

SUBSEA UK NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FROM SUBSEA UK

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OCTOBER 2008

New Man at the Helm

Alistair Birnie takes over at the helm of Subsea UK this month. The newly appointed chief executive is an industry stalwart and was most recently global head of technology with Aker Solutions and chairman of the SUT in Aberdeen.

Following the announcement earlier in the year that current chief executive, David Pridden, would be standing down, Subsea UK embarked on a search to find a successor.

Subsea UK chairman, Bill Edgar, said: "David has done a tremendous job in establishing Subsea UK as a credible organisation with a high national profile which delivers for its members on a variety of levels. He has initiated a range of projects and programmes that will have a tangible impact on the sector.

"We knew that finding a replacement would be challenging but we are satisfied that we have found a worthy successor who will be able to build on the strong foundations David has built and steer the organisation towards realising the vision for the industry and the UK.

"Alistair is well known in the UK oil and gas industry and has a track record in the subsea sector. The board looks forward to welcoming him officially to Subsea UK and to supporting him as he takes the

organisation into the next phase."

A Chartered Engineer, Mr Birnie has 28 years experience in the subsea industry. Prior to joining Aker Solutions, he was technology application manager for ITF where he championed new technology, particularly in the subsea sector, for two years. This was preceded by six years with Nautronix in the roles of VP of projects and head of technology applications.

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "Subsea UK has come a long way in four years and my aim is to further build on the success, ensuring that we work towards global recognition for the collective expertise, skills and technology of our member companies.

"There has been tremendous growth in the industry and the UK's role in that growth has been acknowledged. We need to maintain our position and ensure that we project our experience onto the global stage.

"I relish the challenges this will involve and am looking forward to working with the industry, our members and board to ensure we overcome them and continue to lead the way around the world."

Industry Backing for NSRI

Plans for the National Subsea Research Institute have received a major boost in the form of financial support from Subsea 7. The leading subsea contractor has kick-started the industry's contribution to a facility that will develop and maintain the UK's position as a centre of excellence for subsea skills and technology.

Working together, Subsea UK, ITF and the Northern Research Partnership led by The University of Aberdeen, are aiming to establish an institute that will deliver a co-ordinated framework for research, development and implementation of subsea technology.

By exploiting the competence of three independent organisations which collectively bring together academia, industry, and the supply chain, the NSRI aims to become a national strategic centre of excellence within the UK for subsea research and technology development and demonstration. NSRI will further develop Subsea UK's national strategy for technology to deliver a sustainable UK technology base that is best in class, creating long term opportunities for stakeholders. In so doing, it will enhance value creation within the UK's subsea industry and the UK economy as a whole as well as facilitate the continued efficient

Continued on page 3



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Malcolm Wicks with Bill Edgar and Aberdeen MP, Frank Doran

Parliamentary Reception

Over 100 industry representatives, journalists and MPs attended Subsea UK's first Parliamentary Reception where Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks, gave the keynote speech.

A great turnout allowed the subsea industry to grab the attention of the UK Government and ramp up its efforts to highlight the success and future concerns for the sector.

Mr Wicks urged the Government to do more for the North Sea oil industry to increase its output offshore and said: "It is essential we continue to maximise our natural resources."

Pointing to the possibilities west of Shetland Mr Wicks said extraction would get more difficult and challenging and more exciting. He also commented on the industry's future in the carbon capture sector and added: "I intend to pursue this vigorously."

Following an address from Brinker Technology's Claire Evans underlining a huge skill shortage in danger of limiting growth, Mr Wicks also urged industry bosses to do more to attract female talent and added that the subsea industry was one of our big economic and technical success stories with the potential to grow much further in the future.

MP Frank Doran who hosted the event on behalf of Subsea UK also commented on the potential for the subsea industry's expertise to be used in the generation of offshore renewable energy.

Subsea UK intends to make these parliamentary events a regular part of their corporate calendar. For more information please contact trish@subseauk.com

Forthcoming Events 2008/09

BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH OIL AND GAS UK
Aberdeen
28th October

SUBSEA EUROPE DINNER
London Aquarium
29th October

SUBSEA EUROPE
Islington, London
30th October

DOT
Perth Australia - 12 companies exhibiting in the Subsea UK Pavilion
3-5th December

SUBSEA 09
Aberdeen
11/12th February 2009

SUBSEA TIE BACK FORUM
San Antonio, Texas
3-5th March 2009

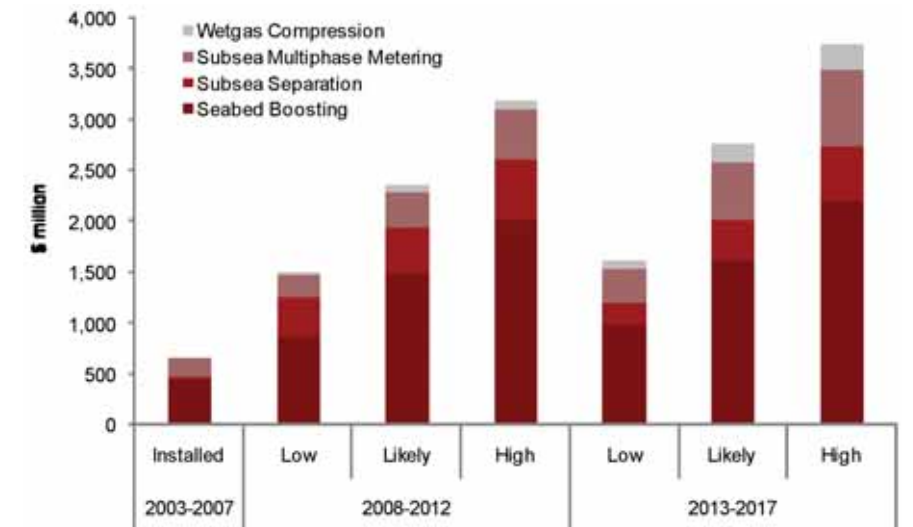
Book for all these events at www.subseauk.com

Subsea Processing - The Gamechanger Technology

In recent years subsea processing systems have moved from concept to reality, from the fringes to the mainstream and for many operators are now firmly part of the field development toolkit. Expenditure on subsea processing systems is increasing rapidly and is expected to total some \$5.1 billion over the 2008-2017 period. The prospect of improved recovery and production is driving operator uptake. So much so that in 2009 we could see as many seabed pumps installed as were installed in total over the 2003-2007 period.

The latest 'Subsea Processing Gamechanger' study from energy analysts Douglas-Westwood Limited and oil & gas technology specialists OTM Consulting considers seabed boosting, separation, multiphase metering and wetgas compression systems.

The base-case forecast projects that over the next decade expenditure on subsea processing could amount to over \$5.1 billion. A total of 186 seabed boosting applications are expected to account for 61% of this 10-year total, in addition to 32 forecast separation systems, we expect 1,275 multiphase meters and 8 wetgas compressors.



Africa is expected to be the leading regional market with a mid-range projected Capex of \$1.4 billion over the 2003-2017 period, followed by Latin America (\$1.2 billion), Western Europe (\$1 billion) and North America (\$936 million)."

Oil companies are continuing to embrace subsea processing. In previous editions of the study

interest in subsea processing was being driven primarily by a desire to increase production. In this latest edition, increasing production is still the main motivation for oil companies to use subsea processing but more firms are considering subsea processing as an enabling technology to help produce technically challenging fields (e.g. heavy oil).

Subsea Asia

Over 2,000 people attended Subsea Asia which took place over three days and comprised a technical conference and exhibition. Those that exhibited or presented at June's inaugural event have reported significant levels of potential new business secured as a direct result of contacts made during the show.

Gary Scroby, MCS regional manager for South-east Asia, said: "For an inaugural event, Subsea Asia was certainly very successful. The two day exhibition was well attended and the profile of the visitors to the MCS stand was impressive."

"We have already bid a significant piece of work as a direct result of contacts made at the exhibition and we expect two serious leads to materialise into commercial proposals in the near future."

The conference which featured presentations from Shell, Murphy Sabah Oil Company, Expro, Cameron and Aker Solutions was opened by Ramlan bin Malek, vice president of Petronas' E&P business, with a welcome address from the British

High Commissioner, H E Boyd McCleary.

Aberdeen-based businesses MCS, Nautronix, Expro and DES also presented their skills and expertise in a highly focused technical session to Petronas.

In total over 60 companies from 12 countries exhibited at the event.

David Pridden, commented: "South-east Asia is a region with huge potential for UK subsea companies."

"Subsea UK took the decision last year, as part of its strategy to help companies internationalise, to launch and organise new events in key locations - South-east Asia, Europe and North America. The success of our first foray into South-east Asia has underlined our belief in the appetite around the world for subsea technology and expertise. It has also demonstrated that Subsea UK has



the capability to run events which fill a gap in the market, the pulling power to attract big industry players and deliver tangible international opportunities to its members."

Industry Backing for NSRI

Continued from front cover

exploitation of the UK's remaining oil and gas reserves for the benefit of both the UK's economy and its inhabitants.

The success of NSRI will require a shared vision which will capture the imagination of the industry, government and academia so that together we can shape our future.

The industry must demonstrate its support of the institute and it is hoped that others will quickly follow Subsea 7's commitment so that we can deliver real results for the benefit of the whole industry.

The NSRI will be formally launched at Subsea 09, a year after the concept was first put forward.



The Hunt to Find the Subsea Stars of 2009 Gets Underway

The search is on to find the individuals and organisations that are setting the benchmark in the fastest growing technology sector in the global offshore oil and gas industry.

Nominations have opened for the 2009 Subsea UK Business Awards which celebrate excellence and achievement across the rapidly expanding subsea sector and feature categories for individuals as well as small and large organisations.

The categories are Subsea Company of the Year, Best Newcomer to the Subsea Industry (business) and Best Young Subsea Personality. A special award will also be presented to the individual who has made the greatest contribution to the subsea industry.

More than 700 business leaders and entrepreneurs are expected to attend the glittering awards ceremony at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on February 11, 2009.

The gala event takes place during Europe's biggest subsea event, Subsea 09, which last year attracted more than 100 exhibitors and upwards of 2,000 visitors representing the full spectrum of the UK capability in the subsea sector. The conference will take place on the 11th and the exhibition opens on the 12th February.

Subsea UK chairman Bill Edgar said: "This is a vibrant and exciting sector of the global oil and gas industry in which the spirit of enterprise and innovation developed over the last 30 years has helped place the UK subsea industry

at the forefront of research and technology development.

"Now in their third year, the awards aim to highlight the achievements of the individuals and companies

who have not only helped shape the industry's past but will be a vital part of driving forward its future."

The 2008 winners were Expro North Sea Ltd for Subsea Company of the Year, Brinker Technology for Best Newcomer to the Subsea Industry and Best Young Personality of the Year went to Klaire Evans, also of Brinker Technology.

The award for Greatest Individual Contribution to the Subsea Industry went to Dave Turner, subsea operations manager for BP's Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Business.

Deadline for nominations for the awards is December 5, 2008 and nomination forms can be obtained from Trish at Subsea UK.



Last Years Winners

Hat-trick Contract Win For World Renowned Diving Centre

Inspection engineers from Subsea 7 recently took part in a two week training programme at The Underwater Centre. A group of 11 engineers underwent an intensive inspection familiarisation course in subsea diving and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) training programme. This is the third such collaboration between the internationally renowned facility and Subsea 7.

The Underwater Centre, which is based at the head of Loch Linnhe, offers a unique sheltered, seawater site with a large private pier extending into the loch. The waters plunge to depths of 150 metres, which are ideal conditions for commercial diving and ROV training. There is also a large, purpose built, onshore diver training pool.

Steve Ham, general manager at The Underwater Centre, said: "It is fantastic that our expertise continues to be recognised by one of the world's leading subsea engineering and construction companies. What makes our Centre so special is the realistic industry relevant environment that students experience on our courses. They are able to experience first-hand the challenges faced by subsea divers and ROV pilots."

Lloyd Duncan, inspection manager for Subsea 7, said: "We chose The Underwater Centre to deliver these courses due to its world class on-site facilities, the unique topography of one of Scotland's deepest lochs, and in particular the unrivalled expertise of its trainers both in subsea diving and ROV operations. We see this as a great opportunity to further increase the awareness, knowledge and expertise of our inspection engineers in the early stages of their careers."

For the Subsea 7 engineers, the course at The Underwater Centre was the culmination of an intense six week internal training programme which is integral to the candidates' induction process.



Conduct your subsea trials at The Underwater Centre

More and more leading subsea companies are taking advantage of the benefits of trialling at The Underwater Centre. The sheltered sea loch location offers easy access to depths from 5m to 150m and our purpose built dive site. Barges, support vessels, diving, ROV, engineering facilities, a 1.5million litre tank and our team of experienced staff are available to support trials.

To find out what we can do to help your business, call Steve Ham on 01397 703786

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Launch of New London Event



Oil and gas industry executives, financial experts and political influencers will attend the Subsea Europe 08 Exhibition and Conference in London on October 30th.

The one-day event at the Business Design Centre in Islington aims to highlight new technology in the subsea sector as well as commercial opportunities in Europe and West Africa.

David Pridden said: "This event brings together a number of key groups to discuss an important industry for the UK.

"The UK subsea industry employs more than 40,000 people and has a \$9 billion share of a \$25 billion global market. The sector has grown by 25% in each of the last two years and exports 50% of its products and services.

"This event will be an opportunity to look at the future of the subsea industry as a whole and discuss current economic and technology issues facing the industry at this time. Visitors will also hear from BP, Total and Oil & Gas UK about the opportunities in the North Sea as well as the key deepwater West African market.

"As a departure from conventional subsea oil and gas, the conference will debate the convergence of subsea oil and gas and marine renewable technologies."

Oil and gas engineering consultancy, Xodus Group, which has just opened an office in London, is the headline sponsor. Managing director of Xodus Group, Colin Manson, said: "We are delighted to sponsor this major event which aims to promote the UK's expertise and experience in subsea and marine renewables to a wider audience in a major energy marketplace." The event is organised with support from DBERR and IMCA, with additional sponsorship from Dominion Gas, Halliburton and Proserv.

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NCS Survey Successfully Completes 250th Contract

The successful completion of a survey support contract on an offshore oil and gas project on the Ivory Coast marks NCS Survey's 250th contract. The contract ran for 60 days and involved a team of surveyors, survey engineers and data processors working with the engineering and ROV teams of the intervention contractor to complete the infield support and pipeline inspection program.

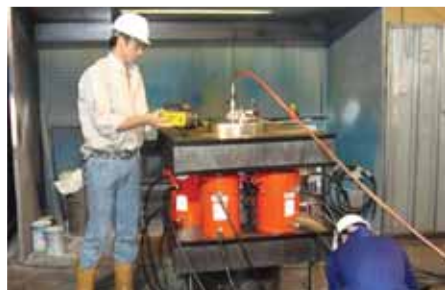
In the three years since the company was formed NCS has succeeded in winning over 250 contracts to date. Projects have been carried out in 24 countries ranging from Russia to Brazil and from Trinidad to New Zealand. With partner companies in Norway and USA the company has achieved its early target of being recognised as a Global Survey Contractor.

Aquatic Gets Job Done for Southern Water

Aquatic, an Acteon company, has enabled Dutch specialist cable and pipeline installation contractor, Visser & Smit Hanab, to support the delivery of a £15m project for Southern Water to replace pipes under the Solent, delivering drinking water to the Isle of Wight.

Southern Water's project began in 2003 and reached the final stage of laying the new pipes under the seabed in April 2008.

Aquatic's operations team joined Visser & Smit Hanab's people on board the barge to ensure the operation went smoothly, enabling the pipes to be laid successfully. During the installation the pipes were trenched to protect them from potential damage in this busy stretch of commercial water.



Hydro Testing at Balmoral Park



Since receiving a recent operational investment, Balmoral Offshore Engineering's Hydrostatic Test Centre has been carrying out compression, uniaxial, density and water absorption tests on behalf of external clients as well as on its own products.

Centre manager Chas Daniel told Subsea UK: "Our vessels use air driven liquid pumps and accommodate a wide variety of products. We can fit all vessels with chart recorders, pressure and temperature dataloggers which provide very detailed results for analysis."

MCS Acquisition Paves way for Subsea & Pipeline Technology Division within Wood Group

Wood Group recently acquired subsea engineering consultancy, MCS and announced the creation of a specifically focused Subsea & Pipelines Technology.

With a market leading position in riser & mooring design, and a leading offering of advanced engineering and software solutions to the subsea industry, MCS is an attractive, strategic addition to Wood Group.

MCS employs approximately 200 people in seven locations around the world. The company will retain its trading name and continue to be run by its existing management team.

Mike Straughen, Group Director and Chief Executive of Wood Group's engineering activities said, "MCS is an exceptional company that we have long admired and I am therefore absolutely delighted that they are joining Wood Group. The acquisition of MCS is part of our ongoing strategy to enhance our capabilities in subsea and deepwater. MCS is one of the world's leading exponents of riser design technology and know-how and this represents an excellent strategic fit which will enable us to deliver comprehensive and leading edge solutions for subsea and

floating production projects worldwide."

MCS will join J P Kenny, Multiphase Solutions Inc. (MSI) and Ionik Consulting in a Subsea & Technology business that will be the largest of its kind in the world.

Patrick O'Brien of MCS said "With the support of Wood Group, we can springboard into the next phase of our development. As a key member of the new Subsea & Pipelines Technology Group we join a business which is the largest and most prestigious solution-independent group of its type in the oil and gas industry. We will be able to significantly increase our geographical, technological and business stream footprints but we will retain our own identity. As well as maintaining the momentum of our current business we will be taking additional responsibility within the Subsea & Pipelines Technology Group for developing new technology and expanding our advanced subsea engineering skill base. This is a great move for all concerned and will open up many new avenues of career development for our current and future staff."



Bourbon Pearl Joins Saipem Fleet

The latest addition to the Saipem UK fleet, the Bourbon Pearl, was delivered to Sonsub in Stavanger, Norway on June 27th prior to commencing operations on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, providing work-class ROV support.

Built at Zhejiang Shipbuilding Co Ltd (China), the vessel was delivered to Bourbon at the end of 2007 before being taken to Westcon yard (Norway) for an ROV support and light construction conversion programme.

Carlo Fusè (vessels manager before his quote starts) explains "The Pearl is on a three year plus optional extension charter and will increase our capability in ROV support and light construction operations, whilst also giving us the opportunity to pursue the IRM market with a brand new, state-of-the-art asset."

AKE Launches New Course

AKE Ltd has launched a pioneering short course in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen focusing on international law and human rights in difficult operating environments. The course is targeted at people working in a wide range of sectors, including the energy industry and corporate social responsibility offices. Further information on the course can be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/humanrights.

Recent incidents, not least the June 19th attack against the Bonga FPSO in the Niger Delta demonstrated the ongoing risks facing energy industry personnel operational in the West of Africa and the difficulty in doing business there. The region offers some of the most lucrative oil and gas opportunities in the world and has been identified by



the subsea sector as one of its largest areas of growth. It has both established reserves and less-explored markets, all of which are exciting and potentially rewarding opportunities. These opportunities are, however, sullied by the security challenges that accompany them. It is areas of operation like this internationally that have encouraged the growth of AKE's relationship with the WAAG and the development of its course in conjunction with the university.



VetcoGray Completes Gulf of Suez Project

VetcoGray, a GE Oil & Gas business, applied its latest technology to overcome unique challenges, reduce project costs and risks, and successfully convert an exploration well to full production service at Agiba Petroleum Company's West Ashrafi hydrocarbon facility in Egypt's Gulf of Suez, Red Sea.

The project marks the first time that VetcoGray has converted a mudline exploration system to an SG-1 wellhead subsea system for production duty. The newly converted well entered service in April of this year.

"The new conversion system removed the need for Agiba Petroleum to re-enter the reservoir from a new wellhead, as this had proven difficult during the exploration phase. This solution therefore removed significant cost and risk from the project," said Willie Bryson, VetcoGray's product line manager for tree on mudline.

Record Sales Success for Tracero

Leading measurement and control specialist Tracero, part of the Johnson Matthey Group, is celebrating record sales and the launch of major recruitment plans in line with growing client demand for its innovative products and services.

The company, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, has rapidly grown its portable radiation monitor supply, calibration and repair business. In less than two years since the launch of this new business line, sales have exceeded £1 million per annum.

The World's Highest-pressure Large-bore Drilling Riser

Acteon companies Claxton Engineering, 2H Offshore (2H) and Subsea Riser Products (SRP) have received an order from Venture Production plc to provide an ultra-high-pressure riser for use during a high-pressure, high-temperature (HP/HT) drilling campaign in the North Sea, which is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2009.

The riser is of a unique design. It will be the world's first full-bore access (18-in.) riser capable of working at pressures in excess of 12,000 psi. Linked to this, the flanges used to connect the individual pipe sections will be attached using a shrink-fit process - the first time this technology has been used in this application.

The riser will enable Venture to drill and complete HP/HT subsea wells from a jackup drilling rig employing a surface blowout preventer (BOP), which will provide significant cost benefits and operational efficiencies. Venture has already contracted the Noble Scott Marks, which is currently under construction in China, for the HP/HT campaign.

Houston HQ Marks Second Anniversary



Mass-flow excavation (MFE) specialists Rotech Subsea has marked the second anniversary of its Houston headquarters by vowing to introduce its services to a wider market.

The Aberdeen company has had a presence in Texas for four years but two years ago opened a dedicated operational facility within Houston's 'Energy Corridor'.

Since then it has completed over 30 projects and there are currently several projects operational, or in the process of mobilising. The jobs over the past three years have mainly been decommissioning works of well heads, caissons and oil platforms damaged through Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina and Rita.

Clutch of Contract Wins for Xodus Subsea

Securing £2.5 million worth of new contracts in the last six months, the Subsea division of the Xodus Group is booming.

It is less than a year since Xodus made the big move to London and according to Richard Heard, director of Xodus, this has given the Group, in particular the Subsea division, enormous scope to capitalise on opportunities in overseas markets.

"We have recently won work in South-east Asia for example, and secured contracts with a number of London-based clients looking to apply the integrated Xodus approach to large international field development projects, said Richard. "We also continue to attract top

class people into the Xodus London team giving us the local capability we need to deliver our integrated consultancy model."

Cementing its position as a leading oil and gas consultancy, London is set to become a major operational centre for the Xodus Group.



Tritech Launch Subsea Acoustic Telemetry Product Range at UUVS



A miniature subsea acoustic telemetry product range is being launched at The UUVS (Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase) on September 23rd & 24th 2008 by Trittech on stand number 456.

Tritech International will be presenting exciting, new developments in the field of through-water communications.

The new Micron Mini Modem which consumes very little power provides robust, long range, spread spectrum data transmission with an exceptionally low error rate all from an extremely compact and low cost unit.

MicronNav is designed to provide 180 degree hemispherical coverage below the transducer, allowing vehicle tracking in very deep or shallow water.

Hull Surveys with a Difference

SeaBotix has developed a revolutionary new product that combines the proven technology and performance of the LBV with the ability to strongly adhere to any hard surface in any orientation. Once attached the LBC utilizes four-wheel drive and large knobby tires. This ability provides unmatched stability beyond conventional ROVs.

When conditions exceed the capability of ROV mode or more precise control is required simply attach the crawler skid and adhere to the hard surface.

The concept of creating a crawler that attaches to the ship hull helps to reduce and even eliminate the difficulties encountered.



Seal of Approval for Technip's Graduate Programme

From the left: Syed Baber Hadi, Sandra Mulligan, Karen McKerrow and Parminder Sanghera



Technip has announced that its UK Graduate Development Programme has received full reaccreditation from engineering body, Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). The highly successful two year program

has been reaccredited for the next three years, which is the maximum duration awarded by IMechE.

Accreditation (and successive reaccreditation) is given to companies who demonstrate

commitment to the Monitored Professional Development Scheme (MPDS) and who provide enough opportunity and feedback to enable engineers to successfully apply for chartered status.

CTC Receives Frame Agreement from StatoilHydro

CTC Marine Projects Limited (a division of the Trico group) has recently been awarded a frame agreement by StatoilHydro ASA for the provision of trenching services.

The frame agreement is for a three year period with options to extend for two x2 years and covers offshore Norway.

StatoilHydro will have access to CTC's extensive fleet of trenching assets, including the Volantis newbuild vessel incorporating the world's most powerful jetting trencher, the 2.1MW UT-1 'Ultra Trencher'. The UT-1 offers the greatest all weather launch and operating capability of any trenching asset.



Brinker Launches new Plasma Product

The company that brought Platelets® – an innovative technology for leak location and sealing based on the human body's own healing mechanism technology - to the international oil and gas marketplace has launched a new sealing solution called Plasma.

Aberdeen-based Brinker launched Plasma™ at ONS in Stavanger. Another revolutionary product along the lines of Platelets, Plasma is a dynamic sealant that effectively fixes very fine leaks and cracks such as those that result from fitting failures or faulty valves.

Brinker is now an established provider of novel products and services that ensure or restore integrity in ageing infrastructure where it is critical to avoid costly down-time, mitigate any environmental impact caused by a leak and minimise the need for vessel intervention.

Plasma is a dynamic sealing solution consisting of fine particulate Platelets suspended in a gel carrier medium. Designed for a number of applications in the upstream oil industry, it acts as a high performance valve sealant and can be used as a quick fix to enable intervention work on a pipeline or re-charged for a more long-term solution. It can be easily pumped into a leaking cavity using a hand

operated Plasma gun to form an external seal.

Glynn Williams, executive director of Brinker, said: "Plasma is ideally suited to low flow applications and was originally developed to address the problem of tubing hanger leaks. It performs exceptionally well as a valve sealant or in situations where a secondary barrier is required such as dynamic clamping where the sealing components have to withstand movement of the sealing elements.

"Plasma has already been trialled with early success on a gas export riser for a major operator. Its ability to meet the increasing need for operators to minimise downtime in ageing infrastructure provides huge potential for Brinker and it is anticipated that the product will help increase the company's revenues by 20% this year and save the industry millions of pounds."

The advanced sealing properties of the product rely on the fact that when a pressure differential is applied across the Plasma, the Platelets in suspension with the solution, migrate to the leak site preventing further fluid egress and restoring integrity.

Plasma does not solidify or set so that the long-term function of the system into which it is deployed is not affected.

Brinker has cemented a reputation for providing innovative engineering solutions and pipeline integrity management. Coupling its break-through technology products with its expert fluids knowledge, the company offers a unique capability to the industry.



Global Marine Systems Limited Offers Career Advancement to Armed Forces Personnel

Financial Support Now Available for ROV Training

The Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) training facility of leading subsea marine engineering firm, Global Marine Systems Limited, has received approval from the Ministry of Defense to provide current and former Armed Services personnel with training at their Portland facility. ROV pilots and technicians are in high demand in the civilian oil, gas and subsea cable industries.

This program is a part of the MoD's Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme (ELC), an initiative to promote lifelong learning amongst members of the Armed Forces. The ELC scheme provides financial support in the form of a single up-front payment in each of a maximum of three separate financial years for courses that have been approved by the ELC Administration Service.

FMC Technologies Place in Scottish Culture

FMC Technologies, leading designer and manufacturer of products for the oil and gas industry, has donated a miniature model of a subsea tree to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. The model is a version of the technology used in the Phillips Joanne development project and depicts the complex valves and controls used to manage the flow of oil and gas in a subsea oil well.

The 1994 Phillips Joanne project was FMC Technologies' first major subsea contract in UK waters using horizontal subsea tree technology. The miniature model of the subsea tree, with a height and width of 2.5m, was designed for Phillips by FMC Technologies and used for training and display purposes.



Students Deliver at Prospect

MBA students from The Robert Gordon University are to complete their degrees by providing business consultancy services to Aberdeen based engineering partner, Prospect. The five full-time postgraduate students will spend their summer developing a policy document detailing how an SME can motivate and retain staff through re-defining their strategy for individual career progression.

Managing director, Jonathan D'Arcy, said: "The project is topical given the widely reported

recruitment and retention difficulties facing companies in the oil and gas sector. SMEs feel the pressure of the current market conditions perhaps more so than large organisations as they aim to attract and retain people through offering opportunities for career progression and professional development. This SME focused study will be solely based on our organisation and will form an integral part of our future human resources strategy - the recommendations will be critical to our business."

Newcastle University Engages Subsea NE

The significant role played by the subsea sector in North East England has been highlighted in recent years by Subsea NE, and subsea firms in the region are increasingly winning the recognition they deserve. Newcastle University

Business School and the School of Marine Science and Technology have recently secured Business Engagement Funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to develop the relationship between Newcastle

University and the subsea sector in the region. Chris Braithwaite, chair of Subsea NE and chief operating officer of Wellstream, in supporting the bid said "This industry sector is growing at a rate in excess of 15% per annum and we are facing many challenges which I believe Newcastle University can be instrumental in helping to solve."

The ESRC scheme provides opportunities for social science researchers to encourage knowledge exchange to assist business sustainability. This project seeks to identify enhanced ways for firms to promote their sector and tailor skills provision to their requirements. Initial activities have included a "Meet the Students" event where engineering students met representatives of the subsea firms to discuss ways of engaging with university students; the forming of an academic-industry group to develop a new Masters degree in Subsea Engineering and Management and a University tour of some of the major subsea manufacturing facilities.

For further information please contact the project leader Dr Fiona Whitehurst at fiona.whitehurst@ncl.ac.uk or 0191 2430838.



CSL delivering subsea developments

Course Locations
ABERDEEN & LONDON

New Subsea Facilities Introduction Training Course

Created and delivered by experienced subsea professionals, CSL's new Subsea Facilities Introduction is a one-day course designed to provide managers, engineers and non technical staff with an overview of all aspects of the subsea industry.

Delegates will gain an understanding of why subsea facilities are used, what the individual components of a subsea facility are and will be introduced to associated HSE legislation.

Topics include:

- Why choose subsea?
- What is a subsea system?
- Topside infrastructure
- Subsea infrastructure
- HS&E legislation
- Threats to subsea systems
- Diving/Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs)/ Dive Support Vessels (DSVs)

Cost per person - £475.00 +VAT

For course agenda and booking instructions please contact Nicole Kennedy quoting course ref SUB003.
Tel: +44 (0) 1224 285566 • Email: csltraining@csl-group.co.uk • www.csl-group.co.uk



MEMBER UPDATES

WWW.SUBSEAUK.COM



Subsea Aquatheatre Unveiled

The Industry's Portable Aquatic Attraction

The Subsea Aquatheatre - a first-of-its kind exhibit to showcase the subsea industry to young people - was unveiled at the "OPITO - The Oil & Gas Academy's Energise Your Future" event in Aberdeen June 2008.

Commissioned by Subsea UK and funded by Wellstream, Oceaneering, Subsea 7, Triton Group and the Engineering Business, the portable aquarium generated significant interest among the 600 plus pupils who attended the event to find out more about a career in oil and gas.

The aim of this aquatic attraction is to attract young people to the subsea sector by allowing them to see and interact with some of the world's leading marine technology.

Transported by an 18 tonne lorry, it took more than 22,000 litres of water to fill the 4.5 metric tonne aquarium which demonstrated underwater technology such as cameras, remotely operated vehicles and diving equipment.

Despite some initial technical and timing concerns, Subsea UK chief executive David Pridden was

determined to make his vision for a hands on attraction succeed: "There was some hesitation when it came to the idea of building a tank in less than two months and ensuring that it could be transported, installed and set up within the 24 hours before the event but we believe this exhibit is a fantastic way for young people and adults to play with technology that is used in the real world.

"Through this attraction we have shown youngsters that there is an element of fun in what we do and this was a chance for them to put their Playstation skills to use."

Subsea Aquatheatre project engineer, Liam Macintyre of MCS, added: "Our aim has always been to demonstrate the fun element of subsea engineering whilst providing a direct link to the real technology used subsea. The industry

support has meant that all the donated technology for the tank such as flexible pipe from Wellstream, Balmoral's buoys and Ac-cess' ROVs are actual items of equipment used in the real subsea environment.

To find out further details about the Subsea Aquatheatre and other skills initiatives in this area, please contact Subsea UK.



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