consultant.

A comprehensive text, the guidance covers aspects including:

- ◆ types of UPS currently in use
- ◆ types of direct current (DC) power supplies
- ◆ types of battery
- ◆ application of UPSs and DC supplies onboard vessels
- ◆ integration with other vessel systems
- ◆ strategies for UPS and DC distribution
- ◆ switching requirements
- ◆ operational issues
- ◆ suitability for marine applications.

This advanced draft is now being formatted ready for distribution to IMCA committees in accordance with the usual approval procedures.

Final publication of the guidance is expected later this year.

For more details please contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com


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Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV Divisions

ROV statistics

Each year IMCA undertakes an analysis of ROV activity, which provides a useful benchmark for monitoring ROV work.

One use of the data is to provide background for any discussions on the state of the industry and when describing the extent of operations in a variety of situations.

The analysis is now undertaken on a global basis and all ROV contractor (ICO/Co) members are asked to submit their data as soon as possible.

To contribute or for further details on this initiative, please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

Digital video

Finalisation of IMCA's updated review of current and future digital video technology is currently underway, with a revised version of IMCA R 012/S 008 due for publication in the coming weeks.

The next task for the Digital Video Workgroup is development of a set of case studies on the use of such technology in our industry.

Contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com for further information.

Updated competence tables due

You will have read elsewhere in this issue that the full set of competence assurance and assessment tables is currently under review, some six years following the latest update and ten since the original publication.

The Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV Divisions have been enthusiastic adopters of the guidance for many years, with additional material developed aimed at the freelance personnel used widely in each sector. It is no surprise, therefore, that these are expected to be the first divisions to produce updated competence tables with workgroup reviews complete and circulated for final committee review.

A key aspect of the IMCA-wide review has been to clarify and standardise specific the specific competence requirements under the headings 'knowledge', 'ability' and 'demonstration' and improve the consistency of language and format between the four divisions.

Specific updates for the Offshore Survey Division (IMCA C 004) include harmonisation of core competencies for each grade (senior, grade I and grade II) covering, safety, emergency response, behavioural factors, IT skills and seamanship.

The updated Remote Systems & ROV Division volume (IMCA C 005) has been updated to include a new level of 'ROV superintendent', reflecting similar roles in the diving and offshore survey disciplines, and ROV tooling technician grades have been introduced. As with the offshore survey competencies, there has been an overall revision, bringing the terminology up to date, and a move to common core competencies throughout, of safety, emergency response and communication skills.

The new guidance documents will be issued to members as they become available, with updates also made available online at www.imca-int.com/competence

Ocean Careers

IMCA is supporting a new event – *Ocean Careers* – which takes place on 31 March-2 April in Southampton, UK.

The event runs alongside *Ocean Business* and in future years will alternate with the *Oceanology International* exhibition and conference in London, UK (both events are biennial).

The intention is to alert potential recruits – particularly those at college and university level – to the diverse range of possibilities available in the marine contracting industry so holding the event where many IMCA members already exhibit is a great opportunity for the recruits to learn not just the hard facts, but to discuss their own options and the range of activities undertaken by (and roles available in) the industry.

IMCA, a supporter and member of the *Ocean Careers* organising committee, will be exhibiting at the event, where the full range of careers information produced over the past year – factsheets, case studies, in-depth articles and more – will be available.

For more details on the event or to obtain careers materials for your own use, please contact the secretariat offices.

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Spotlight on Steve Sheppard

Steve Sheppard is Diving Manager of Helix Energy Solutions Group's Well Ops UK subsidiary and has recently become Chairman of the IMCA Competence & Training Committee. In this article, he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the issues his committee is currently addressing on behalf of members.

places are filled by personnel without their depth of experience and knowledge.

We are also introducing more complex and sophisticated equipment into our systems that may require a level of expertise and speciality that has not so far been needed in the technical support roles onboard our ships.

The combination of these factors and the state of the industry has the potential to introduce too many elements that could, unless recognised, acknowledged and managed, affect our ability to conduct our future operations to the high standards of operability and safety we have worked so hard to achieve.

How can these be taken forward?

Many companies have recognised the challenges and have made significant progress in implementing a variety of schemes and control measures to recruit and train personnel. I believe there is some room for co-operation in establishing common entry requirements, common basic training and training programmes. This naturally links with the competence schemes administered by different contractors. Cross-company acceptance and recognition of an individual's portfolio and experience may assist in an industry that often has to rapidly mobilise transient or self-employed workers.

On a related note, we must ensure that our workforce recognises the importance of active participation in competence schemes and encourage supervisors to endorse evidence of training and assessment. Such participation helps individuals and allows employers to monitor progress and gauge readiness for promotion or, if necessary, provide targeted training to fill gaps in knowledge and assist in attaining competency.

How does IMCA help?

IMCA's importance comes from its increasing size and diverse composition. Its members bring a huge range of experience and expertise from a variety of operating environments. IMCA extracts, channels and presents this diverse knowledge in a common, organised structure for the benefit of all its members, whether they are actively contributing or not. The adoption of good practice guidance promulgated globally by IMCA has contributed significantly to improving efficiency and safety.

In relation to training and competence, we see the benefit of the diving supervisor and LST schemes and the evolution of the competency frameworks for the different disciplines that companies can adopt and align to their own requirements. One of the challenges for IMCA is to review such schemes periodically to ensure they continue to address the demands of our industry and perhaps evolve whilst ensuring that we maintain the high standards required.

Challenging times lie ahead, with a busy industry, skills shortages and the 'credit crunch' – can contractors afford the time to spend on competence administration?

This question assumes that companies actually used to spend adequate time on competence administration even before these heady times of increased activity, skills shortages and the 'credit crunch'! I am not entirely convinced that this was in fact the case. Nevertheless, efficient administration of competency schemes need not be an expensive affair. Failure to administer a scheme can, of course, leave gaps with potentially disastrous (and very expensive) consequences. This is even more possible with the increased level of complexity we are bringing to our operations and the equipment used to execute and support them.

There is a parallel with safety management here: if you think safety is expensive, just wait until you see the cost of an accident!

Why the 'Competence & Training' relaunch?

The 'old' TCPC committee was central to many of IMCA's achievements over its 12 years. The enormous benefits realised by members are testament to the hard work and efforts of the previous chairmen and committee members.

It is, of course, the intention of the Competence & Training committee to continue this valuable work by focusing on the challenges associated with establishing competence and using the specialised division committees to add flesh to the framework provided by the C&T committee.

We will also build on recent work aimed at attracting new entrants to the industry and will address training needs with contractors, clients and training providers in a way that adds the most value without being suffocating.

How do you see the future?

I think the apparent 'knee jerk' to the rapid fluctuations in the prices of oil and gas will be a real challenge for contractors and could lead to mixed priorities. A focus on driving down rates could compromise our ability to take on trainees and develop the skills we need throughout the next decade and beyond.

Both contractors and clients expect and deserve competent crews. They must recognise that our industry requires new personnel. Every new entrant is initially only of limited productivity, occupying bed space on an offshore worksite or desk space in an office. Without acceptance and accommodation of this temporary 'burden', our industry's future will be even more challenging.

Tell us about your company

Helix Well Ops UK (WOUK) is part of the Well Operations division of Helix Energy Solutions Group. WOUK conducts a range of wellhead intervention projects from the Seawell, supported by the vessel's saturation diving capabilities, while a wide range of subsea construction activities can be performed in parallel with well intervention or as stand-alone projects. We have recently taken delivery of our new-build well intervention vessel with an 18 man saturation system – the *Well Enhancer*.

What is your current job?

I am Diving Services Manager. This means I am responsible for supporting projects with the diving equipment, personnel and procedures required to execute the project's scope of work. Recently, a lot of my time has been spent on the diving system integration on the *Well Enhancer*.

How did you get to this point in your career?

I graduated from Aberdeen University in 1981 with an honours degree in physiology. The courses had included several aspects of diving physiology which I found fascinating. I embarked on a postgraduate doctorate but became disillusioned and decided to try to get involved in the offshore diving industry. After many months of trying, I secured my first job in life support in '82 and, as was common in those days, worked offshore for various companies on worksites in many locations. After about 10 years offshore, I was given the opportunity to move onshore to work on various aspects of diving safety and operations management. Since then I have had the good fortune to work with great people and characters around the world in project, operations and diving management.

What issues are affecting the industry now?

I am afraid that this theme has been raised numerous times in previous issue of Making Waves but is still very high on the list of key areas; how do we find the right people to fill the positions that are needed now and the significant increase in required numbers as the new tonnage starts operating? My particular concern is in the diving industry but I know that the same issues pose significant challenges in disciplines such as marine, ROV and survey.

I feel there is a real danger of "experience dilution", as key personnel approach retirement or are transferred to new vessels and their

Forthcoming events

- 3-5 March
Subsea Tieback
San Antonio, USA
- 10 March
Americas Section
Houston, USA
- 11-12 March
Covering the global HSE bases – IMCA safety seminar
Houston, USA
- 18-20 March
China Offshore Summit
Beijing, China
- 26-27 March
Decommissioning &
Abandonment Summit GoM 09
Houston, USA
- 31 March-2 April
Ocean Careers, Ocean Business
and Offshore Survey 09
Southampton, UK
- 31 March-2 April
MCE Deepwater Development
Copenhagen, Denmark
- 22-23 April
OSV Asia Pacific
Singapore
- 28-30 April
North Sea Offshore Cranes &
Lifting Conference
Stavanger, Norway
- 30 April
Asia-Pacific Section
Bangkok, Thailand
- 4-7 May
OTC, Houston, Texas, USA
- 12-13 May
IADC Environmental
Conference & Exhibition
Stavanger, Norway
- 20 May
IMCA Social Reception
London, UK
- 27 May
IMCA Golf Day
Aberdeenshire, UK
- 27-29 May
Deepwater Asia Congress
Shanghai, China
- 12 June
Midsummer Charity Ball
Kincardineshire, UK
- 8-11 September
Offshore Europe
Aberdeen, UK
- 5-7 October
Middle East Workboats
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 4-5 November
**Integrated marine operations
in challenging times –**
IMCA annual seminar
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

For full details on forthcoming
IMCA and third-party events,
please visit the website:
www.imca-int.com/events

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- ◆ Occupational health and travel medicine
- ◆ Behavioural and culture-based safety
- ◆ 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!

11-12 March 2009
Minute Maid Park, Houston, USA



IMCA Social & Networking Events

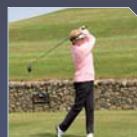
HQS Wellington Reception

20 May 2009
HQS Wellington, London, UK



Golf Day

27 May 2009
Newmachar Golf Club
Aberdeenshire, London, UK



Midsummer Charity Ball

12 June 2009
Banchory Lodge Hotel
Kincardineshire, UK



Details on all of these events will be circulated to members shortly.

Keep up to date on forthcoming social and networking events via our website:

www.imca-int.com/events/social

IMCA Annual Seminar 2009

Integrated Marine Operations in Challenging Times

A call for papers has been issued for the 2009 IMCA annual seminar and is available now at www.imca-int.com/events/seminar/

Papers are sought on a variety of topics identified under four major headings:

- ◆ Deep water technology and equipment
- ◆ Offshore diving
- ◆ ROV and AUV operations
- ◆ Offshore survey

Full details on the event will be placed online as they become available.



4-5 November 2009
at the Sofitel hotel
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil