news from the International Marine Contractors Association

issue 53 - November 2009

CMID database launches

The CMID, a common format for inspection of offshore vessels, has helped improve efficiency and minimise repeat inspections over ten years. Now, a new website and software application will further enhance the useability and availability of CMID reports.

The IMCA Common Marine Inspection Document (CMID) Database website and e-CMID application have gone live this month and are available at www.imcacmid.com

The CMID was originally launched in 1999 and has helped to avoid duplicate inspections every time a new client wishes to charter a vessel and to standardise

inspection requirements, by providing a common, recognisable format. Issue 7 of the CMID was published in March 2009 following cross-industry review to enhance the quality of the report, remove subjectivity and provide additional guidance on inspector competency.

The website aims to improve the availability of completed

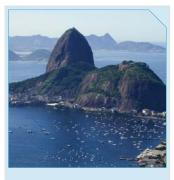


CMID inspection reports and is available to all companies (not just IMCA members) who are vessel operators, their clients and the inspectors who are commissioned to undertake CMID inspections.

In parallel, the new e-CMID application will assist inspectors in completing reports to a consistent standard, obtaining certain vessel-specific information in the report template, then uploading directly into the database for review.

There is no charge for use of the site – it is fully funded by IMCA for the industry.

Each company should register once – the first user will be the administrator and key contact, able to add other users within the company. User guides have been developed for each role – vessel operator, client and inspector – and the system allows for situations where companies may operate and charter vessels or where vessel operators and clients have in-house inspectors.



Rio seminar success

The seventeenth IMCA annual seminar took place at the Sofitel Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4-5 November 2009. On the theme Integrated marine operations in challenging times, the event attracted over 300 delegates for a range of presentations, workshops, social/networking events and an exhibition.

Supporting organisations included IBP (Instituto Brasileiro de Petró, Gás e Biocombustíveis – the Brazilian petroleum institute). A number of local delegates attended, including both members and those new to the association and its work.

The new IMCA Central & South America Section is already seeing much interest and growth and this event both further raised the association's profile and enabled the exchange of ideas from and to the region in the pursuit of safe and efficient marine contracting.

Continued on page 2

Also in this issue:

Deep water acoustic positioning

A new guide to deep water acoustic positioning principles, systems and their use is now available from IMCA.

Get the full story on page 13

Safe isolation for diver access

IMCA has published new guidance on isolation and intervention to enable safe access by divers to subsea systems.

Find out more on page $\boldsymbol{11}$

IMCA on the move

The IMCA secretariat is moving to new London offices in mid-December 2009. Please update your address books!

Full details on page 3



makingwaves

The IMCA Newsletter

issue 53 – November 2009

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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

Rio seminar success

continued from page I

The programme included the usual broad range of subjects, covering recent technical developments with implications for the industry, through to health, safety and environmental issues. For this year's event, a simultaneous translation service was provided throughout.

The strong growth of the seminar exhibition continued, once again breaking a record as 28 supplier members displayed their products and services.



Keynote speakers and panel (L-R) Steve Preston, Alvaro Teixeira, Johan Rasmussen, Claudio Araujo (Petrobras) and Giorgio Martelli

Hugh Williams welcomed delegates to the event, before introducing IMCA President Johan Rasmussen of Acergy for the opening keynote address. Johan spoke on how marine contractors can make progress in challenging times, outlining the importance of continued investment, ongoing integration and of common principles of risk assessment and safety management. He concluded that IMCA membership remained a key part of integration in challenging times. Alvaro Teixeira of IBP followed with a keynote address outlining some of the key challenges facing the E&P industry offshore Brazil. Giorgio Martelli of Saipem reiterated the importance of integration for successful contracting, proposing key integration tools including knowledge sharing. Steve Preston of Heerema Marine Contractors then brought the keynote session to a close with a historical perspective on marine contracting, concluding that the industry could respond well to technical and economic challenges through adoption of the common guidance and practices encouraged by IMCA.

After a morning plenary session which included further presentations on subsea safety, dockyard safety and geopolitical challenges, the seminar then split into three parallel sessions. For the second year, marine and diving sessions were joined by a successful and well-attended offshore survey and ROV stream. These sessions covered a diverse range of technical matters, including green DP, deep diving health issues and atmospheric and solar effects on precise positioning.

Day two commenced with a plenary session with presentations on transportation and installation of mooring piles in deep water, lifting equipment design and decommissioning of large structures.

The technical sessions included presentations on economic design of fault tolerant DP systems, hyperbaric diver emergency facilities and high resolution AUV survey sensors and data.

The afternoons featured a series of workshops on topics such as diver health, IMCA's role at IMO, deepwater umbilical and handling systems, lifting operations and DP incident reporting. The social and networking programme included a poolside drinks reception on the first evening, dinner at Porcao Rio, a renowned beachside barbeque restaurant and a very successful closing drinks reception onboard the vessel Spirit of Brazil, including a tour of the Guanabara Bay.

A CD of the presentations and summaries is now being prepared. Initial plans for 2010 see the event returning to Abu Dhabi, UAE.









Get involved

In this edition of Making Waves you can find a variety of ways in which you can get the most from your IMCA membership. Here are a few pointers:

- Be part of the industry's drive to further improve offshore safety by
- submitting your incident reports, advising of hazards identified and sharing lessons learnt through IMCA see page 4
- Get involved in the Diving Division work programme through membership of the SMTT committee see page 11
- Help IMCA build accurate and comprehensive data on the industry and its activities worldwide by providing your company data see page 11 (diving personnel) and 14 (ROV personnel and ROVs in use)
- Attend an event see the IMCA calendar on page 16

Contracts & Insurance Workgroup update

A new chairman has been appointed for the IMCA Contracts & Insurance Workgroup – Barbara de Roo of Heerema Marine Contractors. The group developed the well received *IMCA contracting principles*, published in February 2005, the 2006 risk document and considers a range of contracting-related issues.

Earlier in 2009, IMCA held a successful offshore construction insurance workshop and it is proposed to follow this up with a similar event in early 2010. This will address insurance itself, as well as where it fits into construction contracts.

To keep up to date with developments, log in via www.imca-int.com/contracts or contact Hugh.Williams@imca-int.com



Office move

The IMCA secretariat is moving to new offices in mid-December.

Five years in Lower Belgrave Street have seen an expansion from eight to 17 members of staff, matching the growth in membership which has enabled a significant expansion in the association's work programme.

With the lease expiring and the building due for redevelopment, the opportunity afforded by the current economic situation to obtain more space at competitive rent has been taken, so the secretariat is moving.

The new offices are literally across the street, with the new entrance even closer to London Victoria rail/tube station, with excellent airport access – perfect for members and others visiting the secretariat for meetings.

Please update your address books from 14 December to show IMCA's new mailing/street address as:

52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW I W OAU, UK

Telephone, fax and e-mail addresses remain the same.

Gordon Kelly joins the IMCA secretariat

With the launch of the new CMID Database website and e-CMID (see page 1), a new member of staff has been recruited to administer the system and support its users.

Gordon Kelly joined the secretariat in September 2009 as Database Administrator/ Developer and has already been busy with the test programme for the system and development of a series of user guides.



He will also assist in supporting the secretariat's IT network and with the development of both existing and new databases for the association.

Gordon studied computing science at university in Glasgow and comes from a software and database development background with experience of helpdesk and IT support.



I was delighted to attend the very successful annual seminar in Rio recently and see first hand how IMCA's work and its newest section, the Central & South America Section, are progressing.

I was impressed how the spread of the association's membership continues to widen. It is increasing numerically, regionally and with new disciplines and technical developments. This brings new challenges to the association and the secretariat. To tackle these requires priorities and focus which can be facilitated by being clear about what IMCA stands for.

The association exists to help its members deliver safe and efficient marine projects. In the current climate there is also a renewed focus on costs. In such a fast moving, cost aware industry both simplification and standardisation offer significant rewards to contractors and hence to their clients, so these remain top aims for IMCA especially as the work moves around the world into new arenas.

The uncertain work loads predicted for 2010/11 may force employment to shrink. Dealing with this was the subject of a recent seminar hosted by Deloitte and IMCA in Houston for clients and contractors.

The seminar focused on the risks: losing key personnel; putting off new recruits; endangering hard-won competence; and threatening the ability of contractors to deliver value and solutions to clients as fast as previously possible. It also focused on the opportunities of working together now for a better, more efficient future.

IMCA has an important role in bringing parties together for such dialogue and endeavouring to facilitate follow-up action and I will play my part in trying to give priority and focus where needed.

News from IMCA's core activities

Improving safety together

IMCA safety flashes and systems for incident reporting and analysis help share vital safety information. Shouldn't your company be a part of them?

By publishing vital safety information, IMCA helps its members around the world identify potential hazards, share lessons learnt and thus avoid needless repetition of incidents.

Examples of how these systems have helped keep the offshore workforce and fleet safe include:

- identifying defective equipment, drawing the attention of users to hazards and working with manufacturers on remedies
- sharing investigation findings and actions taken to improve company procedures
- highlighting how better safety awareness in the workplace, particularly in 'routine' situations, can help to avoid incidents.

These have been vital tools for the industry in the continuous improvement in safety performance over many years but, since fatalities, injuries and damage still occur, there can be no let-up in the importance of participation by all parties.

Anonymity is vital in IMCA's approach, whereby safety flashes, annual DP incident reports and other documents have identifying details removed and are checked with contributors prior to publication. Un-minuted discussion of safety-related incidents takes place at committee and section meetings with the same purpose. The aim is not to apportion blame but rather to share safety information and help improve safety throughout the industry.

Visit www.imca-int.com/incidentreports for more details and ensure your distribution list for alerts includes incidentreports@imca-int.com

New guidance on radioactive material

IMCA has published new Guidance on handling naturally occurring radioactive materials, otherwise known as NORM.

Small quantities of solid NORM can be generated by petroleum production facilities and the pipes, flowlines and other equipment which may be handled by IMCA members' personnel. Correct handling is important to avoid issues of occupational health and safety, environmental protection, waste disposal and management. If handled correctly, it poses no hazard to health or the environment.

The new document provides guidance for members on such material and how it should be handled, including:

- a brief background on what NORM is
- identifying the hazards involved and their context
- considerations for properly handling and disposing of such material when planning offshore operations.

The guidance (IMCA SEL 024) is available via the members-only website and in printed format.

See www.imca-int.com/publications

Safety seminar 2010

Plans for the 2010 IMCA safety seminar – Safety is our common language – are well advanced and the seminar brochure will be published shortly.

A full two-day programme has been assembled, with topics ranging from safety promotion among the workforce through to environmental and health issues, including case studies on incidents and lessons learnt.

Visit www.imca-int.com/events for full details as they are announced.

Security DVD plans

As part of its extensive work programme, the IMCA Security Task Force is working to produce a security DVD.

Developed from a video originally commissioned by two IMCA members, the DVD will refer extensively to the well-received *Guidance on travel security* (IMCA SEL 014) published in June 2006. The guidance provides many useful tips which this new development will help share with the offshore workforce.

THE WORLD'S LEADING SUBSEA TRAINING CENTRE

The Underwater Centre in Fort William is the ideal place to train for work in the subsea industry, offering:

- Industry tailored commercial diving courses from HSE SCUBA to HSE Closed Bell
- · Leading ROV course run to IMCA guidelines
- Unique, practical training for new IMCA Diver Medic course
- · ALST training working with operational saturation system
- Two-week CSWIP 3.1u NDT prep course in realistic environment
- Excellent deep-water training site simulating offshore conditions
- Custom built on-shore facilities

For more information contact us on: +44 (0)1397 703786 info@theunderwatercentre.co.uk www.theunderwatercentre.com



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- Qualitative Risk Assessment, QRA, PFEER
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- Emergency Response Manuals
- Marine and Technical Audits
- Marine Operation Manuals
- SOPEPs
- Ballast Water Management Plans
- Incident Investigation
- Supply of Towmasters and Marine Representatives
- Ship Inspections









Tel: +44 (0)1224 894498 Email: marex@mmass.co.uk www.mmass.co.uk



Updated competence documents available

IMCA has published the first two volumes in the latest update of its Guidance on competence assurance and assessment.

The overview competence guidance, which sets out how the IMCA framework can be implemented in contractors' own competence schemes, has been updated and forms the front part of IMCA C 004 (Offshore Survey) and C 005 (ROV) Rev. 2.

The overall revision includes:

- technical updates, based on developments in technology and operational practices
- changes to improve the consistency of format and wording between the various sectors
- a number of additional positions being introduced to the competence framework, including client representative positions first introduced via an information note in 2004.

The offshore survey volume reflects these updates.



The ROV volume also includes five new positions: ROV superintendent, ROV tooling supervisor and three grades of ROV tooling technician.

Work continues

The marine volume (C 002) is currently under review, as is the diving volume (C 003), which is being expanded to incorporate additional task-specific competences.

The combined volume covering all four divisions (C 001) has been temporarily withdrawn pending completion of the diving and marine updates.

Information packs for freelance personnel, available via the website, will be updated to reflect the newly published competence tables, but remain available for now as they are still a useful reference.

The Competence & Training committee is working to assist members, by developing additional guidance and case studies on implementation of company competence schemes, a DVD to promote use and awareness of competence schemes and updates to the *IMCA record of competence* (IMCA C 006).

Human capital forum

The US oil and gas market responds to economic swings faster than most, with intense pressure on contractors to downsize when projects drop away. This risks losing the competence and structured career progression of employees which were beginning to build during the past few steadily busy years.

Deloitte had addressed IMCA a few years ago about skills shortages and 'Generation Y' and was asked again about options during this lean time. From this, a joint Deloitte/ IMCA forum entitled "Our road to recovery: The human capital challenge" was developed, taking place on 10 November in Houston, USA, with about 50 oil company and contractor delegates attending. A line-up of very senior speakers and panellists included Gary Luquette (Chevron), Dave Dickson (Technip), Bruce Crager (| Ray McDermott), Chuck Meloy (Anadarko), Ben Bentley (Kiewit) and Joe Kelly (Deloitte), who were all informative, entertaining and engaging in their clear exposition of the challenges and opportunities that the credit crunch has brought to our industry and each sector.





Central & South America

The new Central & South America Section is off to a flying start. Following July's briefing seminar, the IMCA annual seminar held in Rio de Janeiro earlier this month (see pages I-2) helped further raise the profile of the association in the region and attracted interest from a range of local companies and members active elsewhere in the world.

Elections are now taking place for the section's first chairman and vice-chairman, ahead of the first section meetings in 2010.

In related developments, IMCA has been working to translate a number of key guidance documents into Latin American Portuguese and Spanish, to assist members and others working in the region. The first translated documents are now available, with others in development. As with the English versions, certain of these are freely downloadable from our website, with printed copies also available.

For details and downloads, visit www.imca-int.com/centralsouthamerica

Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific Section held its latest meeting on 13 August 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The well attended meeting included presentations on the SPS Code and on an unusual diving project a member had undertaken.

Two useful workshops were also held, on personnel transfer guidance and proposals for a database of national regulatory requirements, obtaining useful feedback for the committees leading these items.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3 December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, before the section turns its attention to Singapore as it hosts the 2010 IMCA safety seminar on 24-25 February.

Middle East & India

The latest section meeting took place on 6 October 2009 alongside the Middle East Workboats exhibition in Abu Dhabi, UAE. 45 members and guests attended the meeting, which included the regular updates on global activities and discussion on the role of a trade association and use of guidance.

IMCA also exhibited at the workboats event, where the association's stand received a number of member and new visitors who were able to find out more about IMCA's work.

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 January in Jebel Ali, UAE, with presentations planned to further enhance interactivity.

Europe & Africa

The latest section meeting took place alongside the popular Offshore Europe exhibition and conference in Aberdeen, UK, on 10 September 2009. As usual, the meeting featured updates for members and guests on the current IMCA work programme. Robin Davies of Subsea 7 was a guest speaker and gave an interesting presentation on the role of a trade association in challenging times, which was further explored by a panel-led discussion. The next section meeting is currently being planned for March 2010, to take place alongside Oceanology International in London, UK.

MIST briefing

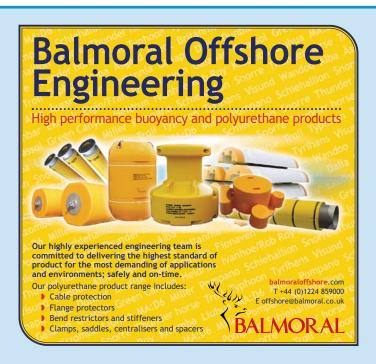
IMCA hosted a seminar on 20 October 2009 in Aberdeen, UK, to update members on the introduction in the UK of the Minimum Industry Safety Training programme. Presentations covered the background to MIST, as well as feedback from different parties on implementing the scheme. A panel-led discussion followed which addressed members' questions and helped identify issues still to be resolved, such as whether MIST will apply to vessel personnel.

Contact Emily.Comyn@imca-int.com for further information.

North America

The section met on 10 November 2009 at Downtown Houston's Doubletree Hotel with around 30 members and guests present. This was the first section meeting under the new 'North America' name and members discussed revised objectives for the section. Work in the region includes:

- representations in relation to US Customs proposals with regard to Jones Act rulings. Since issue 52 IMCA made the planned submission and the proposals were withdrawn. However, we understand they are likely to re-emerge and discussion is ongoing with various parties in industry and government
- ◆ Plans are forming for a Houston seminar in spring 2010, following the successful safety seminar held at Minute Maid Park in 2009
- IMCA continues to have representation at the US National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) meetings – industry's best link with the US Coast Guard – which increasingly addresses items relevant to IMCA.





IMCA secretariat:



Hugh Williams Chief Executive



Jane Bugler Technical Director



Philip Wiggs Technical Adviser



Nick Hough Technical Adviser



Ian Giddings Technical Adviser



Paul Evans Technical Adviser



Emily Comyn 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

Claudine Bleza, Administrator

- social events and exhibitions

Ann Barnatt, Administrator

document production and member records

Andy Butler, Administrator

document production and certification support

Chi Edwards, Administrator

document production and member records

Gordon Kelly, Database Administrator/Developer

- CMID database and IT

Jean Carmichael, Bookkeeper

IMCA is moving - see page 3

+44 (0) 20 7824 5520 Tel: +44 (0) 20 7824 5521 Fax: 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 Johan Rasmussen, Acergy

IMCA Vice-President: Andy Woolgar, Subsea 7

Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG

Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

Diving: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7 Paul Blewett, Technip

Pete Somner, Technip Marine:

Pete Fougere, Transocean Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services Survey:

Walter Steedman, Veripos ROV-Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering

Hugh Williams, Chief Executive Jane Bugler, Technical Director

Regional Section Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Asia-Pacific

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

Central & South America

New positions - election underway

Eurobe & Africa

Wim de Boer, Heerema Marine Contractors

Jim Sommerville, Fugro-Rovtech

Middle Fast & India

Roy Donaldson, BUE Marine Kris Chambers, Global Industries

Alan Allred, Aker Marine Contractors Bruce Gresham, Heerema Marine Contractors

Competence & Training Committee

Chairman: Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG Vice-Chairman: Mark Elder, Subsea 7

Craig Darroch, Acergy Pauline Irwin, DOF

George Robertson, Fugro-Rovtech

David Moxey, Northern Marine Management

Paul Gleisner, Schilling Robotics

Gavin Smith, Subsea 7

Roy Hay, Technip

Asia-Pacific: Anthony Reudavey, Blue Water Engineering

Middle East & India: Mohamed Omar, INW

North America: Tony Greenwood, Cal Dive International

Marine Division MC

Chairman: Pete Somner, Technip Vice-Chairman: Pete Fougere, 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 Helgøy, Teekay

Asia-Pacific: Mike Meade, M3 Marine

Middle East & India: Ron Clark, NICO Middle East

Safety, Environment & Legislation Committee

Chairman: Wallace Robertson, Helix ESG Vice-Chairman: Dave Forsyth, Bibby Offshore

Andrew Culwell, Acergy

Keith Mobbs, DeepOcean

Jos van der Horst, Heerema Marine Contractors

Jim Knight, Heerema Marine Contractors

Sal Ruffino, Sainem

Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Allan Hannah, Technip

Henk Swennen, Van Oord Offshore

Asia-Pacific: Des Power, Subsea 7 Asia Pacific

Middle East & India: Mohamed Osman, Maridive

North America: Greg Payne, Heerema Marine Contractors

Diving Division Management Committee

Chairman: Alan Forsyth, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Paul Blewett, Technip

Joar Gangenes, Acergy

Alan Thomas, Cape Diving

Steve Sheppard, Helix ESG

Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services Darren Brunton, KB Associates

David Smith, National Hyperbaric Centre

Hans Berkhof, Noordhoek Offshore Calum Buchanan, RBG

Maurizio Chines, Saipem

Dennis Stolk, SMIT Subsea

Asia-Pacific: Glyn Jones, Hallin Marine

Middle East & India: Kris Chambers, Global Industries North America: Allan Palmer, Cal Dive International

SMTT Chairman: Dave Munro, Subsea 7

North America: Mike Lawson, Transocean

Offshore Survey Division MC

Chairman: Will Primavesi, Oceanteam Subsea Services

Vice-Chairman: Walter Steedman, Veripos

Ray Morgan, Acergy

Michiel van de Munt, Allseas

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey

Ed Danson, C&C Technologies

Keith McGregor, 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 Asia-Pacific: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey Pte Ltd

Middle East & India: Mark Beloeil-Smith, GEMS International

North America: Vacancy

Remote Systems & ROV Division MC

Chairman: Neil Milne, Subsea 7

Vice-Chairman: Espen Ingebretsen, Oceaneering International

Colin Mackay, Acergy

Piet Sluijter, Allseas Federico Morello, DNT Offshore

Keith Robathan, DOF Subsea

lim Mann, Fugro

John Davies, Global Marine Systems Mike Arnold, Hallin Marine

David Rhodes, Integrated Subsea Services

Kevin Kerins, Oceaneering International, Inc.

John Pirie, Technip

Grant Cowie, TS Marine

Asia-Pacific: Ian Huggins, Hallin Marine

Middle East & India: Doug Graham, Fugro Survey ME North America: lan Edmonstone, Helix ESG



International Contractors

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

Contractors Acergy Asia Middle East Adams Offshore Services Ltd Advanced Energy Systems (ADES) Ajang Shipping Sdn Bhd Aker Marine Contractors AS Aker Marine Contractors, Inc. Aker Oilfield Services Alam Subsea Pte Ltd Algosaibi Diving & Marine Services Allied Marine & Equipment Sdn Bhd AlMansoori Production Services LLC Andrews Survey Aqua Diving Services Aquanos Ltd Arab Tanker Services Arabian Gulf Mech. Svcs & Ctrg Co. Arena Sub srl Argus Remote Systems

ATCO Ports Mgt & Marine Svcs Atlantic Towing Ltd B+H Equimar Singapore Pte Ltd BEKK Solutions Ltd Bibby Offshore Ltd

BJ Services Co (Middle East) Ltd Bluestream Offshore BV Bluewater Energy Services BV

Bluewater Offshore Construction Boskalis Offshore

Bourbon BUE Marine Ltd Bumi Armada Berhad C&C Technologies Inc. C&C Technologies (Europe & Africa)

Cal Dive International, Inc. Cal Dive International Pte Ltd

Cal Dive International Pte Ltd - ME PT Calmarine

Canship Ugland Ltd Cape Diving
Caspian Sea Oil Fleet (CSFOF) CCC (Underwater Engineering) SAL CDMS Ltd CDS Subsea Pte Ltd

Celtic Africa Ltd CH Offshore Ltd Clough Oil & Gas CNS International srl Copetech-SM Coral Alliance Sdn Bhd

CUEL Ltd Dalgidj Private Company DCN Global LLC

DeepOcean (a Trico Group co.) - E&A DeepOcean (a Trico Group co.) – ME&I

Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc DNT Offshore srl Dockwise

DOF Management AS DOF Subsea (Australia & Asia Pacific)

DOF Subsea Brasil Serviços Ltda

DOF Subsea Norway AS DOF Subsea UK Ltd DOF UK Ltd Dolphin Drilling Ltd

Dolphin Offshore Enterprises (India) Duik Combinatie Nederland BV Dulam International Ltd

Dunnimaa Engineers & Divers Ent. Pvt Ltd EDT Marine Construction Ltd EDT Offshore

EGS (Asia) Ltd Eidesvik AS PT Fkanuri Indra Pratama FMAS Offshore Pte Ltd ER Offshore GmbH & Cie KG Fairmount Marine by Far Eastern Shipping Company Finstaship

Five Oceans Services GmbH LLP ESDS

Fugro Marine Services by Fugro-Rovtech

Fugro SAE

Fugro Subsea Services Pte Ltd Fugro Survey (India) Pvt Ltd Fugro Survey (Middle East) Ltd Fugro Survey (Singapore) Pte. Ltd Fugro Survey Ltd

Galliano Marine Service LLC GAS Geological Assistance & Services srl GEMS International NV – Abu Dhabi

GeoLab Ltd – Abu Dhabi

GeoLab srl GEOTeam srl Global Marine Services Global Marine Systems Ltd GO Offshore

GOGAS Gulf Oil and Gas LLC

Great Offshore Ltd Greatship (India) Ltd SC Grup Servicii Petroliere SA Gulf Dredging & General Contracting Gulf Marine Services

Gulf Offshore (North Sea) Ltd Gulmar Offshore Middle East LLC

HAL Offshore Ltd Halani Shipping Pvt Ltd Hallin Marine Hallin Marine UK Ltd Halul Offshore Services Co. Harbor Star Shipping Services, Inc. HEISCO

Horizon Survey Company (FZC) Hornbeck Offshore Operators LLC Hull Support Services Ltd

Huta Marine Works Ltd IDMC - Impresub Diving & Marine Impresub International LLC Inspecta International Co. LLC Inspectahire Instrument Co. Ltd

Integrated Subsea Services Ltd Integrated Subsea Services AP Pte 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 KD Marine Ltd Knutsen OAS Shipping AS

Kreuz Offshore Marine Pte Ltd Kreuz Subsea Pte Ltd

Lamnalco Group PT Lancar Rejeki Berkat Jaya

LD Travocean

Louisiana Overseas Inc. Maersk Drilling Maersk Supply Service Maridive & Oil Services Maridive & Oil Services (SAE) Maridive Offshore Projects Marine Consulting srl

Marine Subsea AS Master Tech Diving Services

MENAS

Neptun Subsea AS

Mermaid Marine Australia Ltd Mermaid Offshore Services Ltd Miclyn Express Offshore Pte Ltd

Mohn Drilling AS Mutawa Marine Works Est NDE – Nordisk Dyk Entreprenad AB

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 Subsea Services Ltd Octomar

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Offshore International FZC Offshore Manpower SA Offshore Marine Services Pty Ltd

Offshore Oil Eng. Co. Ltd (COOEC) Offshore Subsea Services

Offshore Subsea Works Sdn Bhd Offshore Technology Solutions Ltd

Olympic Shipping AS Orogenic GeoExpro Sdn Bhd OSM Ship Management AS Pacific Crest Pte Ltd Pacific Richfield Marine Pte Ltd

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Delta Marine Technologies, Inc. DMC Offshore Drexel Oilfield Equipment El-Automation AS ESS Support Services Worldwide ETPM Ltd Exmed UK Ltd Fender & Spill Response Services

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Shell Petroleum Dev. Co. of Nigeria Ltd Shell Todd Oil Services Ltd

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Talisman Energy (UK) Talisman Energy (OK)
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

IMCA welcomes the following new members:

- ♦ Ageotec srl
- ♦ Air Liquide UK Ltd
- ♦ ANFE (Associazione Nazionale Famiglie Emigrati)

An Italian organisation whose activities include provision of ROV training to emigrant workers. Tel: +39 091 671 0267

Arabian Industrial Gases Company

A UAE-based supplier of industrial, medical and speciality gases and associated equipment.

Web: www.gulfcryo.com Tel: +971 4 885 1245

- ♦ Bergen DP & Marine Survey
- Braemar Howells Ltd

A provider of oil/chemical spill and incident response services and environmental consultancy. Web: www.braemarhowells.com Tel: +44 (0) 1646 697 041

♦ Celtic Africa Ltd

A Nigerian marine company offering offshore support vessels and services off West Africa.

Web: www.celticafrica.com Tel: +234 (0) 84 746 543

- ♦ Copetech-SM
- ♦ D&R Boats Pte Ltd
- ♦ Deep Diving Consultancy Ltd (DDC)

A provider of technical support for offshore diving systems and subsea operations. Web: www.ddc1.co.uk Tel: +44 (0) 1768 789 008

Delta Marine Technologies Inc

A US-based consultancy specialising in ROV, diving and deep water construction activities.

Web: www.deltamarinetech.com Tel: +1 936 582 7237

- ◆ Duik Combinatie Nederland BV
- ♦ Dunnimaa Engineers & Divers Enterprises Pvt Ltd
- ♦ Fincantieri Cantieri Navali Italiani spa
- ♦ Global Gases Australia Pty Ltd
- ♦ Global Marine Services
- ♦ Hornbeck Offshore Operators LLC
- ♦ Inchcape Shipping Services Ltd
- ♦ Inchcape Shipping Services Ltd South America
- ♦ International Dynamic Positioning Operators Association (IDPOA)
- ♦ KD Marine Ltd
- ♦ Kennedy Marr Ltd
- ♦ MacGregor Hydramarine AS
- ♦ Mako Technologies LLC

A full service rental company offering topside construction, diving and ROV equipment. Web: www.makotechnologies.com Tel: +1 985 385 7817

- Nautilus Minerals
- ♦ NBB Dredging & Engineering
- ♦ Neptun Subsea AS

A Norwegian contractor providing ROV and trenching services and manufacturing ROVs.

Web: www.neptunsubsea.no

Tel: +47 962 00 210

- ♦ Noble Denton & Associates Serviços Maritimos Ltda
- ◆ PEM Offshore Ltd

A marine consultancy, offering services and products to the oil and gas sector in West Africa.

Web: www.pemoffshores.com

Tel: +234 803 403 6935

- ♦ Perenco UK Ltd
- ♦ Pharos Offshore Group Ltd
- ♦ PT Prima Mitranata
- Riise Underwater Engineering AS
 - Asia-Pacific
 - Middle East & India
- Seanetics Asia Works Pte Ltd

A Singapore-based provider of consultancy, design and fabrication services for diving systems.

Web: www.seanetics.com.sg Tel: +65 6862 3888

- ♦ Survey Association
- ♦ Tigitrans SA
- ♦ United Oil Company (Unico)
- ♦ V.Ships Ltd
- ♦ Vassnes MB Consultants AS
- ♦ Viking Moorings Ltd

Recent name changes

- ♦ General Robotics Ltd is now Fugro GRL
- ♦ Hydra Marine (Pty) Ltd is now Unique Hydra

ICO membership

Global Industries has become the ninth International Contractor (ICO) member of the association. ICO members participate in all aspects of the global work programme and serve on IMCA Council, which provides political direction and support for the association. Global Industries has long been active in various regions and this enhanced membership has been welcomed by Council and the Overall Management Committee.

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:

- Competence assurance and assessment:
 Offshore Survey Division (IMCA C 004 Rev. 2)
 Remote Systems & ROV Division (IMCA C 005 Rev. 2)
- Guidance on handling naturally occurring radioactive material (IMCA SEL 024)
- Guidelines on isolation and intervention: Diver access to subsea systems (IMCA D 044)
- International guidelines for the safe operation of DP offshore supply vessels (IMCA M 182 Rev. I)
- Guidelines on installation and maintenance of DGNSSbased positioning systems (IMCA M 199/S 012)
- Deep water acoustic positioning (IMCA M 200/S 013)

Safety flashes:

- Safety flash 11/09 covering one incident: Falling object struck by crane stop/striker plate
- Safety flash 12/09 three incidents: Pillar valve failure;
 Dropped object near-miss; Lift bag lost when rigging parted
- ♦ Safety flash 13/09 Use of pre-mixed nitrox gases
- Safety flash 14/09 three incidents: Failure of gas supply to diving bell; Torn ankle ligaments; Potential threat to aviation posed by Skysails
- Safety flash 15/09 four incidents: Trapped diver umbilical incident resulting in diver fatality; Lost time injury: Gangway deployment; Helicopter Task Group update: Briefing on S-92 helicopter fleet; Importance of inspecting fall protection equipment
- Safety flash 16/09 six incidents: Near-miss: Unexpected lowering of a suspended load; Near-miss: Loss of a small crane ('cherry picker') wire; Hand injury: Injection of hydraulic fluid; Tumble dryer fire onboard a vessel; Bell bottom door hydraulic operating system failure; Near-miss: ROV fuse bolt failure

Information notes:

Safety, Environment & Legislation

IMCA SEL 19/09 – Industry best management practices against piracy in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia

20/09 Winch drum design

21/09 Inclusion of drilling brines in IMO IBC Code

22/09 Piracy off Somalia

23/09 Ensuring the wearing of immersion suits in helicopter evacuation or escape to sea

24/09 IMCA submission to IMO regarding the SPS Code: Feedback invited

Diving Division

IMCA D 11/09- Medical examination of divers: Italy initiative

12/09 Diving statistics for the North Sea - Statistics for 2007-8

13/09 Diving from, on or in close proximity to merchant vessels – Protocol for isolating machinery systems: New industry guidance published

14/09 OGP diving recommended practice

Marine Division

IMCA M 20/09 - Control of sub-contractors onboard

- 21/09 NWEA guidelines for the safe management of offshore supply and rig move operations
- 22/09 Industry best management practices against piracy in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia

23/09 Winch drum design

24/09 Inclusion of drilling brines in IMO IBC Code

25/09 Piracy off Somalia

26/09 Ensuring the wearing of immersion suits in helicopter evacuation or escape to sea

27/09 IMCA submission to IMO regarding the SPS Code: Feedback invited

Diving Division

Safe isolation for diver access

IMCA publishes new Guidelines for isolation and intervention: Diver access to subsea systems

The latest guidance document from IMCA Diving Division sets out what is considered to be good practice for ensuring a safe degree of isolation is established prior to conducting diver intrusive works on any energyconveying system in which pressure differentials, electrical power or laser power may exist at levels which - on loss of containment - would be harmful to personnel or cause damage to the environment or equipment.

The document is primarily aimed at project managers, project engineers, offshore construction managers, diving supervisors and safety personnel, all of whom have a responsibility for developing safe schemes of isolation and intervention for divers accessing subsea systems. Engineering personnel involved with the design of such systems should also use the document to ensure that all new (or being modified) subsea systems incorporate adequate isolation facilities.



The guidelines are applicable for use when preparing scopes of work, procedures, reviews and risk assessments for any diving-related work.

The document begins by addressing the principles of isolation, before going into some detail on different system types - flowline/ manifold/tree and wellhead systems plus subsea control and umbilical systems.

A generic flowchart will help users develop their own processes while typical system drawings are also included.

Electrical code update

The guidelines for isolation and intervention reference the forthcoming update of guidance note AODC 035 -Code of practice for the safe use of electricity under water.

This update, which has been carried out by a workgroup involving contractors, oil company representatives and other specialists, is progressing well and we anticipate publication (as IMCA D 045) around the end of this year.

For more details on this work, contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Call for diver data

The annual diving activity statistics exercise is underway for 2009. Building on the previous North Sea exercise. carried out over the past twelve years, members around the world are now being asked to contribute their data to enable a global view to be formed. Many members have already submitted their figures and we would encourage other contractors to do so promptly to enable production of a report which accurately reflects members' activity.

SMTT committee

The Diving Division's technical output owes much to the dedicated work of members of the Safety, Medical, Technical & Training (SMTT) Committee.

Dave Munro of Subsea 7 (Chairman) and Adam Young of Integrated Subsea Services (VC) lead work on a wide range of topics including updating guidance issued by the division (and previously AODC) and addressing a variety of new issues as they arise.

Participation is open to all diving contractor (ICO/Co) and supplier (S/S*) members.

Contact Paul.Evans@imca-int.com for details and to get involved.

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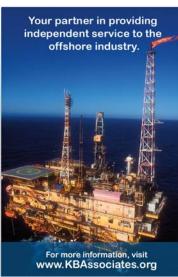
- * Diving Systems
- * ROV Systems
- * Safety Management Systems
- * DP & Marine Vessels Audits / FMEA's
- * Rig / MODU Audits

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- Safety Management * Technical Authorship
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Services

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- * SDPO & DPO Personnel
- Diving System FMEA
- IMCA Surface Supplied Diver Assessment
- * Hyperbaric Environmental Testing









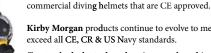




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Marine Division

IMCA at IMO

Members may be aware that IMCA has had consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1999 and attends IMO meetings on a variety of topics. We keep members up to date on IMO activities through the minutes of IMCA committee meetings, updates in this newsletter and information notes on specific technical issues.

As part of efforts to explain this aspect of IMCA's work more clearly, the recent annual seminar included a workshop on IMCA's role at IMO.

The workshop opened with a general introduction to what IMO does and how it works. IMO is often criticised for being too slow and aiming at the lowest common denominator. However, IMO decisions often have a major impact on shipping, so they need to represent a common achievable standard and be supported by as many governments as possible. Therefore, ensuring a proper set of global standards can take time.

The workshop also looked at the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at IMO. Although NGOs only have observer status and have no voting rights, they play an important part in the IMO decision making process by providing expert advice on a particular area of IMO's activities and representing the views of groups who may be impacted by IMO's work. For example, IMO has traditionally looked to IMCA for assistance on dynamic positioning issues and DPVOA, one of the predecessors to IMCA, was instrumental in developing IMO MSC/Circ.645, the international guidelines for vessels with DP systems. IMCA's other key role is to try to ensure that regulations that are usually aimed at the international trading fleet do not conflict with the specific operational requirements of offshore construction vessels.



Two current key issues are:

- the review of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), which governs seafarers' training and certification requirements
- potential confusion about the classification of offshore vessels following the revised Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code published in 2008.

As directed by IMO, IMCA and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) proposed some draft guidance on training and certification of DP operators (DPOs) for inclusion in part B of the revised STCW Code. The draft text provides a clear framework for DPO training and reflects current accepted

industry practice. It has been forwarded to the IMO STW sub-committee for approval at its next session - STW 41, which will take place in January 2010.

IMCA has also submitted a paper to the IMO ship design and equipment (DE) subcommittee highlighting some of the practical difficulties of building construction class vessels to the SPS Code and underlining the importance of a risk based approach to unusual vessel designs.

In the meantime, IMCA aims to keep members briefed on IMO developments members are encouraged to let the secretariat know of any issues of interest.

If you have an issue on which you would like IMCA to get involved at IMO, please contact Emily Comyn, our Technical Adviser on regulatory affairs - Emily.Comyn@imca-int.com

There was discussion about the current IMO activities in which IMCA is already participating and possible areas for future work.





Offshore Survey Division

New guidance on deep water acoustic positioning

IMCA has published Deep water acoustic positioning a new, authoritative guide for users and potential users of acoustics for underwater positioning (especially in relation to deep water activities). It covers the basics of acoustics and signalling, the equipment required, methods of acoustic positioning and their limitations, and the operation and performance of acoustic positioning systems.

The focus is on the use of acoustic positioning systems and techniques for deep water operations. However, many of the techniques and applications also apply to shallower waters and, in these circumstances, users should consider the pros and cons of each approach.

This document is not intended to compare nor evaluate different manufacturers, their products, services or the specific performance of systems - nor does it set out to provide a prescriptive set of procedures. Rather, it is designed to provide consideration and guidance for the use and operation of



any of the main types of

The guide focuses on the use and application of acoustics for positioning tasks and how a user should consider the various factors influencing the selection of operational techniques for different applications. The main part of the document is intended to inform and bring a general

understanding of deep water acoustics to the reader. Detailed technical appendices enable more in-depth study.

The guidance, published jointly as IMCA M 200/S 013, is available via the members-only website and in our colourful, glossy printed format.

For more details or to order, visit www.imca-int.com/publications

Survey news in brief

- ♦ The joint OGP/IMCA workgroup updating the former UKOOA guidelines on DGPS has produced an early draft which has been favourably received by the OGP Survey & Positioning Committee and the IMCA Offshore Survey Division Management Committee. Work now continues to further develop the text.
- Guidance on ultra-short baseline (USBL) positioning systems is in development, with an initial draft currently being prepared.
- Guidance on geographical information systems (GIS) is planned and a small workgroup is to meet shortly to prepare a scope of work for the project.
- Following the publication this lune of the updated Digital video offshore: A review of current and future technologies (IMCA R 012/ S 008 Rev. I), the Digital Video Workgroup is now preparing a companion guide, entitled 'Discovering digital video'.

For more details on any of these projects, please get in touch with Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

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- IMCA Diver Medic ■ IMCA Trainee Air and
- **IMCA Diver Assessment**
- IMCA ALST
- DSV Audits
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 Pipe & Cable Trackers
 Underwater & Surface Gyros
- Single & Multibeam Echo Sounders Bathymetric Systems Environmental Systems Sonar & Profiling Systems

Non-Destructive Testing Equipment

- Eddy Current Systems Ultrasonic Thickness Gauges Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors

- Diver Detection Sonar 3-D Imaging Sonar

Remote Visual Inspection Equipment Underwater Cameras Thermal Imaging Cameras

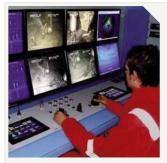
Offshore Personnel Services

- Project Managers / Client Reps.
 Hydrographic Surveyors/Party Chiefs
 Survey & Trenching Engineers
 Data Processors
 ROV Pilots / Techs.

Oceanscan Limited Denmore Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8JW Scotland, U.K. Tel: +44(0)1224 707000, Fax: +44(0)1224 707001 Email: senal@oceanscan.co.uk or sales@oceanscan.co.uk Website: www.oceanscan.co.uk



Remote Systems & ROV Division



ROV competence

2009 has seen a full review of key guidance on ROV competence and training.

Earlier this year, IMCA R 002 was updated to clarify guidance on entry level criteria for new ROV personnel. This aims to ensure that those undergoing training have the appropriate technical background so that they emerge from courses with the skills needed as part of an offshore ROV support team.

Now, as part of a wider review, guidance on competence assurance and assessment in the ROV sector has been published (IMCA C 005 Rev. 2), with new positions added to the ROV competence framework - see page 5 for more details. Information packs for freelance personnel on assembly of competence portfolios and assessment are now being updated to reflect these changes.

Training - Safety

IOSH Managing Safely

* DP Familiarisation Course

NEBOSH International Technical Certificate in Oil & Gas Operational Safety (Pilot) NEBOSH International Construction

Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety (Pilot)

IOSH Managing Environmental Responsibilities tional Certificate



Mattress handling guidance updated

IMCA is updating its publication Concrete mattress handling, deployment, installation, repositioning and decommissioning, previously focused solely on diver-based operations, to provide additional guidance on mattress operations undertaken using ROVs.

The updated guidance will cover situations both where the ROV supports diver-led work and ROV-only operations beyond diver depth or where for other reasons divers are not suitable or available.

Safety and environmental issues are addressed, with a review of mattress types and handling equipment. Guidance covers all aspects of mattress operations, as shown by the document title. Appendices include a variety of checklists and drawings to assist in the development of company procedures and project-specific work plans.

The updated guidance note will be published jointly as IMCA D 042/R 014 (Rev. I) and distributed to members of both the diving and ROV divisions.

ROV news in brief

- An IMCA ROV seminar is to be held alongside the Oceanology International exhibition (which takes place in London, UK, on 9-11 March 2010). The IMCA event, entitled Umbilical and handling systems for deep water ROV applications, will build on discussions at the annual seminar earlier this month. Details will be issued soon.
- IMCA is expanding its annual ROV statistics exercise and members are reminded to provide their submissions as soon as possible to aid publication. For the third year, analysis of personnel working offshore on ROV projects around the world is being undertaken. Information on the project type is also being sought. In addition, data is being collected on numbers and types of ROV in operation.

To contribute, please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

The Remote Systems & ROV Division Management Committee is currently undergoing its biennial election. The results will be announced later this month.







Please tell us about your company and what it does

Heerema Marine Contractors, part of the Heerema Group, provides integrated management and installation services to the oil and gas industry.

The company focuses its resources on providing its clients with tailormade solutions based on a number of identified products:

- Deep water we offer the capabilities to design, procure, install and test infrastructures for deep water field development in up to 3,000m water depth. HMC operates two deep water construction vessels - Balder and Thialf and diverse deep water installation equipment
- Heavy lift we have over five decades of experience when it comes to heavy lift operations
- Decommissioning and removal - HMC offers turnkey platform decommissioning and removal services. We have experience in this field going back many years and covering numerous projects
- Float-over float-over operations offer new opportunities and open the way to installations in remote areas and for deck weights beyond existing crane vessel capacities and availability.

At the moment, our key areas of operation are the Atlantic Basin and Asia. We currently have three SSCVs to complement our service.

What is your current job?

I am Business Acquisition Manager for North West Europe, meaning I am in contact with our clients and involved from the moment they need support for their development concepts until the moment the contract is signed and passed on to the project manager.

Spotlight on Wim de Boer

Wim de Boer is Business Acquisition Manager for North West Europe with Heerema Marine Contractors and serves as Chairman of the IMCA Europe & Africa Section and a member of the Overall Management Committee. In this article, he discusses his 'day job' and provides a personal insight into the

work currently being undertaken in the region on behalf of members.

I enjoy the travel involved and the diversity of the clients and projects. Being still a privately owned family business, Heerema is a great company to work for.

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

During my studies at the Delft University of Technology, I had already spent six months in the Structural and Marine Department within Heerema. However, after graduation in 1995 I joined Allseas – a pipelay contractor then heavily involved in shallow water pipelay. I quickly found out that, although it was a great company to work for, it was not what I was looking for. I then went back to the same department at Heerema.

Ten years ago I took on a Nigerian adventure, leaving Heerema for another privately owned company - Sea Trucks - where I set up the offshore engineering office, which I found a very welcome and useful experience.

After five years in Nigeria I decided to go back to Heerema and have continued to build on the experience I gained in West Africa.

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

Recently the focus has been mainly on cost control. The downturn in the global economy, caused by the latest credit crisis, has resulted in additional pressure on operating margins. Both operators and contractors have been forced to reassess their operational expenditure and investment programmes. This has resulted in fewer contracts being awarded in recent months, resulting in lower activity scheduled for next year.

Based on the previously high oil price, a large number of new vessels are currently coming on to the market but finding sufficient work to be executed over the coming years may be challenging for vessel operators with the activity level in the industry lower than when the vessels were being planned.

How can these issues be taken forward?

IMCA's role in relation to cost control is limited, but I think the focus should be on those areas which might otherwise be neglected at a time when the main pressure is on cost. Safety and training come particularly to mind – if we do not give proper attention to these subjects, we risk not being able to deliver the level of service we need and want to offer in the future.

Europe, and the North Sea in barticular, is a mature market - is there still much for IMCA to do?

While the installation sector is mature, I currently see several growing markets which require the support of the marine contracting society. Decommissioning is one, where the experience gained during installation work undertaken over more than 40 years can be translated directly into today's decommissioning projects. Similarly, renewable energy projects can benefit a lot from our expertise. These growing market segments should be supported by IMCA in the same way that it has supported oil and gas exploration and production.

The current economic climate calls for a focus on cost. IMCA helps us maintain emphasis on issues such as safety and security, which might otherwise easily be overlooked in

The North Sea is not a stable market and new issues (which ones we do not yet know) will always arise, so a forum like IMCA will always be required.

Working offshore Africa presents different challenges – what issues are key at present?

Contractors working in the West Africa region are exposed to a multitude of changes in local legislation and requirements, such as tax regimes. While we recognise that, over a period of time, these changes will contribute to the creation of a solid base of business environment stability, today we see that lengthy legislative processes can create a high level of

uncertainty in the contracting community. At times this uncertainty can increase further still, such as during national elections (although this can vary from country to country) to the point that contract awards can be postponed awaiting political developments.

Some parts of West Africa require tailor-made solutions to ensure the security of resources.

The requirements of cabotage laws might result in dedicated vessels for specific areas or even countries. Furthermore, the increasing local content requirements are a movement towards sustainable local businesses but, on the other hand, might limit the free movement of personnel and equipment.

How do you think IMCA makes a difference?

In a region characterised by the high presence of governmental institutions, it can be much more effective to communicate with these parties through a central organisation such as IMCA. IMCA's capacity to speak as one voice is a better vehicle to express concern or to influence decisions on matters related to our industry.

How do you see the future?

With an always-evolving client base and a consolidating contractor base (as we have seen before in the mid nineties), we will have to reconquer the marine world. The contractors who have based their current (investment) plans on prudent strategies can sustain themselves during the current dip in the market, whereas the more opportunistic players and entrants might see their independence come to an end.

Overall, this downturn will strengthen the contracting base in the longer run.

That is why, even if my pension is far from being near, I still have confidence that I will not have to change industry before my working life ends.

IMCA

Forthcoming events

3 December 2009

Asia-Pacific Section

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

19 January 2010 Middle East & India Section Jebel Ali, UAE

7-18 February
OSJ Annual Conference
London, UK

4-25 February

Safety is our common
language

IMCA safety seminar
Singapore

2-4 March Subsea Tieback Forum & Exhibition Galveston, USA

Mumbai, India 9-11 March Oceanology International

2-14 April

SPE International HSE Conference
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

-29 April North Sea Offshore Cranes & Liftin Aberdeen, UK

OTC Houston, USA 4-27 August ONS

ONS Stavanger, Norway SAFETY IS
OUR COMMON
LANGUAGE
IMCA SAFETY SEMINAR 2010

Presentations – speakers from leading contractors, oil companies and other specialist organisations on topics including:

- ♦ Fighting complacency
- Emergency response
- ♦ Safety advisers
- ♦ Learning from incidents case studies
- Personal responsibility
- Occupational health managing tickborne disease offshore
- Safety statistics
- Environmental management invasive marine species

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 IMCA members on their successful safety initiatives, sharing ideas and spreading good practice throughout the industry



24-25 February 2010Singapore Marriott Hotel, Singapore

For full details on forthcoming IMCA and third-party events, please visit the website:

www.imca-int.com/events

Registration opening soon at www.imca-int.com/events