IN THIS ISSUE
Subsea UK’s New CEO Announced
Market Analysis
Latest Business News
New Technologies
…and more
First Ever Induction Framework

Subsea UK has launched its first ever pan-industry induction framework, a number of highly qualified subsea engineers in the industry.

As a not-for-profit body, Subsea UK has already invested significant funds into back into industry, creating value for its members and the sector, it is confident that the UK’s Subsea Safety Leadership Framework, which will enable everyone working on offshore subsea operations to identify and address the same level of safety competency so the framework applies to everyone connected with offshore subsea operations.

Subsea UK’s safety forum has launched its first ever pan-industry induction framework, a number of highly qualified subsea engineers in the industry.

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Subsea UK Compiles Database of Industry Projects and Contracts

Subsea UK has launched a new service for members which provides valuable market intelligence on the global industry.

The database, which the Subsea UK UK's subsea oil and gas sector, has compiled a series of databases containing vital market information on subsea projects, contracts and new discoveries, which will be updated monthly and available from the members' section of the Subsea UK website.

The project database reveals that there are more than 300 major on-going or upcoming subsea projects globally, which will require more than 1,300 subsea trees, 110 manifolds, 70 projects in the UKCS, as well as those in major centres of activity in Norway, Brazil, West Africa, Australia, Asia-Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Information provided in the projects database includes the name of the project, the operator, main contractor, equipment suppliers, along with the project status, where it is located, water depths, as well as the current number of trees, manifolds, umbilicals, flowlines and risers currently in use and required in the future meet demand. The database also holds information on FPSOs and subsea vessels.

The contract database reveals that more than 350 major subsea contracts totalling over £6 billion have been awarded globally during the first four months of 2011. These include 23 EPIC, 33 manufacturing and 13 installation contracts.

Information on contracts that have been awarded in the past three years is now available in the contracts database including type of contract, companies involved, geographic region, and value - when available.

Subsea UK Chief Executive, Alistair Birnie, said: “This is the first time that all of this publicly-released information has been available through one source and will provide valuable key facts and figures for business development, it adds value to membership of Subsea UK as the up-to-date intelligence would otherwise difficult, costly and time-consuming for companies to gather individually.”

The last review of the subsea sector in 2010 revealed that the UK subsea sector comprised around 760 companies, supporting 50,000 jobs, generating £5.8 billion in revenues and exporting around 50% of those revenues.

Douglas-Westwood Forecasts $139 Billion to be Spent on Subsea Hardware in the Next Five Years

Douglas-Westwood’s first edition of its World Subsea Hardware Market Report forecasts 23% growth in capital expenditure compared to the last five years, with $139 billion to be spent on subsea hardware over the 2011-2015 period. A proprietary model has been developed for this study in collaboration with the leading subsea hardware providers, field data, contract values and project-by-project scrutiny allows a ‘bottom-up’ consideration of the market for a highly-detailed forecast.

Renewed upward pressure on oil prices is already starting to be seen and this is expected to continue over the long-term as the limits of conventional oil production are tested and supply struggles to meet demand. The economic downturn did undoubtedly hit some subsea projects, due to their relative complexity and the associated costs, but many operators are using conservative hurdle rates to determine levels of investment. We have witnessed some caution and reversal of the cost inflation that occurred in the years leading up to 2008.

The volume and value of subsea production and processing equipment installed is detailed for the period 2006-2010 and forecast 2011-2015. During the forecast period, expenditure accounts for over half of all expenditure, dominated by Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East, which have a number of large subsea pipeline projects planned. Production expenditure is concentrated in West Africa, Brazil and the US Gulf of Mexico due to strong deepwater sectors.

The astonishing technical capability that exists within the subsea sector today puts into perspective how much the capital-intensive oil and gas extraction now is for upstream E&P players. The technology that is being deployed is unlocking reserves that would previously have been impossible to access, but at a price, and as a result the sector has become a very sizable opportunity for the oilfield service and equipment community.

Exova Develops New Capability for Subsea Materials

Exova, one of the world’s leading testing and advisory businesses, has invested over £100,000 in its Oil and Gas division, expanding its range of services to include fracture mechanics testing for its international offshore clients.

Exova’s Aberdeen laboratory has expanded the number of testing experts, recruiting four new additional employees, including the appointment of a metallurgist who enhances the failure investigation capability within the business.

The service offering within the laboratory has also expanded with the introduction of elevated tensile testing, crack tip open displacement testing (CTOD) and investment in a scanning electron microscope.

Jason Clark, Exova’s general manager of Energy in Scotland and the North East, said: “Oil and Gas is one of the most significant markets for Exova, with laboratories in nearly every major industry centre around the world. This investment comes at a time when Exova is consolidating its position as one of the leading Oil and Gas testing organisations and enhances our quality testing services to our locally-based offshore clients.”

The investment in the fracture mechanics service further advaances the laboratory’s already comprehensive welding capabilities. The introduction of the elevated tensile testing allows businesses to determine the materials characteristics when testing at temperatures above room temperature.

The addition of CTOD testing at a local level further compliments Exova’s already expansive range of testing available, enhancing the business as leaders in materials analysis.

Exova Aberdeen also offers for the very first time scanning electron microscope testing, an essential tool for investigative failure and forensic analysis. In addition to the new services, the UKAS accredited Aberdeen laboratory provides a range of corrosion, mechanical and metallurgical tests for metals and metal products as well as being home to a welding centre of excellence.

The welding centre offers an expansive range of services including welding engineering, support on welding processes, materials and mechanical testing, welder testing and third party certification.

Exova’s Edinburgh laboratory supports the Aberdeen facility to serve the Oil and Gas industry, with tests for material and welding procedure qualification.
Overcoming Oversupply in the ROVSV and DSV Market

It is well known that there is an oversupply in the diving support vessel (DSV) and ROV support vessel (ROVSV) markets. This is bad from the contractor’s point of view as it influences utilisation and, in turn, day rates are negatively affected. The most obvious solution to this problem for contractors would be for some of the oversupply to be scrapped, laid up or moved out of the market. But is this really likely to happen?

There were 57 DSVs and 91 ROVSVs operating in the market at the start of 2007. Since then the supply for DSVs has increased by 49% to 83 vessels, while the ROVSV fleet has seen a more dramatic increase of 76% to 160 vessels between 2007 and 2010.

The graph below, taken from ODS-Petrodata’s ConstructionVesselBase, highlights the average age of the fleet currently operating in the subsea market.

- In the DSV market there are 30 vessels that are over 20 years old. Of these, 10 are now over 30 and the oldest is 44.
- When a vessel is built it is generally constructed to last 30 years before heavy investment is required to keep it in class. While the market is strong, contractors will feel it is worth absorbing these costs to reap the rewards of the market. But if utilisation and day rates start to drop, then vessel owners may have to rethink their strategies.
- The ROVSV fleet is much younger than its DSV equivalent, with around 75% of the vessels 10 years old or younger. As the oil and gas industry moves into deeper and harsher environments, newer vessels will be increasingly utilised, especially with the heightened safety and environmental expectations that have arisen following the 2010 Macondo disaster in the US Gulf of Mexico.
- Tighter vessel age restrictions may be exercised in certain countries by or certain operators. This is already happening in some regions, including Indonesia, Australia, the Middle-East and the North Sea.
- At the moment, the market is in favour of the operators due to the amount of available tonnage. But restricting the maximum age of vessels in certain regions would cause a reduction in the supply, resulting in day rates starting to climb.

Demand is due to increase year-on-year in the shallow and benign market, but it is the deep and harsh market that will be seeing the most dramatic increases in demand, driven in particular by Australia and Brazil. Overyupply in the fleet is obvious at the moment, but as the industry moves into ever harsher environments, it will likely require more newbuild vessels that are capable of working in these environments year-round. This is especially likely if Arctic projects enter the next phase of development.

So will the older vessels be scrapped? The short answer is, in time, yes. But as long as owners keep their vessels well maintained, they can continue to be utilised, especially in shallow and benign regions. A turning point is likely to come when operators impose restrictions on the age and/or capabilities of the vessels they utilise.

Despite only a few vessels having been laid up or retired in the subsea market to date, it is likely that many more will follow suit in the years to come.

Roxar Launches Breakthrough Well Intervention Tool

Roxar Flow Measurement Ltd, the Aberdeen based arm of Norwegian company Roxar, has launched a new wireless product that provides the offshore subsea market with improved well integrity monitoring and significant cost savings.

The Roxar Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, measures previously inaccessible annular pressure and temperature behind the casing in subsea production or injection wells.

The technology can save operators millions of pounds through verifying a well’s barrier integrity without having to shut down for maintenance. Its application also provides early warning of production flow problems allowing operators to detect variations in pressure behind the casing. If left undetected, high pressure can result in a shallow gas blow out. The device reduces safety and environmental risks associated with well interventions as a result.

Roxar’s development of the technology was already gained industry wide interest and the company introduced the technology at the OTP technical conference. Roxar will bring its Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, to the UK North Sea market this year. It can be fitted to any new or existing subsea template.

The Roxar system controls downhole pressure and temperature in real time, which Roxar believes will provide the ultimate solution to delivering safe, reliable and cost effective subsea well integrity monitoring.

The Roxar Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, is already integrated into the Sub-Atlantic test tank in Blackburn, Aberdeenshire.

It is great to have GOSL witness their new SeeTrack CoPilot software in action with their Mohawk Inte. Roxar’s new technology hailed as ‘game changer’ for the offshore sector, as it offers substantially improved well integrity monitoring, which Roxar believe will protect subsea assets and significantly reduce the operational costs associated with subsea well integrity monitoring.

The Roxar Downhole Wireless PT Sensor System – Annulus B, monitors vital data from the annulus B online and in real-time with absolute certainty of the results. The power to take device is continuously transmitted wirelessly, rather than by battery, and we can therefore guarantee that it will operate for a minimum of 20 years.

Vector Technology Groups’ OPTIMA Subsea ROV Connector Selected for Capping Stack Emergency Response System

In Q1 2011 VTG delivered several size 5 OPTIMA Subsea ROV connectors to Transocean Engineering to integrate into their prestigious capping stack emergency response system in the Gulf of Mexico.

The rating of the system is 15,000 psi and is capable of processing over 60,000 of barrels a day.

VTG Subsea Business Managing Director Chris Lee explains: “Having been called upon by BP last July to supply OPTIMA subsea ROV connectors for emergency response system deployed on the Macondo incident we were delighted when our partner in the GOM TLP requested we support this prestigious opportunity. The readiness of this system has been of prime importance following the commencement of drilling operations in the GOM and we are honoured to play our part.”

Roxar’s new technology hailed as breakthrough for the offshore sector

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Tritech’s Latest Version of Seanet Pro Now Released

Winner of the Subsea UK Innovation & Technology Award, Tritech International, is pleased to announce the latest release of its survey data acquisition, display and logging software package.

Seanet Pro, version 2, now offers users the ability for remote networkability; allowing subsea data to be streamed between several PCs connected to the same Local Area Network on the surface.

Building on existing capability to network multiple subsea sensors, the package has been updated in line with Tritech’s existing and imminent new product ranges, including Seaking Hammerhead DST sonar and the Gemini multibeam range. The system also provides users with the ability to display a multitude of Tritech sensors and third party data through SeaNet Pro at any one time.

With the new release, users of Seanet Pro can now create their own product layout by selecting their Tritech products and adjusting how they are displayed on screen, highlighting Seanet Pro’s straightforward ‘plug & play’ functionality.

Seanet Pro is accurate and user-friendly, allowing subsea data to be captured, processed and displayed with ease. The advancement of Seanet Pro is driven by the skills of Tritech’s software development team.

Working behind the scenes to capture the very best customer solution for acquisition, control, visualisation and data logging, the Seanet Pro software development team comprises of Kevin Matson (Software Manager), Christophe Auger & Marc Chamberlain (Software Engineers), alongside three new recruits, Pauline Jepp, Paul McMaster and Edward Thurman.

Jesse Rodocker from SeaBotix Inc. comments on his experience of the latest version of Seanet Pro: “Tritech has always provided an impressive integrated solution to sensor data that our clients find great value in. With so many of our clients integrating sonar; tracking and video the ability to work in one software package means reduced training, synchronised data and a common interface. Seanet Pro version 2 calles everything to a new level with the movable windows, wizards and output functions; it complements Tritech’s impressive line of sensors.”

In addition, all new product ranges can be connected and operated with existing Tritech products all from a single interface. Seanet Pro offers simultaneous control and display of all data through the Seanet Pro graphical user interface.

VisualSoft Showcase New Software

The Ocean Business exhibition, held at the National Oceanographic Centre, was the ideal platform for Subsea Services business VisualSoft to showcase VisualWorks® 9, a major upgrade to the Pipeline and Structural Inspection Suite that incorporates new 3D inspection tools and industry leading multi-beam scan cleaning tools. The VisualSoft team were delighted by the level of interest and support received from visitors to the stand and from delegates who attended the demonstration and training sessions covering 3D structural inspection management and the integration of inspection tools with AutoChart and GIs.

Giving feedback on these unique inspection workscope planning and Mooring System Design tools being used in the inspection workscope, Pipeline and Structural Processing Specialist, Phil Reed said: “The novel way of generating the inspection workscope, usually means ROV pilots and the rest of the inspection team can get a better understanding of the job and can identify potential problem areas before doing the survey for real. Also, the built-in tracking makes it much easier to see at a glance what has and has not been inspected, which is great for handover. I particularly like being able to load captured video from the Ultrasound viewer and play it back to events because it makes anomaly review and correction much more intuitive and quicker to do.”

Caley Ocean Systems Delivers New 400-tonne Mobile Turntable to Mooring Systems

Offshore handling equipment specialist, Caley Ocean Systems Ltd, has designed and built what is believed to be the most adaptable offshore, mobile turntable of its kind in the UK, for spooling equipment hire company Mooring Systems Ltd in Aberdeen.

Cable in one batch. The turntable’s carousel’s dedicated spooling tower and large drum diameter ensure maximum product protection and highly accurate product spooling.

Designed from the outset for rapid deployment from any port in the UK at short notice, the turntable is fully modularised for transport by road and standard 40-foot flat rack at sea. Together with dedicated deck beams, the spooler has its own lifting gear allowing a single lift of the fully assembled system. Moreover, the combination of a fully integrated hydraulic power unit (HPU), redundant drives and integral dual redundant control system all rate IP65, suitable for a marine environment, significantly reduce mobilisation times and ensure safe handling of overhung loads.

The turntable has been transported to Mooring Systems’ warehouse and quayside facility at Montrose on the east coast of Scotland, joining another 75 tonne Caley Ocean Systems modular reel delivered earlier this year.

Mooring Systems general manager Douglas Davidson said: “The new turntable spooler has filled a gap in the market for a modular, multi-purpose, transportable system that has particular applications for the burgeoning renewables market. We expect that 2012 will see a massive surge in the number of projects being commissioned and we have already experienced increased interest in our fleet of spotters.

“The new spooler fills the space between conventional reels, which carry smaller payloads and the 1,000tne-plus turntables and carousels that are less adaptable and take longer to deploy. There is nothing quite like this in the UK rental market at present.”

SMD Receives Prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise

Winner of the Subsea UK’s Company of the Year Award, SMD, has been honoured with the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the innovation category, for the design and manufacturer of Work Class Remotely Operated Vehicles (WROVs).

The Wallsend-based company is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of remote invention equipment, which operates in hazardous environments across the globe.

Each year, the Queen’s Award is presented by the UK Department for Business, Innovations and Skills to enterprises and organisations in recognition of outstanding achievement in the categories of International Trade, Innovation, and Sustainable Development. The Queen personally approves the recommendations of the Prime Minister.

Following the restructuring of its operations into the business streams: R&D, Trenching, Renewables, Nuclear and Mining – the company has experienced strong growth. Turnover for the period 2009-10 increased by almost 50% to £61 million and the company is targeting another considerable rise in turnover by the end of 2012.

In 2010 SMD won the industry’s largest ever single work class ROV contract for 200m subsea work on Shell’s Shenzi development. As well as the manufacture of the world’s largest free stream tidal turbine for Atlantis Resources Corporation, Engineering and Plant”.

SMD’s most recent breaking ROV model, the O-Trencher, has been utilised by operators in China and Japan, where it has been involved in subsea communications cable repair following the recent earthquake and tsunami.

In addition to its riverside head office and manufacturing facility in Wallsend, and offices in Maltont, North Yorkshire, Singapore, Houston, and Macae in Brazil, SMD has expanded its presence in the North East, in the past 12 months.

SMD own was awarded a dedicated design office at the Cobalt Business Park and an additional production facility at the Tyne Tunnel Estate, which will become an ROV Centre of Excellence.

This expansion, to meet the growing contract wins secured by SMD, has enabled the business to more than double its workforce from 120 to almost 300. Further recruitment is underway for an additional 3D positions for its North East and Yorkshire operations.

Andrew Hodgson, Chief Executive of SMD, said: “We have led the subsea ROV market for a number of years in terms of design and innovation and the Queen’s Award is a marvellous acknowledgement of our achievements. Through the creation of the five business streams and the expansion of new energy markets such as renewables and new nuclear, we have further developed our product range to meet the challenges of these sectors and increase our presence in global markets.

This award is testament to the creative skills and technical expertise of our engineers in our Research & Development, Production units supported by an outstanding team of people who continue to excel in their market to meet the challenges of these sectors and increase our presence in global markets.

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Wilton Group Expands into Dundee

Wilton Group has opened a new fabrication facility at Dundee port in support of the upgrading, maintenance and refurbishment of Drilling Rigs, FPSOs and Offshore Construction Vessels. The Wilton Group through its subsidiary POSAMS Energy provides specialist engineering services for the refurbishment and upgrade of oil rigs berthed at the port.

Alex MacKay, Head of POSAMS Energy’s Rig Refurbishment business unit, commented “We welcome the investment that the Wilton Group are making in Dundee, it will increase our presence in the city and help support the needs of the Drilling companies.” Alex continued “Dundee is a great location for our business; the port facilities and the deepwater access to the quayside are of course very important, but the Dundee location is so much more accessible to Aberdeen based clients than competing sites elsewhere.

Group Business Development Director Oes Haftefield added: “The Wilton Group’s core business is based around large scale fabrications for the Oil and Gas and Renewables industries. We see this investment in Dundee as positioning the group for further opportunities, especially in the offshore subsea and construction markets, giving us fabrication and berthing facilities covering both the Southern and Northern sectors. We expect to make further investments in the area to realise our growth objectives; whether this is through further acquisitions or organic growth has yet to be determined.

The Wilton Group expects that the Dundee facility will employ upwards of 50 people at the site, growing towards 100 when blasting and painting capabilities are added later in the year.

The Wilton Group acquired the design engineers POSAMS Energy in 2009. POSAMS operate from multiple offices in Aberdeen, Great Yarmouth, and Port Clarence. POSAMS focus on the engineering of Brownfield projects, rig upgrades and refurbishment, as well as subsea development engineering. POSAMS Energy employs some 250 people across its business units.

Ashtead Technology Invests $2.25m in New Rental Equipment

Ashtead Technology announces investments totalling $2.25 million, in new high technology rental equipment, from leading manufacturers including R2Sonic, Reson, Tritech, Ikeea and Sonardyne. Ashtead Technology strives to remain at the forefront of the latest technology, meeting clients’ requirements for the latest innovations for use in the harshest of environments.

Included in the $2.25 million order are R2Sonic Multibeam Echosounders, Ikeea GAPS and PHINS Positioning and Navigation Systems, Tritech Gemini 300m Imaging Sonars, Sonardyne Ranger Pro2 USBL Positioning Systems, Reson 7125 Multibeam Sonars and Hydro-Lek pan and tilt camera booms.

This latest significant investment is indicative of Ashtead Technology’s global strategy to provide the world’s leading fleet of subsea equipment with the highest levels of customer service. Further to this investment, Ashtead Technology have recently expanded into the Middle-East and Australasia regions and continue to open Calibration facilities in Singapore and Aberdeen and shortly in Houston. In addition, Ashtead Technology have planned Capital Expenditure budget in excess of $6 million in the next 12 months.

Commenting on the substantial investment, Mark Derry, Ashtead Technology Offshore Managing Director said: “We are starting to see the market pick up and in order to support our subsea clients, we endeavour to continue to provide them with one of the world’s largest and newest fleets of subsea rental equipment. This $2.25 million order plus the further $6 million planned investments will provide our clients with the latest positioning, navigation and imaging technology available in the market, available when and where they require it, fully calibrated and backed by 24 hour technical support for complete peace of mind.”

NCS Survey to Take Delivery of Gavia AUV with New Integrated Sub-Bottom Profiler System

Teledyne Gavia are to deliver one of the first SBP modules, and the first complete Gavia system to be delivered with a full suite of SBP, SSS and swath Bathymetry, as a part of NCS Survey’s 3rd Gavia vehicle. This makes NCS Survey the largest commercial user of Gavia vehicles with three systems being operational after delivery of this vehicle.

NCS Survey’s commitment to the Gavia range of AUVs comes on the back of a number of successful contracts for seven different Oil & Gas clients, including pipeline inspections, seabed scour monitoring, under rig surveys, and swath bathymetry, as a part of NCS Survey’s 3rd Gavia vehicle. This makes NCS Survey the largest commercial user of Gavia vehicles with three systems being operational after delivery of this vehicle.

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"We are excited by the continued success of NCS Survey and the growth of their Gavia fleet of AUVs. The new sub-bottom profiler module will give them the efficiency of full survey capabilities in a man-portable vehicle," said Teledyne Benthos General Manager, Thomas Altfleish.

NCS Survey has pioneered the use of portable below logistics AUVs in the offshore Oil & Gas sector and is now recognised as a global leader in this field. The company was formed in 2005 and has grown from eight employees to over 60 in less than five years. Its turnover has doubled in the last year to over £8m. In the five years since start-up NCS Survey has performed over 600 Projects in 35 different countries.
Aberdeen Firm Provides the Perfect Model for Offshore Safety

RBG Reaches Excellent Safety Performance

Winners of the inaugural Subsea UK Safety Award, RBG, the leading provider of inspect, assess and repair (IAR) services to the global energy industry, have announced that the company’s REACH safety initiative was a major factor in reducing its last time incident frequency rate (LTIFR) by 38.5% in the year ending December 2010. REACH was launched in December 2008 with the aim of creating a stronger, safer culture throughout RBG by encouraging all employees to ‘reach’ higher safety standards. Activities such as internal campaigns, monthly briefing papers and a safety award scheme have all contributed to a major behavioural shift across the company’s operations and a marked commitment to proactive safety engagement.

Going forward, RBG’s safety statistics and recording methods will be aligned to the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP), enabling the company to benchmark its performance against industry standards rather than its previous year’s statistics. RBG’s REACH initiative won the 2010 Subsea UK Safety Leadership Award and the company will hold its own annual REACH safety awards in April 2011. The awards, a first for RBG, will recognise the company’s employees who demonstrate outstanding safety performance and continual best practice safety.

While the first year of REACH focused on safety, in 2011 the initiative will expand to include RBG’s full hSEQ remit. A bespoke framework will be applied to each part of the remit to bring real benefits to the health and wellbeing of RBG’s employees, reduce the company’s impact on the environment and enhance the quality service it offers.

Dave Workman, RBG’s CEO, said: “During its short existence, it’s clear that REACH has been a great success. However, we realise there is still some way to go to deliver the full-class safety performance we aspire to for all our key regions. The North Sea has been a leader in offshore safety for many years and I am pleased with the progress we are making to ensure the safety standards of our international locations reach the same exceptional level.

“Extending REACH to encompass all areas of HSEQ activity will bring significant benefits to our employees and customers, and I am confident we can repeat the success achieved from our safety campaign.”

The RBG’s Group HR Director, Mike Mair, said: “We are pleased with the lost time incident frequency reduction and it could not have been achieved without our employees’ dedication to safety. The REACH ethos has been engrained in our day-to-day working lives and the success achieved so far bodes well for the future. However, we are not complacent and understand that we need to continually improve to achieve our goal of zero injuries.

“We recognise that to continue to be seen as both a leading contractor and employer of choice we need to maintain our focus on enhancing activity across all our HSEQ operations. I am sure that our employees will show that the commitment to reach our REACH remit a success in 2011 and going forward.”

RBG Supports Global Growth Plans With University Link-Up

RBG, the leading provider of inspect, assess and repair (IAR) services to the global energy industry, has partnered with Robert Gordon University. RBG is going through a period of continued growth and the course will equip our senior managers with the commercial skills required to compete in the first one-day workshop where teams of employees will test their knowledge and capability in different business scenarios. The Business Leadership Challenge is held two weeks later and gives participants the opportunity to run their own virtual multi-million pound business. Teams will compete over a two-day workshop and course, which will control the virtual business environment so that each group has to respond to realistic political, legal and economic forecasts. Dave Workman, RBG CEO, said: “We are very pleased to be launching the Business Leadership Challenge course with Robert Gordon University. RBG is going through a period of continued growth and the course will equip our senior managers with the commercial skills required to compete in the first one-day workshop where teams of employees will test their knowledge and capability in different business scenarios. The Business Leadership Challenge is held two weeks later and gives participants

Swedish Adopts the WeldCraft-Pro™ Underwater Welding Programme

The Gothenburg Fire and Rescue’s commercial diving school completed its first WeldCraft-Pro™ underwater welding programme. The class which was full had 17 candidates attending, with over 25 weldments produced for formal examination by Zurich Insurance. The average pass mark awarded was “Distinction” (required over 87%).

The programme, which is available under licence, is monitored and audited by Specialty Welds’ senior welding surveyor, Mr. David Keats, and follows the International Institute of Welding (IIW) and the European Welding Federation (EWF) guidelines 570-1 for fillet welder. The course, which is delivered as a ‘self-teach’ programme by the training school itself, has all teaching materials supplied by Specialty Welds Ltd, and is subject to full audit by EAL and Zurich insurance each year. Welding qualifications are issued in accordance with BSEN ISO 15618-1:2002.

NHC Delivers First Training Courses in Brazil

The National Hyperbaric Centre (NHC) of Aberdeen recently delivered its first two training courses in Brazil. The NHC signed an agreement with the Divers University of Brazil to provide a range of Subsea training courses under an International Mariner Contractors Association (IMCA) approved scheme.

The Divers University is based in Santos, the largest port in Latin America, has been working with Neil Gordon (General Manager) and Keith MacMillan (Diving Safety Specialist) of the NHC over the last few months to provide subsea training courses in Portuguese.

Earlier this year the first two courses were delivered, QQP Client Assessment and Airwork Supervisor, which were well attended with representatives for Sistec, Fugro, Deep Blue, Continental and Subsea 7.
The National Hyperbaric Centre (NHC) of Aberdeen has recently added several new training courses to its portfolio as well as price reductions on some of its current IMCA approved courses. The NHC understands that in the current economical climate ‘every penny counts’, so they have taken it upon themselves to help out by offering a price reduction on the existing courses of Diver Medical Technician, Diver Medical Refresher, IMCA Air Diving Supervisor and IMCA Bell Diving Supervisor courses. The NHC have also introduced four new courses, Dive System Auditor, Leadership Training, Introduction to Subsea Systems and Subsea Control Operations, to its portfolio. The courses have been introduced to aid newcomers to the subsea industry and help current professionals keep up-to-date with their knowledge and learning.

Keith McMillan Diving Supervisor of the NHC said; ‘The price reduction is a move we felt was needed to aid newcomers to the industry to give them that helping hand to start in an exciting career in the subsea industry. The introduction of the new courses has been a project we have been working on for several months which has been brought about by request from the industry worldwide. The NHC sees itself as a diverse company welcoming feedback from companies and individuals on how we can best aid them in the future. Full details of cost reductions and new course can be found on the NHC website.’

Several months after starting the search for an elite band of athletes, cyclists eager to participate in the Hydrasun assembled a team of newcomers to the sport who set their sites on some of its current IMCA approved courses. The Hydrasun sees itself as a diverse company welcoming newcomers to the sport and helping them realize life potential in the subsea industry.

The Hydrasun Cycle Challenge Team
Raise Over £11k for Local Charity

The Hydrasun Cycle Challenge team included a team of volunteers and newcomers to the sport who set their sites on some of its current IMCA approved courses. The Hydrasun Cycle Challenge team has been brought about by request from the industry worldwide. The NHC understands that in the current economical climate ‘every penny counts’, so they have taken it upon themselves to help out by offering a price reduction on the existing courses of Diver Medical Technician, Diver Medical Refresher, IMCA Air Diving Supervisor and IMCA Bell Diving Supervisor courses. The NHC have also introduced four new courses, Dive System Auditor, Leadership Training, Introduction to Subsea Systems and Subsea Control Operations, to its portfolio. The courses have been introduced to aid newcomers to the subsea industry and help current professionals keep up-to-date with their knowledge and learning.

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IHC EB J-Lay Tower en Route to First Job

IHC Engineering Business (IHC EB), a part of IHC Merwede group, has successfully delivered its largest project to date, a 2,000 tonne capacity J-Lay tower for client Saipem. After intensive design, manufacture and installation, assisted by Saipem teams, the system is en route to West Africa.

The rigid pipe lay system, one of the world’s most versatile, was installed, commissioned, tested and trialled on the new build vessel, Saipem FDS2, in South Korea. The system can handle pipes from 4” to 36” in diameter and with the tower angle adjustable from 45 to 96 degrees can lay in deep and shallow water. An integral bulky item handling system and an adjustable stinger also contribute to the high functionality and versatility of the system.

The key design drivers throughout the development of the system were the efficiency of the pipe handling operations to ensure low cycle time, weight optimisation and safety in all aspects of operation. IHC EB has successfully delivered an industry leading system that meets Saipem’s challenging requirements as well as achieving DNV design approval.

IHC EB Sales and Marketing Director, Toby Bailey, commented on the completion of the large-scale project: “The delivery of the Saipem J-Lay tower is another significant step forward for IHC EB as it is our first turnkey deepwater pipe lay system. IHC EB has undergone major development and streamlining to cope with the demands of such a large-scale project, and is now positioned as one of a small number of companies around the world capable of delivering vessel systems of this size and complexity.”