New Subsea Vessels Imminent for Shell in Europe

Just over four years ago, a journey began for Shell and Subsea 7, which this winter will culminate in the commencement of offshore activity with two new vessels providing year round underwater support to the offshore fields and facilities operated by Shell in Europe.

Activities are expected to kick off with the Normand Subsea remote operated vehicle support vessel (ROVSV) in November, whilst the Seven Atlantic dive support vessel (DSV) is scheduled to start work in December. Both long-term contracts were awarded to Subsea 7 in early 2006, after two separate competitive tender exercises in 2005. The long-term contract commitments extending to 2014 have supported investment in new tonnage for the industry and were underwritten by inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM) programmes to Shell’s offshore facilities, and supporting capital projects and decommissioning.

These new-builds herald a new era in the subsea industry. The vessel specifications, whilst considered unrealistic by some at time of bid, are setting new norms for underwater operations in the North Sea. Design and build challenges have been encountered and overcome prior to the arrival of these new vessels into operations and the results of early sea-trials indicate the vessels will actually exceed specification parameters. Big changes will also be seen on 21st century dive system controls, which is where current delivery focus remains as Shell, Subsea 7 and the build partners move into final training, trials and acceptances for the vessels.

However, the journey for Shell started much earlier – in the late 1970’s, when commitments were made which saw the MSV Stadive multi role support semi-sub commence activity for Shell-Expro, in the boom times of the early eighties. The commitment continued in 1999 when the Toisa Polaris commenced activity in the North Sea, after the MSV Stadive was sold-off in 1996, leading...
Subsea UK and ITF Collaboration Brings Forward Subsea Technology Proposals

Working in collaboration with Subsea UK, ITF has received 20 technology proposals for its long tieback theme launched in spring of 2009. This marks a second ITF-Subsea UK collaboration in subsea technology and underpins the important place technology has within Subsea production systems.

The proposals cover a diverse set of technologies, ranging from flow assurance, integrity, power systems, IRM and other related technologies, with an overall once off tag of around £8.7m.

Subsea UK’s Chief Executive, Alistair Birnie commented: “This call for proposals on long tiebacks has brought out some great technologies in the making, and it is serves to demonstrate the excellence that we have within the UK. We can see clear benefits in working collaboratively like this, and we are very impressed by the calibre of proposals coming forward. We now look forward to hearing the programme from ITF’s members in supporting these proposals, and we hope that they will continue to fund these vital projects.”

The next stage of this process is already underway with ITF undertaking their diligence process, and once all these are past the stage, the members will review and decide which ones they are interested in.

Subsea UK wishes all those submitting proposals every success.

North Sea Experience Meets Russian Arctic Offshore Challenge

The Northern Waters of Russia promise to be the new global energy frontier. With this comes a demand for skills and services that may not have been seen since the North Sea was developed in the 1970’s.

At the heart of the opportunities lies the giant Russian Shtokman gas field, located at a depth of over 300m and nearly 600km from the mainland.

A two-day workshop and exhibition will focus on challenges and opportunities which present the environment for those within the Subsea and offshore sectors to demonstrate their technological and engineering capabilities to the Russian and international offshore operators and contractors.

Moscow & Murmansk, 12-17 October 2009

Subsea UK wishes all those submitting proposals every success.

Phi Stirling

If interested, or if you have any questions, please contact:

Phi Stirling

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Forthcoming Events

SUBSEA UK OE 2009 DINNER

The Marcille at Pitfiddles, Aberdeen

9th September 2009

DOM TONACO

Monaco

3rd – 5th November 2009

SUBSEA EUROPE 99

Business Design Centre, Islington

24th November 2009

Book for all these events by visiting www.subsea.co.uk

The North of England Forges a New Collaboration for Offshore Wind Energy

The North of England has launched a new collaborative programme to bring industrial and technological capability for Offshore Wind energy from diverse areas in the UK to the world market. The offshore wind market is set to be one of the biggest economic drivers in the UK, with the first experimental offshore turbines situated in the UK, with first experimental offshore turbine located in the world market.

The North of England has played a pivotal role in the development of offshore wind in the UK, with the first experimental offshore turbines situated in the UK, with first experimental offshore turbine located in the world market.

The UK Government’s commitment to delivering 33GW of offshore wind by 2020 presents the economies of the North with a significant opportunity for sustainable growth. The Northern Wind Innovation Programme currently being delivered by NaREC and ENERGIEF is designed to help the industry develop the skills and expertise required to be a part of this new era of offshore wind industry.

The North of England is well equipped to meet the challenges of this new era of offshore wind industry and has the potential to create significant numbers of high quality jobs.

The Northern Wind Innovation Programme will enable the engineering supply chain to become the world leader in offshore wind industry and to enable the industries of the North to become a part of this new era of offshore wind industry.

Sarah Sherriff, CEO of ENERGIEF said: “The North of England is well equipped to meet the challenges of this new era of offshore wind industry and has the potential to create significant numbers of high quality jobs.

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TNEI Beats Skills Shortage by Recruiting

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4 GROWTH

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GROWTH

GDF SUEZ has Selected SPT Group for the Gjøa Field

GDF SUEZ E&P Norge has awarded SPT Group contracts for delivery of an online Flow Assurance System (FAS) and associated flow assurance services for the Gjøa field located in the North Sea. The FAS will be configured in SPT Group’s online e-FIELD solution (eddm) based on OGLA multiphase flow simulator. The flow assurance service contract period is for five years with possibility of extending twice by three years.

Tenje Ørāvik, Managing Director for GDF SUEZ E&P Norge said: “GDF SUEZ Integrated Operations ambitions are to increase hydrocarbon recovery factor, increase preventive maintenance and reduce operational expenditures through better and faster decisions through collaboration with external vendors and service companies like SPT Group. SPT Group’s commitment to work with five subsea templates tied back to a semi-submersible platform, located in a water depth of 370m. The Gjøa field will deliver gas and light oil. Gjøa’s recoverable reserves are some 82 million barrels of oil and condensate and roughly 40 billion standard cubic metres of gas. Gjøa is tied-in to FLAGS pipeline. Stabilised oil will be piped via a new oil export pipeline to the Troll II pipeline and further tie-in to FLAGS pipeline. Stabilised oil will be piped via a new oil export pipeline to the Troll II pipeline and further tie-in to FLAGS pipeline. Gjøa will be produced and light oil. Gjøa’s recoverable reserves are some 82 million barrels of oil and condensate. Gjøa will be produced and light oil. Gjøa’s recoverable reserves are some 82 million barrels of oil and condensate. Gjøa will be produced and light oil. Gjøa’s recoverable reserves are some 82 million barrels of oil and condensate.

Commenting on the recent appointments, TNEI’s Technical Director, Dr. Graeme Bathurst explained: “Historically, one of the problems facing the industry has been the lack of experienced or suitable candidates in this sector. This year, the plan had been to appoint five new recruits for TNEI’s Power Systems and Technology Group, but we have had an unusually high number of applications from exceptional candidates who have knowledge and experience to bring to the team.”

“We are still on the look out for experienced power systems candidates and expect to make further appointments as the year progresses. TNEI is tackling this problem head on and is actively involved with various universities working with power systems research, post-graduates and undergraduates. A post-Doctoral Research Associate, two MSc Students and two under-graduate Students are currently on work placement at TNEI, and will continue to receive support from the team when they return to their studies. Graeme Bathurst has also recently been appointed an honorary position as a visiting lecturer with the EEPS group at Manchester University.”

Among the new PST recruits at TNEI are three principal consultants, two senior consultants and two technical consultants. All will be based in Manchester.

The combination of Doosan and Pyroban with Proserv Offshore’s industry recognised expertise in packaging diesel powered equipment, will ensure not only minimum downtime on this equipment, but also compliance with all the latest European Regulations and International standards.

Proserv Offshore has an established manufacturing facility based in Eillon, Aberdeenshire; this modern fully fitted workshop offers clients various options of engine configuration from the base engine supply of an ATEX compliant power pack, to fully manufactured units, all supplied with full ATEX and certifying authority certification.

Proserv Offshore Secure Two Exclusivity Agreements within the Hazardous Area Markets

Proserv Offshore has recently signed agreements with both WaterMota Ltd (as the import agent to Doosan Marine Engines), to be their sole dealers for their IMO Diesel Engines, and Pyroban Limited, for the supply of related flame protection equipment. The first of these agreements allows Proserv Offshore to exclusively supply the full range of Doosan Marine Diesel engines used in the international oil and gas, petrochemical, mining and other industries where the engines are used in hazardous areas. Currently these new pump units are being used in conjunction with Pyroban’s subsea testing solutions such as the JetCut water abrasive cutting tool and the PCRT (protective coating removal tool) in particular raising the process faster and more economically efficiently.

This increased power output ranges from 51kW – 883kW (71ps – 1200ps) in 15 base engine configurations. These engines meet all known IMO regulations on nitrogen monoxide emissions and offer increased fuel economy.

The second agreement with Pyroban Limited further strengthens this product line, as Pyroban is a well established and recognised supplier of Zone II engine protection kits. The exclusive edition of these kits on Proserv Offshore’s package build will therefore offer safety, longevity and reliability to the end client.

The two new offices bring the number of CSL bases to four. Other locations include CSL’s headquarters in Aberdeen and an office in Lndon, which opened its doors last year.

“Opening three offices in the past 14 months demonstrates the excellent progress we’re making with our growth strategy,” says Mark. “In spite of current market conditions we’ve not only succeeded in extending the reach of CSL’s services to key strategic locations, we’ve also strengthened CSL’s service offering to clients.

Both offices will offer CSL’s full range of subsea engineering, operations and project support services as well as the provision of skilled onshore/offshore personnel and its new range of subsea training courses.

Mark said: “With development activity continuing in Norway and Egypt and the backing of an extremely high-calibre team, we’re well placed to take full advantage of the international opportunities.”

CSL is known for supporting operators’ subsea developments worldwide and has the expertise and capability of over 170 subsea professionals.

CSL Expands Internationally with Two New Offices

Subsea project management and engineering company CSL has opened offices in Norway and Egypt in keeping with the company’s strategy to extend its operated Monroe field area north of Bergen. StatoilHydro is the development operator for the Gjøa field and semi. GDF SUEZ takes over as operator of the Gjøa field and semi. GDF SUEZ takes over as operator of the Gjøa field and semi. GDF SUEZ takes over as operator of the Gjøa field and semi. GDF SUEZ takes over as operator of the Gjøa field and semi.

The Group, already believed to be CSL’s numbers one international power and renewable energy consultancy TNEI Services recently launched its offshore programme.

TNEI Services has expanded its power systems analysis Group recruiting eight new members of staff since January. The Group, already believed to be the UK’s largest specialist power systems analysis resource, has taken its number to 27 and is still on the recruitment trail.

TNEI’s Power Systems Group works on some of the most complex and detailed analytical modelling of all types of renewable generation technologies in marine, wind and wave.

The team applies its technical design services to all aspects of power generation and distribution and works with both conventional and renewable energy developers to ensure that their schemes are designed and constructed properly for connection to the grid. The work is largely desk based mathematical modelling, analysis and simulation requiring a skill set that is in short supply within the industry.

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©GDF SUEZ: Illustration of the Gjøa field development in the North Sea

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The Ferguson Group, a major supplier and manufacturer of modules and containers for the energy industry around the world, has launched a new operation to offer accommodation barges in a significant development for the offshore market.

Ferguson Modular, a division of the Ferguson Group, is currently marketing the AMT Explorer for charter and negotiations are currently underway to purchase a second barge to be on offer from later this year.

The launch of the new operation is part of the Ferguson Group’s ambitious growth strategy, with £60 million being invested across the group over a three year period in expanding its ranges of high-quality units and containers. Most recently, £3.5 million was invested in 50 new freezer and workspace units.

The set up on the AMT Explorer will be totally adaptable and tailored to the needs of individual customers, offering accommodation and facilities across the board. 66 GPD and 132 PDB, depending on configuration, with the option to add further modules. The second barge will be available for up to 240 PDB. Both have complexes that can be built up or stripped back to suit the exact needs of their project. They will be suitable for use in all major oil and gas provinces, as well as for the renewables sector.

The AMT Explorer available from Ferguson Modular from August 1

Tim Sheehan, Chief Executive Officer of Ferguson Modular, said: “The launch of our new barge division is an excellent fit with the Ferguson Group’s ambitious growth plans, with a strong focus on international expansion. “We carried out a wide-ranging consultation on the offshore accommodation market and it pointed to a lack of suitable accommodation support vessels with appropriate quality and standards, as well as the recognition that securing accommodation requirements are being placed higher up project managers’ agendas. Barges were selected as the most flexible option, able to adapt to clients’ needs rather than forcing clients to adapt to the barge’s needs. Exact levels of accommodation, office, gally, mess and leisure space can be provided for an ideal working environment; additional accommodation/facilities can be added as required. Critical elements such as mooring systems, transferring personnel from barge to platform, levels of craneage, survival craft and helideck can be provided as required.

Expro has officially taken over its new multi-million pound base in Ulverston which is home to the company’s world-renowned Tronic products division.

The move to the company’s new Subsea Excellence Centre coincides with the 30th anniversary of Tronic products, which are market-leading high integrity subsea power, fibre optics and data connection systems used throughout the global subsea oil and gas industry.

The custom-built 45,000 square metre site in the Low Mill Business Park consolidates Expro’s Connectors & Measurements operations in Ulverston which have been spread over five sites.

Mark Jones, general manager of Expro Connectors & Measurements, said: “Over the past 30 years, we have built up a world-class business as a leading manufacturer and supplier of reliable subsea connection systems. Now we will have a base to truly match our capabilities and reputation. “The significant investment in our new premises will not only benefit customers, with improved efficiency and working practices, but also our employees with a modern working environment tailored to their needs. I am confident the site will be a great asset to our business, our people and to the local area.”

He added: “The Expro Connectors & Measurements business is ideally placed to absorb growth in the subsea sector: Our new global Subsea Excellence Centre is a significant investment in the future of our product line and will help cement Expro’s Tronic products as industry leaders, as well as putting Ulverston firmly on the global subsea technology map.

The Low Mill site is steeped in history having originally been founded as a cotton mill prior to becoming a tannery. In an effort to maintain and explore this heritage, Expro has established links with the Sir John Barrow School in Ulverston to allow pupils to tour the facility to compare the links between industry, old and new. Pupils have also been involved in submitting themed drawings to line the walls of the new premises, as well as proposing names for meeting rooms in the new premises.

Expro has a combined track record of 25 years manufacturing dynamic and static bend stiffeners, bend restrictors, sealing products, mechanical protection and various ancillary solutions.

The Expro UK Ltd company contact details are as follows: Address: 67 Roundponds, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 8EB, UK. Website: www.exsto.com Email: info@exsto.uk.com
Noordhoek Enhance ROV Fleet with 4 New Vehicles

This expands the existing fleet of two new Seayee Falcons and two Sub-Atlantic Mohican ROV systems. This expands the existing fleet of two new Seayee Falcons and two Sub-Atlantic Mohican ROV systems. The Mohican ROV systems, purchased from Sub-Atlantic can be utilised. These systems are supplied with TMS and a launch and recovery system (LARS), specifically designed to perform ROV work (inspection, repair and maintenance) in areas with strong currents. The vehicles are described as “ultra high power vehicles”, with the additional ability to vector the ROV thrusters when necessary whilst flying the vehicle.

The on-board systems installed include: colour zoom camera, Bowtech near sit camera, powerful Sub-Atlantic water jetter and Hydrotek manipulator. The Noordhoek Mohican ROVs are the first Mohicans completed with the state-of-the-art SUBCAN control system, which allows the operator to perform internal diagnostics of the ROV including the TMS, fibre optic signals, the vehicles electronic pods and PCBs. The vehicles and the modular control systems have the capacity to vastly increase the amount of sensors that can be mounted on the ROV allowing considerable operational flexibility.

The heavy-duty hydraulic LARS is installed with a snubber and pitch and roll damping. The snubber enables the operator to lock the TMS into a latching device, and rotate it up to 180°, before bringing it onboard. This dramatically increases the operational parameters for ROV operations.

BPP-Tech Expands Operations

BPP-TECH have expanded their Aberdeen operation over the last 12 months to complement their international operations based in London, New Orleans, and Houston. BPP-TECH has been delivering IMCA training courses, including Assistant Air & Bell Diving Supervisor, Assistant Diving Supervisors, and Diving Supervisors as part of their 12 month expansion. The company continues to deliver a variety of offshore marine training courses to meet the needs of operators and rig operators. Their main office is located in Dusavik outside Stavanger.

The NCA Group have had a very positive development, both in terms of organisational development as well as delivering results. The idea of leveraging upon the combination of NCA’s international network and knowledge about marine operations and platform decommissioning with IOS’s competences within mooring and installation provides a good basis for further growth,” says CEO of the NCA Group, Carl Lieueng.

As part of the transaction, NCA has also used the opportunity to combine its current credit facilities with Sparebank 1 SR-Bank into one new overall corporate facility.

NCA Acquires Additional Shares in IOS Offshore

Nurse Cutting & Abandonment AS (NCA) acquires additional 21% of mooring specialist IOS Offshore, bringing its total engagement up to 91%.

IOS Offshore (IOS) offers rental, sale, and service of specialised mooring and lifting equipment. The company has several bases along the Norwegian coast and delivers chains, buoys, mooring lines, anchors and lifting equipment to oil companies and rig operators. Their main office is located in Dusavik outside Stavanger.

“Since IDS became part of the NCA Group two years ago, the company has had a very positive development, both in terms of organisational development as well as delivering results. The idea of leveraging upon the combination of NCA’s international network and knowledge about marine operations and platform decommissioning with IOS’s competences within mooring and installation provides a good basis for further growth,” says CEO of the NCA Group, Carl Lieueng.

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CTC Marine Projects Wins Contract for Offshore Wind Farm Project

CTC Marine Projects (a member of Trico Marine Group) has recently been awarded their first contract in the offshore wind farm industry by E.ON Climate and Renewables UK. The contract is for the lay, installation and burial of 17 subsea power cable arrays linking wind turbine foundations at the Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm in the Solway Firth.

The Robin Rigg development comprises of 60 wind turbines supplying power via two export cables. The CTC workscope will involve approximately 90 days of operation in shallow water depths of up to 9m. CTC will initially mobilise the Aquatic Reef Drive System and tainter spread onboard the MV Union Beaver for anticipated 65 days duration. Once in the field they will perform the lay and installation of 98mm and 113mm diameter array cables followed by post installation inspection and testing.

Following the installation, the lay spread will be de-mobilised and the CMROV4 mobilised on board the MV Union Beaver which will perform the trenching of all the previously laid array cables.

Throughout the workscope CTC will undertake in very challenging conditions due to the tides, strong currents, and the unpredictable weather, making operations particularly complex. As part of the contract, CTC has additional pressures to complete the works expeditiously due to other contractors needing to follow CTC’s operations in the field.

National Hyperbaric Centre Expands into India

CTC were awarded the project on the basis that they have the extensive capabilities required to carry out the work effectively and most efficiently, as well as a wealth of engineering experience. The project scope will include: all aspects of offshore wind farm installation and burial of 17 subsea power cable arrays linking wind turbine foundations at the Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm in the Solway Firth.

Undertaking the first offshore wind farm job will also pose different safety issues for CTC, which they are confident in handling due to their stringent safety measures taken on all subsea projects.

CTC were awarded the project on the basis that they have the extensive capabilities required to carry out the work effectively and most efficiently, as well as a wealth of engineering experience. The project scope will include: all aspects of offshore wind farm installation and burial of 17 subsea power cable arrays linking wind turbine foundations at the Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm in the Solway Firth.

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Framo Pushes Boundaries on Enhanced Recovery Systems

Framo Engineering is reaping the rewards of their core experience and in-house knowledge in subsea enhanced recovery, and is leading the way in a tough technology arena. This is particularly evident with their boosting technology systems, where they have delivered 25 systems world-wide and have accumulated in excess of 900,000 operation hours of experience.

Framo believes that these key elements have been a major part of their success in delivering turnkey boosting systems, taking total responsibility from the topside associate equipment, umbilicals and the subsea scope. Today Framo Engineering provides turnkey boosting system solutions capable of delivering up to 300 bar differential pressure and systems that boost with 100% gas.

General Manager of their UK division, Tony Leng explains: “Our focus is working closely with our clients for the whole field life, from the concept phase to project execution and after market support; assisting in optimising their interests.”

“Seabed boosting offers an alternative to, or complementary system to other equipment, umbilicals and the subsea scope. Today Framo Engineering provides turnkey boosting system solutions capable of delivering up to 300 bar differential pressure and systems that boost with 100% gas.”

Delegates attending this year’s Offshore Europe conference and exhibition in Aberdeen in September will experience a strong focus on the next generation when OPITO – The Oil & Gas Academy takes over the running of the final day with its interactive careers and lifestyle event Energise Your Future.

Renewed and revitalised, the day is focused on harnessing the talent of young people already interested in engineering, science and technology who are preparing to make their career choices. Participating exhibitors have been asked to provide an interactive element to their stand, offering pupils exciting challenges and the opportunity to explore the range of careers on offer. Past activities have included piloting micro-ROV’s, using a simulator to land a helicopter on a platform and practising rope access safety via a climbing wall.

“Energise Your Future at Offshore Europe 2009 will be unlike previous years as it will not only provide a valuable learning experience and an invigorating way for young people to discover the industry, but by targeting a specific age group with an established interest in the sort of subjects the industry requires of its workforce, it will also provide added value for employers and participating companies,” said Academy Chief Executive Dave Dog.

“This fresh approach shows the global industry how seriously the UK is taking the skills and recruitment issue and, hopefully, acts as a catalyst for change in other global energy hubs.”

The Academy will also announce the winners of The Oil & Gas Academy PetroChallenge 2009 – formerly OilSim – which sees school pupils act as energy companies using an innovative web-based learning tool, looking for oil and gas in a fictitious province opened up for exploration. The winners will take part in the running of the final day with pupils across from Europe.

Industry Energises its Future

New for September 2009

This exciting, industrially relevant programme, developed in conjunction with some of the subsea sector’s leading firms, comprises multi-disciplinary teaching, site visits, industrially based projects and visiting industrial lecturers. The programme can be studied full time over one year or part-time, normally over 2-3 years.

This innovative new course is aimed at:

- Engineering graduates wanting to specialise in a challenging area of engineering
- Those working in the subsea industry who want to increase their skills and knowledge
- Those working in another engineering sector who want to work in Subsea
- Those working in the engineering sector who want to combine technical expertise with management knowledge
- For those who want to study selected areas of subsea engineering/management for Continuing Professional Development, we will also be offering individual modules from the Masters Degree including: Fundamentals of Subsea Engineering, Materials & Corrosion Aspects of Subsea Engineering, Deepwater Pipeline Design, Subsea Project Management Application, Subsea Surveying, Positioning & Installation and Reliability & Integrity Management of Subsea Systems.

For further information visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/course/533 Queries: subsea@ncl.ac.uk

MSc Subsea Engineering and Management

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Images courtesy of IHC Engineering Business Ltd and CTC Marine Projects

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Images courtesy of IHC Engineering Business Ltd and CTC Marine Projects
Aker Solutions Apprentices on Course for Success

To help address this, Aker Solutions invested in an apprenticeship programme designed to attract, train, retain, develop and nurture accomplished mechanical designers,” said Morven Spalding, senior organisational development specialist at Aker Solutions.

The apprentices’ first year saw them based at the Tullos Training School in Aberdeen where they obtained a National Certificate in Engineering. They will complete the second year of the programme onsite at the Aker Solutions facility in Aberdeen.

The four-year structured programme covers academic training, learning the tools of the trade including machining, drilling and welding and rotational placements within the manufacturing and engineering areas of the subsea business in Aberdeen.

“Through a mix of academic training, rotational placements and mentoring Aker Solutions can ensure that our apprentices have the key competencies of design and drafting to fulfills the role of a fully accomplished mechanical designer,” said Billy Melvin, design team leader at Aker Solutions.

At the end of the four programme, apprentices will be qualified with an HNC in mechanical engineering, SVQ Level 3 in Design & Drafting and the programme is approved by the Modern Apprenticeship framework for Scotland.

Aker Solutions is a leading global provider of engineering and construction services to the process and energy industries. One of the largest employers in the north-east, around 2,000 people are based across the organisation’s operations in Aberdeen.

Foundation Degree in Subsea Engineering Technologies

New for September 2009

This new programme will be delivered as a series of modules covering a range of subsea engineering and management skills. This delivery style enables the Foundation Degree to fit with the needs and requirements of the individual organisation, allowing it to be studied on a full-time or part-time basis. If you’re based in the North East of England, we can also deliver some of the modules in the workplace, further reducing the impact on your business.

This course is relevant to you if you are:

• Working within the subsea industry and want to increase your skills and knowledge
• Working within another engineering discipline and want to make the transition into subsea engineering
• Interested in increasing your knowledge and accrediting your skills within the area of subsea engineering

For further information visit: www.newcastlecollege.co.uk or contact Kate Hudson, Project Co-ordinator on 0191 322 5915.

Security Challenges to the Energy Industries in Australasia Region

AKE is the leading provider of training courses for persons traveling and working in hostile regions. Courses can be run from AKE’s Sydney hub, or can be set up in any location in the region; the latest AKE training course was held in Bangkok. By providing training for personnel operational on the ground, whether a general 1-Day Travel Safety Awareness course, or a more intense course designed for personnel working on site for prolonged periods, employers are not only providing their staff with knowledge and skills, but the confidence to deal with a security situation should it arise. AKE is also able to tailor courses to specific clients’ needs, drawing on its extensive background of working with the energy industry as well as expertise in relevant fields such as kidnap resolution and travel safety.

Timely and actionable information is also crucial to operating safely, particularly in some of the more remote areas of the region. Indeed, to compliment their training services, AKE provides up-to-date intelligence and analysis on issues that affect those working in the oil and gas industry from its Intelligence Office in London.

For a free trial to AKE online country intelligence site (Global Intake), to receive AKE’s free weekly risk updates or for information on forthcoming training dates, please contact australia@akegroup.com. Further information can be found at www.akegroup.com

Tackling the Skills Shortage

The North East of England is home to a significant and vibrant part of the UK’s subsea sector and now, thanks to the rewarding partnership between Subsea North East, Newcastle University and Newcastle College, the challenge of developing the sector workforce and addressing future skills needs, is being met through the development of two new programmes:

• A Masters Degree in Subsea Engineering and Management at Newcastle University
• A Foundation Degree in Subsea Engineering Technologies at Newcastle College

Both programmes have been developed in liaison with Academic-Industry Education Committees, through which key representatives from regional subsea firms have contributed to the design of the curriculum by their experience and industry expertise. This partnership has ensured that the courses, which start in September 2009, provide high-quality academic qualifications that not only equip students with first-class technical knowledge and skills, but also supply the requisite management knowledge and skills.

From the outset, the value of this contribution from regional industries to the development of the Foundation Degree was recognised and utilised to the full, as David Martin, of Newcastle College’s School of Applied Science and Technology explains: “Newcastle College has progressively shaped its provision to hit the priorities of adult workplace skills and has a successful track record in meeting employers’ and employees’ training requirements. This course, developed with subsea firms and based on industry need, will assist companies in dealing with an increasingly demanding and competitive operating environment.”

Fiona Whitehurst of Newcastle University Business School, Joint Project Manager for Subsea Future Talent believes working with industry has done much more than establish content of courses: “It has been crucial to design with the industry for the industry, and that has meant looking at delivery as well as content. The Newcastle University MSc Subsea Engineering and Management will be taught in one-week blocks, making it easier for students who are in full-time employment or who are not local to Newcastle to access the course. Recognising the importance of continuing professional development for engineers, we are also offering individual modules as accredited stand alone short courses.”

The courses provided by Newcastle College and Newcastle University promise to deliver a supply of suitably skilled engineers to the sector, something which project partner Subsea North East (SNE) considers invaluable, as Tony Trapp, Chairman SNEIE explains: “The industry has suffered from a chronic shortage of suitably trained and skilled engineers for quite a while now. The establishment of two new degree courses in Newcastle sends a strong message to the market: that North East England really does mean business when it comes to subsea engineering.”

For further information on the courses being provided by Newcastle University and Newcastle College and on other projects developed for the subsea sector by Subsea North East, Newcastle University and Newcastle College, please email the Subsea Future Talent Project at subsea@ncl.ac.uk or contact Kate Hudson, Project Co-ordinator on 0191 232 5915.

The Subsea Future Talent Project is part-funded by One North East, the Regional Development Agency for North East England and has also been supported by funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).
Bluewater Industries Awards Weatherford Fast-Track Gulf of Mexico Project

Bluewater Industries Inc. awarded Weatherford International Ltd. a contract for the subsea production control system for the Telemark discovery in deepwater Gulf of Mexico for the ATP Oil & Gas Corporation.

The project includes Weatherford’s topside components, including a hydraulic power unit, a master control station, and a topside umbilical termination unit. The subsea portion of the system is comprised of a subsea control module, subsea base, and subsea tree instrumentation. Weatherford’s unique open communication and control capabilities, along with the ability to meet the tight project deadlines, were key deciding factors for Bluewater and ATP. The project has been designated as a fast-track project with all equipment to be supplied to the client within approximately 24 weeks. The project will be managed by Weatherford’s Houston-based facilities in Kingwood, Texas with collaboration with Weatherford’s subsea facility in Great Yarmouth, U.K.

The production system provides subsea communication via an open communications controller (OCC) which is protocol independent and supports all industry interface standards. The system also complies with other open standards, such as intelligent well interface standardisation (IWIS), transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP), Modbus, Modbus TCP and production markup language (IProlML). The open architecture of the system allows easy future expansion of the field as well as the addition of new technology without having to replace the existing subsea infrastructure.

Telemark lies on the Atwater Valley Block 63 in 4,450 ft of water and will be tied back to ATP’s Titan MidOC deep-draft floating drilling and production platform in the Mirage and Morgus fields on Mississippi Canyon blocks 541 and 542, respectively.

GE Oil & Gas Nailsea (UK) Wins Important Subsea Technology Contract with StatoilHydro

StatoilHydro, Norway, has awarded GE Oil & Gas, the contract to supply new subsea control systems for its Tordis Vigdis Controls Modification (TVCM) project, worth over USD $70 million.

The ambition of the Tordis Vigdis Control Modification project is clear: to upgrade the existing system to achieve increased oil recovery targets through infrastructure expansion of the field as well as the addition of new technology without having to replace the existing subsea infrastructure. The project includes Weatherford’s topside facilities at Dusavik, Stavanger, which will take centre stage in delivering full execution management and continuing field support to the Norwegian continental shelf.

The subsea control system equipment will be manufactured at GE Oil & Gas, Nailsea facilities in Bristol, U.K., and shipped to Norway for commencing 2010. Additionally, the development of intervention tooling will be executed from the Dusavik site in Norway.

Global Marine Systems and Cetrex Systems Announce Development Partnership around Modular ROV

Global Marine Systems and Cetrex Systems today announced a development partnership focused on an innovative new 300m inspection class ROV. The Predator® ROV has been developed using the latest high reliability technology design for maximum operating efficiency and continuous performance in all marine operations.

“The Predator has a number of very innovative features which are ideal for our own use,” said John Davies, Subsea Services Manager for Global Marine Systems. “We operate an extensive fleet of ROVs and the approach Cetrex has taken to rethinking ROV technology has impressed us. We are looking forward to putting Predator to work ourselves and to working with Cetrex to bring it, and its next generation modular allowing for a very flexible set of camera and lighting configurations. Features such as the PC-based interface, as well as plug-and-play equipment configuration, make for very straightforward user experience, increasing functionality while greatly simplifying training and operations.”

National Subsea Research Institute Forges Ahead

As of August 2009, 10 companies have subscribed to NSRI, including Aker, BP, Chevron, Lloyd’s Register, Nexans, Shell Oil (to Subsea 7, Talsimian, Technip and Total), in addition to Statoil UK. Welsh Government funding for the UK-wide research institute has also been received from both Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Government.

NSRI is also in active discussions with a number of other companies across the supply chain, both within and beyond the Oil & Gas industry, with the intention of increasing the membership to 20 companies by the end of 2009. NSRI is also delighted to announce the University of Newcastle upon Tyne will join the institute as an academic partner. The collaboration further strengthens the institute’s research expertise in the marine field and also expands the geographical spread of NSRI academic centres to what is another key region for the UK subsea industry.

Project Manager Mark Critchley said: “NSRI provides a national co-ordinated research strategy for the UK subsea industry in the long term. NSRI is working closely with key stakeholders including industry, academic, professional and government, to identify priority technology challenges and research need. NSRI is looking to increase both the number of research projects and the amount of funding invested in research in the UK for the subsea industry. This ensures that the UK maintains its reputation as an international centre of excellence for innovation and technology development.”

NSRI is looking to partner and collaborate with other research centres to ensure that collective research effort remains focussed on key competences, and towards common objectives. “The difference with NSRI is that the research agenda is very much being industry driven and industry focused,” said Mark Critchley.

NSRI is currently focusing its research capacities towards three key areas, which relate to the integrity, reliability and condition monitoring of subsea assets (incorporating materials performance, HPHT, flow modelling & measurement, sensor technologies, and inspection technologies), autonomous subsea field development (incorporating subsea power, wireless communications and data transfer, intelligent subsea networks, data management, and virtual environments), and offshore civil engineering (incorporating fluid mechanics and fluid dynamics, seabed infrastructure design, and installation and integrity).

These areas emphasise research for the Oil & Gas industry, however NSRI will be moving to further develop these areas in other industries as well as extending the research to other industries.”

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Morgrip Speeds Subsea Repairs

Strong currents, difficult conditions and pipes over 40 years old were among the obstacles encountered by divers during repairs on a submarine. The Morgrip job was undertaken to find the leak — that took almost three weeks, explained Hydratight’s field technician, Bob Till.

“We were then called in to complete the repair, which involved replacing 81m of damaged pipe and took another three weeks. This was Hydratight’s third repair to these lines: though the pipes are fairly small pipe diameter, but this is no longer available. Instead 4in pipe was used, with a suitable reducer. The pipe was also 35m down, in strong tidal currents that meant divers only had a two hour window to work every six hours. "We had a team of 20 divers, two at a time, working round the clock in shifts for three weeks. One man worked and the other provided cover each dive. In fact, they could work for only 35 minutes at a time because of decompression considerations," Bob explained.

The teams cleaned the pipe back to sound metalwork for the repair. All outer protection coatings were removed to prepare for the Morgrip connectors, and the seabed had to be dredged so there was room to apply the connectors to the old and new ends. “This was a tricky job, despite the fairly small pipe diameter,” said Bob. “Morgrip jobs have been done on pipes deeper than this and up to 30in in diameter, but this one had its own specific problems to overcome.

“We used ROVs for observation and even to do some of the dredging as the connectors were applied, but the job was a great success — the connectors will be good for at least another 30 years.”

The project demonstrates the importance of contingency planning by oil and gas operators. Following similar repairs in 2003. The client had bought Morgrip connectors from Hydratight to cover future repairs, and these were ready at Hydratight’s Walsall HQ for this job. It was thanks to the client’s advance planning that this repair could be completed quickly and efficiently.

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Two new Submarine Rescue Vehicles (SRV), designated DSAR (Deep Search and Rescue), have been built by Kongsberg Maritime Ltd. for the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The SRVs, designated DSAR (Deep Search and Rescue), have been built by Kongsberg Maritime Ltd. for the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

Kongsberg Maritime Cameras and High Resolution Sonar for Two New Submarine Rescue Vehicles

Two new Submarine Rescue Vehicles (SRV) built by James Fisher Defence for the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) have entered operation in 2009 with extensive camera and sonar packages supplied by Kongsberg Maritime Ltd. The SRVs, designated DSAR (Deep Search and Rescue) services, have been developed from the ground-up, using experience gained by James Fisher Defence during decades of support for the UK Submarine Rescue Services (URS SRV). Both feature a number of enhancements over existing SRV technology including the ability to operate at a depth of 500m, where visibility is poor so high quality imaging equipment is vital for a safe rescue operation.

“The importance of high quality, reliable imaging systems cannot be overstated during a submarine rescue,” comments Ben Sharples, Underwater Projects Director, James Fisher Defence. “The rescue teams rely on the cameras and sonars to ensure safe operations under very stressful conditions, so they should provide a high standard of imagery in addition to being up to the job of operating in extreme conditions. Kongsberg Maritime was able to provide a cost-effective package that met these requirements.”

DSAR-5, which was officially named ROKS DSVR II in September 2008 features OE15-103 Low Light CCD and OE14-367 Colour Zoom cameras. In addition to the OE10-101 Pan & Tilt unit. It also features a powerful Kongsberg Mesotech Sonar System with the MS1000 Sonar Processor c/w remote keypad, High Resolution 300 kHz Sonar Head, 1007 Series Altimeter. DSAR-5 will, uniquely, be operated over a 20 year period on behalf of the RSN by James Fisher Defence and its partner ST Marine through a joint venture called First Response Marine Pte Ltd (FRM). It features similar Sonar System configuration to DSAR-5 but utilises OE15-102 Low Light CCD and OE14-366 Colour Zoom cameras.
Hydrasun Invest in New 36-Carrier Horizontal Braiding Line

Hydrasun’s dedicated umbilical facility has been operational in Aberdeen, Scotland since 1997. Products include high integrity single-line hoses to multi-line umbilicals, jumpers and hydraulic and electro-hydraulic umbilicals, for a variety of subsea and topside applications. Hydrasun has built a reputation for speed of response to client demands and fast manufacturing turnaround of bespoke turnkey solutions. The fast growing business has developed a significant capability in recent years, adapting a range of Hydraflex products to suit both specific client demands as well as general market trends.

To strengthen their offering, Hydrasun recently invested in a 36-carrier horizontal braiding line to enable Hydrasun to add a braided tensile strength member to their umbilicals and jumpers. The braiding can be offered in a range of materials including Kevlar and Twaron. These umbilicals are suitable for the majority of workover and intervention applications, which are usually deployed from the surface using a winch, and can often be used to support leads, such as UTAs and other heavy tooling.

The hi-tech braiding equipment was commissioned in early June 2009, and is now fully operational in Hydrasun’s Aberdeen facility. Orders are now being processed and manufacture of initial projects is well underway. Scott Cheyne, the Manager of the Umbilical Dept commented: “The recent investment in the braiding equipment will certainly provide a great opportunity for Hydrasun to break into new markets and help to maintain the levels of growth the department has undergone in the past five years.

Looking to the future, Hydrasun anticipate significant opportunities for continued growth in both North Sea and global markets and look forward to supporting both existing and potential customers by further enhancing their range of umbilical and HFL solutions.

Music Technology: A Seismic Hit

It’s not very often that a groundbreaking development in music technology is applied to the Oil & Gas domain. That is exactly what Aberdeen-based Soundmotion have achieved with their music analysis algorithm.

The music algorithm was specifically developed to identify what and precisely where on the fretboard guitarists are what and precisely where on the fretboard guitarists are doing. The dots show the algorithm has successfully tracked the path of the actual layers.

Soundmotion believe that the work done in applying the algorithm to music analysis and in the thinning layer problem has broader implications, for example drilling down inside acoustic pulses in order to improve imaging and object identification.

Dr Colin MacLean, head research engineer said: “Soundmotion are now looking to apply the algorithm to new areas including Sonar, Communications Systems, Acoustic Positioning, Condition and Structural Monitoring. All of these areas have similar issues where there is a desire to improve resolution, reduce noise and to identify objects and we believe that the music algorithm shows great promise in being able to deliver these improvements.”

Schlumberger Non-intrusive P&T Sensors Selected for West Africa Projects

Surveillance of subsea infrastructure has become an increasingly important part of operations management as challenging deep-water fields are developed and later-life field production factors change. The Schlumberger subsea surveillance group have developed a complete range of monitoring systems for integrity and production surveillance of key subsea equipment to meet these challenges.

The Schlumberger subC-pts technology, a non-intrusive, RDV deployable, pressure and temperature sensor, has an extensive track record of providing a quick and simple subsea retrofit solution. Applications have been varied with the most recent contract awards for flowline blockage detection and replacement of failed intrusive P&T sensors on subsea trees.

Schlumberger was contracted to supply an RDV deployed non-intrusive subC-pts system, providing a method to measure pressure during valve tests to establish if there was communication across the closed valve. This cost effective solution will allow the operator to maintain safe production and avoid the significant cost of recovering the trees to replace the failed sensors.

The client is also getting additional benefit from the subC-pts system to provide confirmation the subC-pts was able to meet the customer accuracy and resolution requirements. An emergency release system was also incorporated into the design as a backup to ensure the subC-pts can always be removed from the tree if the operation gets into difficulty.

This application required the subC-pts to be battery powered and incorporate an RDV readable LED display to allow real-time monitoring of pressure during the test. In addition all measurement data is logged and downloaded on recovery of the system to the surface. Subsequent subC-pts configurations are planned to communicate directly to surface through the tree control systems.

The non-intrusive nature of the subC-pts system and its ability to be deployed and recovered easily by RDV provides the client with a portable sensor capable of measuring pressure changes at any location along the flowline. During the initial phase of the project; subC-pts units will be deployed along the flowline and on the flexible. These will be repositioned at different locations while the pipeline is pressurised to establish the location and extent of the blockages.

These systems will also be deployed during the subsequent remedial phase to monitor the effects of the surface treatments during the unblocking operation.
ACE Winches Increase Sales by 77%

ACE Winches of Aberdeen, Scotland, has successfully completed a £2million manufacturing order for Martin Offshore (UK) Ltd (“Martin”), and international drilling contractor KCA DEUTAG. The order was for the design, manufacture and commissioning of four replacement 75 tonne double drum anchor mooring winches and hydraulic power unit packages for Martin’s self erect tender rig Searex X, currently operating in West Africa.

The contract, which was won against stiff international competition from both the USA and Norway, represents the single largest manufacturing order ACE has completed to date, and boosts the company’s offshore image.

ACE Winches’ revolutionary scanning technology is the first to be able to successfully scan flexible risers in situ. The application can scan for a flooded annulus and flexible pipe armour wire corrosion, factors which significantly affect the service life of flexible risers commonly used on pipe armour wire corrosion, factors which significantly affect the service life of flexible risers commonly used on floating production vessels (FPVs). It is mounted on an ROV and can operate down to 6,000m, helping to extend the lifespan of flexible pipes and minimise additional cost, ROV and can operate down to 6,000m, helping to extend the lifespan of flexible pipes and minimise additional cost, personnel and environmental impact for clients.

The company was established by directors Stuart Mitchell, John Marsden and Carl-Petter Halvorsen, who identified a gap in the market for an innovative consultancy specialising in engineering and delivering flexible pipe projects, as well as developing patented technology offering new solutions to some of the most common problems facing the subsea sector.

Operations director Mr Mitchell said: “It is absolutely brilliant to have won such a prestigious national award for flexible. We set out right from the start to devise innovative solutions to the most common problems facing our industry and are delighted our approach has been recognised at this level.”

The company currently has a 10-strong team with plans to take on an additional eight people over the next 12 months and is already predicting growth of around 70% in 2009/2010, primarily through work in the North Sea and Brazil.

The successful delivery of two new pipeline trenching ploughs to Saipem UK Ltd (SKUL) in partnership with IHC Engineering Business Ltd (EB) was keen to play a key role in the installation and commissioning of the ploughs, aboard the Par Samson. This is a new support vessel, also named OSJ Ship of the year 2009, specifically designed for trenching operations.

Over the course of six weeks, an EB team worked alongside Saipem personnel and led the electrical installation and commissioning of equipment onboard the vessel in preparation for system sea trials.

The main trenching plough was designed to bury pipelines up to 1550mm diameter up to 2.5m below the seabed, sustain a bollard pull of over 350T and maintain speeds of up to 3000m/hr, where seabed conditions permit. The aim of the sea trials was to rigorously test all key aspects of plough performance.

A trials programme was developed including a trenching plan that would test the plough’s ability to transition in and out of work, demonstrate multi-pass capability, and allow operators to gain an understanding of the general performance of the ploughs in terms of speed, tow force, trench profiles, steering ability and overall control.

Over the course of the trials, the ploughs performed exceptionally well in each of these areas. The trenching plough was tested up to rated bollard pull and stable trenches up to 0.7m deep were created. Trenching speeds in excess of those expected or required were achieved and many of the new design features were proved to be an advance on previous pipeline plough systems. For example, water jetting to aid with share closing and a novel system to prevent soil ingress into the skids.

The backfill plough was an all new concept where all four of the main skids sit outside the trench. This is a design that EB developed to enable the plough to run on undisturbed soil, thus increasing stability and reducing risk of damage to the laid pipe. During the course of the sea trials, this concept proved itself to be highly effective. The plough was easy to steer and very stable, even at relatively high offset steering angles and provided effective backfilling of the 2.7m trench.

Upon completion of the trials, the customer confirmed that they were extremely satisfied with the performance of the ploughs and all are now looking forward to the first ‘live’ trenching project.

The sea trials gave an excellent opportunity for the team to work alongside SKUL personnel in the real offshore environment. This provided an ideal opportunity for the EB team to pass on the required knowledge about operating the new system whilst gaining further practical experience and additional lessons learned for future designs.

Further information on EB is available at www.engb.com and from IHC Engineering Business at Broaching House, Riding Mill, Northumberland, NE44 6ED, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)1434 882890

ACE Winches Increase Sales by 77%

The contract, which was won against stiff international competition from both the USA and Norway, represents the single largest manufacturing order ACE has completed to date, and boosts the company’s

KBR Subsidary Granherne Selected for Conceptual Study as Part of StatoilHydro ASA’s Gulfaks 2030 Project

KBR today announced that its consulting subsidiary, Granherne, has been selected to take part in a conceptual study of StatoilHydro ASA’s Gulfaks 2030 project to extend the production from the gas field. The award was for a previous concept of the ploughs, and was recently undertaken by Granherne, evaluating the possible installation of a subsea Wet Gas Compression and the use of a satellite production in the Gulfaks C platform.

“The project builds on the long relationship between Granherne and StatoilHydro ASA that spans over two decades,” said John Rose, President, KBR Upstream.

“KBR is looking forward to being part of this study which solidifies KBR’s presence in the front end consultancy market.”

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Speciality Welds Ltd Receives Confirmation of Recognition by IMarEST

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology has formally recognised the underwater welding programme ‘Weldcraft-Pro’, developed and managed by Speciality Welds Ltd.

Senior spokesman Mr. Ben Saunders said: “I can confirm that the members of IMarEST Continuing Professional Development Working Group were most impressed with this training course and have recognised it as contributing to an individual member’s professional development requirements.”

Speciality Welds Ltd offers the Weldcraft-pro to commercial diver training schools and other specialist training organisations as a ‘self-teach’ programme. In this way, providers who are involved with commercial diver training now have the opportunity to deliver approved recognised welder training, together with international standards that meet industry requirements.

Any organisation interested in running this programme will find more details on the company’s website at www.specialwelds.com

Cathodic Protection Retrofit: Forties Field Phase One

The Apache Forties Field is one of the oldest fields in the UK sector of the North Sea, seeing first production in 1975. The field comprises five platforms: Forties Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta were installed in the 1970’s, and Echo was installed in the 1980’s. The original anode systems were designed to be inspected every 15 years, at which point they were upgraded in order to maintain the cathodic protection for the duration of the field’s life extension.

Hockway Ltd. were nominated by Apache to provide a solution. This involved that the oil and gas companies determined that the most effective retrofit would be by using the RetroSled. RetroPod and RetroClamp products manufactured by Hockway strategic alliance partners Deepwater Corrosion Services Inc.

A detailed design initiative, hinging upon Deepwater’s in-house attenuation modeling of the pipeline GP system was performed in order to establish the most efficient use of resources. The optimum number of anodes slabs and the correct slab spacing was calculated, and suitable locations were determined for equipment to minimise installation time.

Phase 1 installation was performed in October 2007 under the supervision of Hockway and Deepwater engineers using an ROV support vessel, and successfully completed on time and on budget. Phase 2 of the project, completing the cathodic protection retrofit, will take place in Q2 of 2010.

RESON Delivers its 1000th SeaBat System

RESON was established in 1976 and is today a global player with offices and representatives in 25 countries worldwide. With continual development in design and development, it is now a world-renowned name with an unrivalled range of Underwater Acoustic Systems. The name RESON has become synonymous with providing very reliable products tested in the very harshest of environments over many years.

Recently, RESON delivered its 1,000th SeaBat System. Their next generation multibeam sonar system, is now taking their products to new depths in the further development of their unparalleled range. Reliability, compatibility and upgradeability are designed into the products making it possible for customers to seamlessly integrate a 15-year-old RESON system with a brand new system.

RESON is a market leader in the manufacture of high-quality underwater acoustic sensors, state of the art Seabat multibeam sonar systems, NaviSound echosounders, transducers, hydrophones and POS2000 software with a global presence and service facilities around the world. SeaBat sonar systems are produced at the factory in Denmark, which is certified according to ISO 9001:2004.

Today, RESON has an enviable reputation and extensive capabilities in the design and manufacture of leading-edge underwater acoustic sonar products for Hydrographic Surveys, Coastal and Harbour Monitoring, Dredging, Oceanographic Research and Offshore Exploration. Proudly, the Seabat sonar and NaviSound eco sounder systems have become an industrial standard within offshore operations.

Through several years of experience and excellence in the development and implementation of state-of-the-art sonar solutions, RESON is capable of creating added value to existing and future customers worldwide.

RESON is a leader in the application of sonar technology to waterside security applications. Several SeaBat sonars, including the SD10, and the SD12 have been used successfully to protect harbour choke points and high value assets. The new generation of 7k sonar provides even better performance.

Mr. David Keats, MD of Speciality Welds said: “This training course and other specialist training organisations as a ‘self-teach’ programme. In this way, providers who are involved with commercial diver training now have the opportunity to deliver approved recognised welder training, together with international standards that meet industry requirements.”

Any organisation interested in running this programme will find more details on the company’s website at www.specialwelds.com

The Proclad Group has been successful in securing work for the next five years on projects in West Africa and the Gulf of Mexico. These contracts include the manufacturing of spools and riser pipe including induction bends and associated fittings. Proclad’s reputation for high quality products has been a key factor in securing this work. Proclad have developed their own equipment for the application of weld overlay for 12 metre pipes and their unique processes can meet the most demanding customer specifications.

As leading specialists in the design, manufacture and supply of complete pipe solutions in order to oil and gas industry, there has never been a greater need to provide cost effective solutions to the problems associated with the harsh environments found in many of today’s deep water installations.

Whilst many other sectors have been affected by the global recession, Proclad has remained unaffected and has recently invested in a new range of unique state of the art pipe cladding technology further proving we are the world leaders in our field with no signs of slowing down. The Proclad Group has been successful in securing work for the next five years on projects in West Africa and the Gulf of Mexico. These contracts include the manufacturing of spools and riser pipe including induction bends and associated fittings. Proclad’s reputation for high quality products has been a key factor in securing this work. Proclad have developed their own equipment for the application of weld overlay for 12 metre pipes and their unique processes can meet the most demanding customer specifications. As leading specialists in the design, manufacture and supply of complete pipe solutions in order to oil and gas industry, there has never been a greater need to provide cost effective solutions to the problems associated with the harsh environments found in many of today’s deep water installations.
MCS Group Director Awarded Honorary Position at University of Aberdeen

Group Director of Services and Technology for MCS and Director of Subsea UK, Dr. Patrick O’Brien has been appointed as an Honorary Professor of Engineering by the University of Aberdeen.

Patrick, who has sat on the Engineering Advisory Board for the university since 2000, will have a key role in providing advice and support in the establishment and early growth of the National Subsea Research Institute (NSRI), an initiative founded by the University of Aberdeen.

Patrick has played a significant role in setting up the Engineering School’s new MSc in Subsea Engineering, setting out a broad specification for the course. He and a number of his senior colleagues at MCS have lectured directly to the MSc students on their advanced riser design and technology and under Patrick’s direction, MCS will continue to contribute to this course in the future.

Patrick said: “I am delighted and honoured to accept this honorary position with the university. I have derived great personal satisfaction from working with the Engineering School over the last number of years and I know from first hand experience that they are dedicated to providing the highest standards of excellence in engineering training. They now look forward to the challenge of applying their research expertise to the arena of subsea technology in support of the industry and their community.

“Despite the current economic conditions, the subsea industry has a bright future. It is important that we continue to attract new graduates into the subsea industry and provide them with competent technical skills for this industry.”

Professor Albert Rodger, Vice Principal at the University of Aberdeen and Head of the University’s College of Physical Sciences, said: “The University of Aberdeen considers itself to be very much at the heart of the knowledge economy as far as the northeast energy industry is concerned, and Honorary appointments of leading figures from industry are an integral part of cementing the University’s interaction with industry at a number of levels. We look forward to gaining from Dr. O’Brien’s experience in terms of sharing experience and in further developing opportunities to work closely with industry groups, especially in this case with the subsea Oil & Gas industry through the recently established National Subsea Research Institute.

Patrick will now act as an ambassador for the Engineering School in his international travels.