The subsea industry is one of the most exciting sectors to be in. I firmly believe subsea is where the real action is in the wider energy industry. It’s challenging, fast-paced, high-tech and growing with a long-term future and major opportunities in the emerging alternatives.

At the cutting edge, the skills and technology of the subsea companies are in demand to meet the challenges of extracting the remaining offshore oil and gas reserves around the world, safely and in an environmentally friendly way. The mission critical projects our members are involved in require innovation in engineering and technology development, creativity and the ability to solve highly complex problems all over the world.

Our other priority will be ensuring that members capitalise on internationalisation. Already, our presence across 50% of the UK subsea sector’s output. With a flattening domestic market, we have to widen this to build our long-term sustainability.

With UK subsea firms commanding a third of the global market and benefiting from an established reputation for subsea excellence, we are in an ideal position to exploit the emerging markets in Brazil, Australia, Russia and the Arctic. After two months, I don’t have the solution but helping members attract and develop the skills needed in practical ways will be high on the agenda for Subsea UK.

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Secc Unveils Next Generation Emergency Disconnect Solution for Subsea Market

Subsea connector specialist, SECC Oil & Gas, has unveiled its next generation of emergency disconnect solutions to help offshore operators reduce the risk of pollution and provide protection to offshore personnel, subsea equipment and the marine environment.

The Mid Line Valved Breakaway Connector, which was recently delivered to Wild Well Control in Houston for use on their new 7 Series Subsea Intervention System, is the latest in SECC’s portfolio of full-bore, pressure-balanced connectors.

The connector was developed specifically for projects using offshore vessels that could experience a loss of dynamic positioning, causing drift-off. In the event of a vessel shifting from its position, its movement applies tension to the line on which the connector sits. The connector automatically disconnects when a pre-determined load is reached, self sealing each end of the bore and ensuring the safety of the vessel and its personnel while avoiding potential damage caused by an uncontrolled disconnection or emergency guillotine device.

It features SECC’s unique pressure balanced technology which eliminates the need to install a reeling system, the need for a separate control system and the need to install a control connection 100 feet per cent. dry. In practice, this means automatic or manual breakaway in an emergency, under full working pressure and at depths of 10,000ft or more, will instantly seal each section of the line with no risk of fluid spill. SECC’s patented full-bore design also means there is no obstruction in the flow path, enabling servicing companies to achieve a high flow rate with minimal pressure loss during pumping.

“Maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator,” says Justin Marshall, Business Development Manager at SECC Oil & Gas.

He believes the growing trend towards rigless intervention and wider use of vessels at deeper levels in making high pressure technology more important than ever before:

“The steady shift from using rigs for intervention and well stimulation towards a greater reliance on smaller, less expensive vessels, particularly in deeper water, has dictated the way our technology has been developing.

“This new approach creates even greater challenges associated with working in harsh environments, deep water and high pressures. It means technologies like ours, which are designed to support this type of work, have a clear and crucial role to play. Emergency disconnection, at both ends of the line, is the last opportunity to contain the loss of fluids and protect the environment and this is just not possible with traditional breakaway systems.”

Hallin’s New Design: Compact Semi Submersible “CSS Derwent”

Today a service provider is faced with how to meet the need of increased and challenging technology requirements, yet respond to the expectations of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator, in addition to meeting the challenge of maximising vessel utilisation and day rates to the benefit of the operator.

Hallin’s new design, the “CSS Derwent”, a compact semi-submersible, is the first vessel of its class and manages to capture the leading technology providers such as Rolls Royce, Kingsberg and ABB in its fit out, control and power management systems.

Built as a vessel under ABS classification, the CSS Derwent is OP5 and one of a few vessels to be able to claim to be MODU as well as fully compliant with latest Special Purpose Ships rules with an staggering accommodation capability of 155 heads.

The vessel build concept is to provide a ship that is able to work across a spectrum of duties including subsea installation, construction support work, IRM and Well intervention.

With the motion characteristics ensuring a high degree of stability for all offshore modes of operation of raising an area for transfer of equipment and power, the vessel has a lift capability of 120mt at 2000m. The vessel is designed to interface with the sister SURF technology jigsaw foreseen in the Atlantic, the Islay Development Project where the MHS can lift up to 160mt (dynamic) with a stacking capability to nest the crane at sea.

The active heave compensated Module Handling System (MHS) can lift up to 150mt (dynamics) with a standing height of 31 metres. The upper draw works alone can split load up to 100mt offering a flexible handling capability. The tracked lower deployment curser reduces the effects of the vessel transverse and heaves motion characteristics during launch and recovery of a module.

The motion is minimised due to the unique hull design reducing roll and heave in the region of the working moonpool.

Marin Subsea Delivers One-stop Asset Removal Service

Excavation and troubleshooting specialist Marin Subsea is now offering a new one-stop approach to asset recovery, removal and decommissioning.

The Evo Marin Recovery System (MRS) has been engineered to support a broad range of subsea handling projects, in particular recovery and removal.

Among the technology underpinning the Evo MRS is a new full ocean depth tool specifically designed to recover both dropped assets and decommissioned equipment protected by rock dump or by cement or conventional concrete masting. It can also support decommissioning in stacks up to 12 sections for transfer into disposal blocks.

The new tool complements the Evo MRS grab, which has already used on major decommissioning projects including Frigg in the Southern North Sea in 2010 and pipeline removal in the nearby Frost field earlier this year.

The complete Evo MRS also features specialist full ocean depth heaving and CO2 cutting technology and can be delivered offshore anywhere in the world in a single 20ft container, which includes all the equipment needed to address a broad range of asset recovery and decommissioning applications.

Marin Group’s full spread of services includes ROV-mounted and diver excavation tools, specialist drilling tools for hard Rock, jetted sled technology, and customised module and container supply.
**Mec-Combi Crawler for Subsea Structure Inspection**

Developed as a customised solution for a North Sea operator, the MEC-Combi Crawler inspection system was built to enable the inspection of platform legs where conventional rope access was not possible. By combining the Magnetic Eddy Current, Fast sensor array system with an Ultrasonic sensor, the MEC-Combi Crawler provides valuable data on the internal and external wall thickness through the identification of localised defects and general wall loss. The fitted camera and light system supports a visualisation of the scan while the position encoder system enables its location on the inspected surface to be determined.

The key feature of MEC-Combi Crawler is its ability to crawl up the structures and through the splash zone while performing the scanning. The integral buoyancy of the scanner, in combination with its magnetic system, allows the system to remain in stable contact with the inspection surface and travel through the splash zone under its own power, unhindered by the effects of turbulence or wave action.

The electromagnetic technique is less susceptible to surface condition and the preparation of the inspection surface is less critical than with other inspection techniques. The MEC-Combi Crawler will only require the removal of heavy marine growth. Capable of external and internal corrosion detection with a penetration of up to 40mm wall thickness, including through coating and painting, the MEC-Combi Crawler is capable of providing instantaneous Eddy Current and Ultrasonic wall thickness data. Together with InnoSpection’s comprehensive reporting software with advanced colour condition mapping, an analysis of the internal and external defects in terms of the location, size and severity of wall loss is provided.

The system is capable of installing or recovering large subsea structures without the need for an HLV and enables even the smallest crane vessels to install very large subsea structures in hostile environments.

The SDV is fully submerged throughout the installation/recovery process and consequently the surface weather conditions have little impact on the tool or lowering operations. Final positioning and set down is achieved by means of chains lowered into the SDV which behave as soft springs and minimise dynamic loading. It also avoids the often critical phases of offshore hoisting and lowering through the splash zone.

Subsea Deployment Systems Ltd has developed an exciting Step Change in Subsea Installation. The Subsea Deployment System (SDS) is a method of installing or recovering large subsea structures without the need for a Heavy Lift Vessel (HLV). It offers potential cost savings of 60% on multi-structure installations and up to 80% on single structure installations.

The SDS has been designed for the transportation and installation of medium to large structures (100t to several 1,000t) in water depths of 100m – 3,000m, without the need for an HLV and enables even the smallest crane vessels to install very large subsea structures in hostile environments.

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**Subsea Installation Game Changer**

The reduced weather sensitivity increases the operating window for hostile regions, offering greater schedule flexibility. This is a distinct advantage in emergency response scenarios. The low dynamic loading and avoiding the need to recover structures to deck offshore makes the system particularly attractive for salvaging redundant structures. All the individual aspects of the SDS are developed from very basic principles and existing technology, but the combination has resulted in a potential “game changer” for both installation, installation and decommissioning of subsea structures.

An affordable and readily available subsea heavy lift capability offers the potential to develop fields with fewer and larger structures avoiding costly inter-structure connections. It will also facilitate the development of more marginal fields.

Operators and contractors worldwide are currently looking at this new system and reviewing its applications with interest, with respect to widening their options for their forthcoming projects.

**Sonomatic Takes Ultrasonic Inspection to a New Level**

Sonomatic has launched the first remotely steerable UT scanner capable of being deployed at up to 300 metres water depth. The MAG-Rover 300 can be attached subsea by ROV or diver and then remotely maneuvered to the exact inspection location, making it ideal for the inspection of vessels, columns and pipelines, storage tanks, pressure vessels and column applications as well as small and large subsea structures. Sonomatic’s Microplus ultrasonic scanner unit comprises a steerable crawler driven by two magnetic drive wheels which allow the scanner to adhere to any magnetic surface. At the front is the UT transducer, which gimbals to follow the contour of the surface being inspected.

Sonomatic’s Microplus ultrasonic system is incorporated for proven measurement reliability, and the tool can utilise the ROV’s communications system.

Sonomatic launched the company’s first remotely steerable UT scanner in 1989. This was followed by a motorised subsea UT scanner, the diver-deployed Nautilus, which remains in constant use to this day, and by last year’s launch of the ROV-deployed Sonomatic ROViT-2000, which can operate both vertically and horizontally and has since been successfully used on projects in the Southern and Northern North Sea.

**Taking Plastics to New Limits**

New applications require new solutions

Are traditional materials like metals causing too many issues and downtime in your environment?

Is corrosion, weight, or performance at extreme pressures and temperatures limiting your possibilities?

Quadrant’s engineering plastics outperform traditional materials in a broad range of industries and applications – our solutions have a proven track record in the offshore sector.

Let our polymer solutions take some of the stress that other materials cause you. Visit us at Offshore Europe 2011, booth number 3A 140, and ask our experts what we can do for you!
The New Hybrid from Saab Seaeye – AUV/ROV Combined

A new underwater vehicle concept has been created by Saab Seaeye that can go places and undertake tasks where ROV deployment is difficult or impossible.

Called Sabertooth, the hybrid vehicle combines the technologies of both AUV and ROV vehicles into a single unified resource.

For operators it offers the range and manoeuvrability of an AUV, yet with the tooling capability of a light work ROV. The concept comes from a reconfiguration of Saab’s hovering AUV built for defence operations, to one suited to the oil and gas industry using ROV technology proven in that sector but with the same exceptional stability proven for the defence application.

For subsea operators, the Sabertooth offers a choice of three operational modes: autonomous roaming; reconfiguration of Saab’s hovering AUV, built for defence operations, to one suited to the oil and gas industry using ROV technology proven in that sector; and undertakes tasks where ROV deployment is difficult or impossible.

In places where access is seasonally restricted, it can remain for a year at an isolated location, in resident mode, at its docking station, ready to be launched on task as needed, under the remote guidance of an operator. At the docking station tooling packs can be stored ready for use: its batteries re-charged, data and video downloaded and fresh instructions uploaded.

The whole hybrid AUV/ROV concept is expected to bring significant savings in operating costs as a vehicle like Sabertooth is easily deployed from a platform, shore-base, or small low cost vessel.

Managing director, Dave Grant, sees the concept as offering an important new technological resource to the oil and gas industry - and the renewable energy market, where there is a growing need for inspection and intervention as activity moves to the seabed.

He says: “Sabertooth is the first of a new range of deep water, long-range, hovering hybrid vehicles that will solve current operational problems and open up new cost effective solutions for survey, inspection, light work and intervention.”

Subsea Technology Solutions can Attract up to 100% Funding

ITF is calling on technology developers to come forward with innovative solutions to such challenges, with the potential for successful proposals to receive up to 100% funding.

Identified by ITF members as a key priority, the Subsea Technologies Call for Proposals resulted from two Technology Challenge Workshops which took place in June. Oil and gas operators and service companies gathered in London and Perth, Australia, and explicitly identified the current shared challenges in the subsea sector.

Neil Paxton, Managing Director of ITF said: “The subsea sector continues to grow in importance as more aspects of oil and gas, and the environment, are moved to the seabed. We are interested to hear from companies and organisations that can help close the existing technology gaps in the section. ITF members have the opportunity to have their ideas reviewed by major oil and gas players, but they can also secure funds to realise their novel technologies.”

Industry forecasts have predicted that around £10 billion of future subsea activity will be focused on deepwater, production, profitability and viability of remote and deepwater operations, all of which are key elements within the call.

The call is an open invitation for organisations to submit high quality proposals for research, development and/or field trial of potential solutions to deal with issues faced with subsea technologies. Specific areas of interest have been identified by ITF members as follows:

- Subsea Power
- Flow Assurance
- Subsea Separation
- Temperature Management
- Pipeline Integrity Management / Cost Reduction
- Low Cost Intervention
- Specific Australian Regional Challenges

The call also identifies priority focus areas in the Australasian region which aim to create a step change reduction in development cost and improve recovery. This includes water separation and disposal direct to ocean, pipeline corrosion management and remote presence. However; these challenges are not unique to Australia and solutions may also be applicable to other regions.

The deadline for proposals is 6 October 2011. Interested companies can find out more at al-it.com or by calling 01224 222410.

A not-for-profit organisation, ITF has 28 global oil and gas operator and service company members. Widely regarded as the global funding programme of choice, ITF has assisted in the funding of new technology developments from early stage joint industry projects through to full trials and commercialisation.

Paradigm Flow Solutions Boosts Production for Supermajor with New Technology to Unblock Subsea Pipelines

Paradigm Flow Solutions has successfully increased production for a supermajor in a North Sea field by over 3,000 barrels of oil per day using new groundbreaking technology.

The Aberdeen headquartered company revealed how it has cleared subsea pipelines that had been blocked for over a decade. The campaign took less than a week to unblock multiple flowlines in the central North Sea field.

Rob Bain, Managing Director of Paradigm Flow Solutions said: “The operator had tried various other conventional methods to tackle the issue, but these blockages were stubborn and their efforts were not successful. Using Pipe-Pulse, our engineers cleared flowlines and subsea chemical umbilicals of long-term wax inhibitor cores in less than a week.”

Pipe-Pulse is a remote, non-intrusive method of locating and removing blockages in long distance pipe-work up to 30 miles. The system is designed to be connected on the topsides of the host platform through either a subsea launcher or the umbilical termination unit to clear the blockages.

The Pipe-Pulse system delivers high energy and volume pressure pulses into the pipeline or subsea umbilical, which are transmitted to the blockage several miles away.

Prior to Pipe-Pulse, these problems were usually treated by expensive methods such as deploying a coiled tubing system from a rig into the pipeline, or undertaking subsea interventions using a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) or saturation divers.

Mr Bain added: “There is a significant market opportunity for Pipe-Pulse in operations around the world as it delivers dramatic cost savings. In the case of significant blockages which have gone unresolved over a number of years, the only solution has often been to replace the affected piece of pipework which can cost millions of pounds. This is sometimes more than the margin of the field, therefore economically unviable.”

DiveCert Makes Dive System Certification Easy

DiveCert is a new software package that can streamline diving and saturation diving system certification while organising it in accordance with IMCA Guidance documents.

The software allows companies to create, control and synchronise entire dive system certification from one easy to use portal. It compliments Planned Maintenance Systems through extending and assists with the discipline and organisation for audits and quality control purposes. Over 350 certificate templates are available, covering all sections of IMCA D018 enabling rapid access and ease of auditing.

The system maintains all certification and identifies when they are due to expire or overdue, ensuring that the user has full control and awareness of the status of system usability.

Mr Bain added: “There is a significant market opportunity for Pipe-Pulse in operations around the world as it delivers dramatic cost savings. In the case of significant blockages which have gone unresolved over a number of years, the only solution has often been to replace the affected piece of pipework which can cost millions of pounds. This is sometimes more than the margin of the field, therefore economically unviable.”

The software is ideal for new system builds and indeed some manufacturers are buying the software to supply a complete certification system on new build sat systems.
Bibby Offshore Join Schools Career Industry Partnership (SCIP)

Bibby Offshore, a provider of subsea construction, ROV inspection, repair and maintenance and offshore management services, has recently become a member of Schools Career Industry Partnership (SCIP).

SCIP’s programme is aimed at helping 4th-6th year pupils throughout the North East of Scotland who are transitioning directly into work after leaving school. The programme is designed to bridge the skills gap and give pupils a clearer understanding of what employers require from them and also how to be prepared for an interview.

It focuses on building self-confidence, understanding their own strengths and areas they can improve on, how they think and communicate with others and how to maximise these skills in an interview situation. They build a professional and effective CV throughout the day, day with input from business professionals; experience a one-to-one interview situation with honest, constructive feedback. Finally they learn what is involved in an Assessment Centre and take part in a group exercise.

Bibby Offshore have been working closely with several Academy schools in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. This involvement led to Bibby inviting three pupils from Bridge of Don Academy for work experience during the summer holidays. The pupils were given the opportunity to visit different departments throughout the company, gaining further knowledge on the oil and gas industry as well as giving them the chance to experience working life.

On the last day they gave a short presentation to members of the management team about their time working at Bibby Offshore. The children were also taken on board the Bibby Sapphire and shown around the state of the art equipment and their career opportunities.

Andrew Duncan, Business and Commercial Director for Bibby Offshore, has been great support in the SCIP programme and has attended many of the participating schools, has commented: “These sessions have been a tremendous experience, not just for the pupils but for all of us at Bibby Offshore. We hope that this initiative has helped provide the children with a positive insight into our business and the industry as a whole. The pupils might just become employees of the future and we’ve been greatly encouraged by their aptitude to learn and their overall enthusiasm. All in all, it’s been a great success and we look forward to continuing our support next year.”

Nautonix Secures Multi Million Dollar Digital Acoustics Contract for Ultra-Deepwater Drillships

Nautonix are to supply NASDrill RS925 deepwater acoustic positioning systems for Noble Corporation’s three new ultra-deepwater drillships for delivery second and fourth quarters of 2013, and second quarter of 2014 respectively.

These new rigs will be constructed at Hyundai Gusto P10000 design in Ulsan, Korea and are based on a Hyundai Gusto P10000 design. The roll will target superior positioning and the ability to handle two complete BDP systems allowing for operation in water depths of up to 12,000 feet.

NASDrill RS925 systems have been designed specifically to meet the requirements for a reliable, stable DP and position reference system for demanding offshore operations, in particular deepwater drilling vessels. NASDrill RS925 utilises the two most accurate deepwater acoustic positioning technologies – Short Baseline (SBL) and Long Baseline (LBL) - to calculate multiple independent position solutions providing reliable, repeatable input to the vessel DP system; with SBL mode providing accuracies of 0.15% slant range and LBL mode providing accuracies up to 1m RMS independent of water depth. The Noble vessels will be fitted with dual redundant, six-hydrophone NASDrill RS925 systems offering significant built-in redundancy in both topside and subsea elements.

The NASDrill RS925 system is complete with all external Acoustics Contract for Ultra-Deepwater Drillships components interfacing to the Dynamic Positioning System for automatic station keeping and can be used as part of an integrated acoustically-aided INS positioning solution.

For drilling, NASDrill RS925 also provides Differential Riser (FLEX Joint) calculation and monitoring capability. Multiple seabed transponder groups can also be assigned to simplify batch drilling, where separate transponder arrays can be deployed at several locations on the seabed, allowing the rig to move between them without the need to collect and redeploy seabed arrays each time saving valuable rig time.

The system is also fully upgradeable to use Nautonix SAS (Nautonix unique underwater GPS) in the future.

As with all Nautonix leading commercial acoustic systems, NASDrill RS925 utilises Nautonix proprietary ADS2 (Acoustic Digital Spread Spectrum) broadband signalising technology which has been proven, with over 10 years of successful subsea operations, to provide superior accuracy, repeatability and reliability for dynamic positioning of vessels during deepwater drilling operations.

Kongsberg Maritime Secures Over £1 Million in Orders from Fugro

The contract represents Kongsberg Maritime’s fifth consecutive year working as prime camera and scanning sonar provider under a consolidated supply framework with Fugro. By the end of this project the leading underwater camera supplier will have delivered over 500 cameras to Fugro to date.

During 2011 Kongsberg Maritime will supply more than 170 high resolution underwater cameras and over 40 avoidance sonar systems for use on Fugro’s existing global fleet of ROV Systems and the company’s planned newbuild ROV Systems, including its newly in-house designed and built FCV 3000 and FCV 2000 Work Class ROV Systems and the new Lynx and Panther XT Saab Seaeye ROV Systems.

The order includes a number of the latest OE14-502 multi standard High Definition (HDI) cameras, an indication of the company’s increased investment in this latest technology.

The other equipment purchased includes the latest Low Light, OE13-124/125 BIT navigation camera, the OE14-368 colour zoom camera, the OE14-376/377 colour light ring camera, the OE15-108 general purpose mono camera together with the latest ultra high resolution imaging sonar.

Bill Stuart, Sales Manager at Kongsberg Maritime Ltd comments: “Our team has worked hard to develop and maintain a fruitful relationship with Fugro and we are pleased that orders have increased year on year. This latest order reinforces Fugro’s satisfaction with the products and services we offer and strengthens our confidence that we can continue to build on this success and support Fugro’s future demanding ROV imaging requirements.

Fugro’s FCV 3000 ROV

Kongsberg Maritime is pleased to announce an order of over £1 million from Fugro, the largest, worldwide integrated supplier of geoscience, survey, and geotechnical related services. Kongsberg Maritime will supply a range of its latest high resolution cameras and Mesotech scanning sonar systems as part of Fugro’s 2011 ROV Sensor Refurbishment and Newbuild programme.

A&P Group Complete Second Project for Offshore Sector

A&P Group has completed another subsea structure for an offshore oil and gas field. The Mid Water Arch left the shipyard and is due to arrive at its destination next week.

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The pressure vessel buoyancy units the earlier subsea arches were built around.

“The pressure vessel buoyancy tanks are a new design and required very high standards of welding and fabrication, in fact the project required us to meet extremely high standards in all aspects. “As it’s suspended underwater the arch is painted to NORSOK coating standards, so it will last for 25 years.”

A 1,000 ton crane was needed to lift the bright yellow subsea structure – which is 17 metres long, 15 metres wide and 7 metres high – onto a barge to sail up to a yard in Invergordon for final assembly. The base, clamp components and arches are to follow on a coaster.

The Athena field is due to start production towards the end of this year. When it does the subsea arch will support control cables and inter-connector pipes from the wellhead to the floating production, storage and off-loading vessel on the surface.
Oil and Gas Know-How Could Help Renewables Industry Settle In

The renewable energy industry is developing rapidly in response to ambitious targets set by the UK government. As a nation, we’ve got to reduce CO₂ emissions by over 750 million tonnes by 2030. One of the ways it is planning on doing this is through carbon capture and storage (CCS) techniques. Jee found that the experience gained in the oil and gas industry transfers itself well to these types of projects.

Jee’s experienced pipeline design engineers are now tackling the problem of safely transporting liquid CO₂, at very high pressures to storage sites beneath the seabed. They are also assessing the suitability of existing pipeline infrastructure for the same purpose. Likewise geologists are now looking at the best ways to fill a reservoir, instead of emptying it; enhanced oil recovery (EOR) being a technique used to do both.

The fundamentals of the engineering work remain the same, whether designing a pipeline for oil extraction or carbon dioxide injection. It is imperative that lessons learned from the extensive haul of pipeline projects over the last 40 years are put into practice for the emerging CCS projects. In fact, engineers from the oil and gas industry are being hunted for their expertise in developing CCS projects. In fact, engineers from the oil and gas industry are being hunted for their expertise in developing this concept.

Our young aspiring engineers are fully aware of the shift in attitude towards greener energy and the resulting demand for associated skills. Jee run training courses predominantly for clients in the oil and gas sector but its subsea engineering techniques can be applied to any subsea application.

Mike Hawkins, Technical Director at Jee Ltd, says: “The oil and gas industry is not always seen in a positive light. But the experience gained from the successes and failures of the last 40 years are put into practice for the emerging CCS projects. In fact, engineers from the oil and gas industry are being hunted for their expertise in developing this concept.

Real Downhole Multiphase Measurement Finally Made Possible!

Roxar announces the launch of a complete downhole flow sensor system which provides full well multiphase flow rate measurements—applying technology previously in existence only topside and subsea.

Litre Meter Supplies Geveke Pompen with Positive Displacement Meters for Wingate Meg Skid

UK flowmeter specialist Litre Meter has shipped VFF positive displacement flowmeters to Dutch oil and gas package supplier Geveke. The meters will be used in a monoethylene glycol (MEG) injection skid for Wintershall’s new Wingate natural gas platform in the North Sea.

Under conditions of low temperature and high pressure, gas hydrates can solidify as crystals which may block the pipeline and valves, impeding the transfer of the oil and gas. This can result in a shutdown and the risk of explosion or unintended release of hydrocarbons into the environment. We have to climb so that we meet the targets of 2020 and beyond. *
Leading Commercial Diver Training Centres in UK and USA Form Alliance

Leading commercial diver training centres in the UK and USA have formed an alliance to provide North American students with the opportunity to advance their careers in the global market.

The Underwater Centre in Fort William, Scotland, will now offer graduates of the Divers Institute of Technology (DIT) in Seattle the opportunity to complete their training facilities and staff.

As a result of the alliance between the two centres, which is expected to cover the whole of 2011, the Underwater Centre will provide the opportunity for graduates of the DIT to complete their training, industry-focused competence and reliable certification on a worldwide basis, which the alliance between the two centres will provide.

The Underwater Centre has a reputation for offering internationally recognised certifications, resulting in large numbers of the Centre’s students coming from overseas.

In 2010, 67% of the graduates from The Underwater Centre came from outside the UK. Daniel Hammond, a graduate of the DIT, signed up to the three week HSE Closed Bell course at The Underwater Centre, and was delighted with the training facilities and staff.

He said: “I have nothing but praise for The Underwater Centre. As far as the saturation dive training goes, it appears to cover all the bases to give you a great foundation to start your new career as a saturation diver.”

Finlay Finlayson, Managing Director of The Underwater Centre said: “For some time now the Divers Institute of Technology and The Underwater Centre, here in Fort William, have enjoyed a developing relationship based on shared ethos of providing students with the best possible platform on which to build a global subsea career in diving and ROV.”

Raising the bar globally

From our headquarters in Aberdeen and under a new management team, Dominion Gas supplies the worldwide market with a full range of diving, industrial, welding and specialty gases.

Our subsidiary company, Argon Isotank supply liquid, cryogenic, chemical and tank products and services to a global client base.

Together we support our clients in their international operating regions in:

- UK - Norway - Singapore - West Africa - Mediterranean - Caspian

www.dominion-gas.com

DOMINION GAS Where Reliability Matters

Subsea Specialist Flexlife Opens New UK Base

Graduate Daniel Hammond of T echnology (DIT) in Seattle the offers the Closed Bell training opportunity to complete their careers in the global market.

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In 2010, 67% of the graduates from The Underwater Centre came from outside the UK. Daniel Hammond, a graduate of the DIT, signed up to the three week HSE Closed Bell course at The Underwater Centre, and was delighted with the training facilities and staff.

He said: “I have nothing but praise for The Underwater Centre. As far as the saturation dive training goes, it appears to cover all the bases to give you a great foundation to start your new career as a saturation diver.”

Finlay Finlayson, Managing Director of The Underwater Centre said: “For some time now the Divers Institute of Technology and The Underwater Centre, here in Fort William, have enjoyed a developing relationship based on shared ethos of providing students with the best possible platform on which to build a global subsea career in diving and ROV.”

OIl & gas industry specialists in subsea project and integrity management, Flexlife, have opened a new base in Newcastle and plan to recruit 25 staff by the end of this year, rising to 50 within 18 months.

The award-winning company has appointed Andrew Lake as Director of Operations in Newcastle. He is a Chartered Engineer with more than 30 years’ experience, including senior roles at Soil Machine Dynamics, BPP Technical Services and Wellstream International. He holds a 1st class Mechanical Engineering degree and is a Member of both the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Association for Project Management.

As well as attracting new recruits into the industry, Flexlife believes the location will be a draw to many workers who commute weekly to Aberdeen and other energy hubs present. The office is at the newly developed Baltic Place on the quayside near to the Millenium Bridge.

Chief Operating Officer John Marsden said: “We know from our experience that there is a talented pool of highly-skilled staff in the Newcastle area and we are hoping to tap into that. We have the best team in the industry and are confident we will quickly attract the same calibre of staff for our Newcastle office. We are already off to a great start with Andy taking charge of our operations in Newcastle.”

Mr Lake said: “Flexlife is experiencing a period of significant growth and the new office will expand our capability to offer specialised support to our clients. The choice of Newcastle for this latest expansion recognises the skills in the region and will be a new addition to the growing subsea sector in the North East of England.”

Mr Marsden added: “Looking ahead, the Newcastle office will provide us with the capability to expand our range of services to include front end engineering design to support the ongoing work for our clients.”

Flexlife reported an increase in turnover of more than 50%, year ending 2010/11, with a rise from £4.8 million to £7.5 million. A further rise to £17.8 million is predicted for 2011/12.

As well as the new office in Newcastle, Flexlife has moved into premises in Brazil and taken on a new global HQ in Aberdeen. The company also operates in Asia, the Far East and Mediterranean and staff numbers globally are expected to reach 120 by the end of this year.

Acteon Group Bolsters Subsea Services with Acquisition of NCS Survey

Subsea services group Acteon has acquired Aberdeen-based NCS Survey Limited. The acquisition adds to Acteon’s capability in the rig-positioning market, and provides an additional suite of survey services to clients that operate rigs and vessels.

NCS Survey provides high-precision rig positioning, construction support and subsea visualisation services to the global offshore market, including upstream oil and gas and offshore wind. As the market leader in providing surveys through lightweight autonomous underwater vehicle technology, NCS Survey has performed over 600 projects in 35 countries since it was founded in 2005.

The company will retain its existing personnel and management team, headed up by current managing director, Andy Gray. He said: “NCS Survey has enjoyed continued growth, thanks to the early adoption and delivery of technologies that deliver tangible benefits for clients. Joining Acteon will enable NCS to accelerate this expansion through the group’s international footprint.”

We all recognise an innovative idea when we see one
Petroz has been promoted to the role of personnel operators director to cope with an upturn in demand for Ecosse Subsea Systems’ personnel division, which specialises in sourcing experts for the subsea oil and gas and offshore renewables industries.

The company is also a finalist in the Wood Group Award for Innovation category of the annual Grampian Awards for Business Enterprise. Ecosse Subsea Systems has also been shortlisted for two prestigious Northern Star Business Awards and has reached the finals of the categories for Commitment to Innovative Use of R&D and the new Energy Award.

Commenting on the success of the past year, Ecosse Subsea Systems’ founder and managing director Mike Wilson said: “Much of our focus during the past 12 months has been on getting SCAR to the marketplace and we are delighted at the global interest there has been in this piece of technology. We are currently tendering for work in many locations across the world including Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

“Alongside that, we have continued to work with Ellon-based Aulin on the DeepBlue and GLS lifting gits, and trials of the latter are about to begin in Orkney. We anticipate that these will revolutionise the subsea lifting market and they also have very strong possibilities for use in the renewables sector.”

EV Expansion

Fast evolving oil and gas camera specialist EV, whose ground-breaking technology is being used to obtain pictures in remote and challenging environments such as down wellsbores and inside pipelines, has bolstered its global position by expanding its reach across the US, Scandinavia and the Far East.

In order to enhance the company’s rapid response to its growing customer base in the United States, EV has established its regional headquarters in Houston’s energy corridor. New operational bases have also been set up in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado to complement EV’s existing operational base in Laffayette, Louisiana, which services the Gulf of Mexico. An additional base in West Virginia is due to be opened shortly.

In Scandinavia, EV has established a partnership with Aker Well Services in Norway and Denmark which is already benefitting customers with rapid response from EV’s suite of electric line, slickline, coil tubing and drill pipe cameras.

Meanwhile, in the Far East, a new operational base in Malaysia has recently been opened in conjunction with Highland Energy Partners. Operations have already commenced in the South East Asia region.

EV has further plans in place to continue its rapid geographical expansion based on strong demand for both its industry leading downhole video technology and its innovative products for subsea and pipelines such as the company’s Neptus wireless subsea camera.

RiserTec Achieves Two Milestones

Aberdeen-based specialist RiserTec have concluded two milestone events for the company. The first is an agreement with Dutch manufacturer Lankhorst to jointly develop, design and test their range of dynamic bend stiffeners. The second is the start-up of an office in Houston. The agreement with Lankhorst will give RiserTec a mainstream manufacturing partner to develop our designs and bring the tested products to the market.

“We are really looking forward to this next phase of product development,” said Jonathan Jury, who has worked on the development of the company designs for over four years.

The second milestone of opening an office in Houston has been supported by the amount of demand for a specialist Riser Analysis and Design company. RiserTec have recently been involved in a number of projects and are now looking to expand their team in Houston.

“We are excited to see this office become a centre of excellence for our customer base in the US and we are looking forward to supporting our existing clients and bringing on new ones.”

Contact us now — and let Marin make the difference.
**Wood Group Kenny Wins Australia’s Subsea Company of the Year**

Wood Group Kenny has picked up the Subsea Company of the Year award at the inaugural Subsea Energy Australia award ceremony. Nominated companies were judged not only on their commercial and strategic performance, but also on people development, leadership culture and the impact they have made to their communities. In awarding Wood Group Kenny, the judges made specific reference to the company’s significant intake of graduates from the University of Western Australia and Curtin University, and its commitment to technology initiatives to help the future needs of the subsea industry.

Wood Group Kenny opened an office in Perth in 1985 and now has over 400 staff spread across Perth, Melbourne and Brisbane, and an annual turnover well in excess of A$100 million.

Since opening in Australia, the company continues to win major subsea and pipeline FEED (Front End Engineering Design) projects on the North-West Shelf and Timor Sea. Recent contract awards include subsea and pipeline engineering for Woodside’s deepwater Browse project and for Apache Energy’s Julimar gas field development.

Steve Wayman, CEO for Wood Group Kenny, said: “Australia is an extremely important growth region for the Subsea industry and is also one of Wood Group Kenny’s largest and most established global centres. Having retained a permanent base in Perth for around 25 years, we are committed to continuing our pivotal role, which includes developing new talent, establishing innovative technology and delivering successful world-class projects for our many clients in this expanding market.”

**Leading the Way – Nylacast Continue to Raise Standards**

Leicester based Nylacast has become the first UK company of its type and one of only six UK companies to have achieved the industry recognised accreditation to ISO29001:2010 Oil and Gas. Nylacast are the first and only UK company in the production and manufacturing of engineering polymers to achieve the standard.

For the design, development, production, installation and service of products for the petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries.

In a continual growth and improvement effort to offer their first class solutions to its customers in the sector, the recent accreditation to ISO 29001:2010 further exemplifies Nylacast’s commitment to the offshore, oil & gas industry.

Nylacast have been proudly operating in the offshore, oil & gas industry for over 40 years. With state of the art technology, a full R&D testing facility and highly experienced engineers, Nylacast are the first and only UK company in the production, installation and service of products for the petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries. Nylacast lightweight, chemical, corrosion & abrasion resistant thruster nozzle provides a time-efficient method for accurate pipeline inspection. We were very pleased with the results.”

**Fugro Breaks World Record for Low-Logistic AUVs Using SeeByte Software**

SeeByte, the global leader in creating smart software technology for unmanned systems, has announced that Fugro Survey Pty Ltd (Fugro) has successfully broken the current world record for the longest uninterrupted pipeline inspection using a low-logistics AUV.

The SeeTrack AutoTracker software was utilised by Fugro in conjunction with the Gavia AUV to survey a pipeline on the Northwest Shelf off Western Australia in 90 metres of water. The vehicle successfully inspected 31 kilometres of pipeline on a single mission, surpassing SeeByte’s existing record. The mission was manually ended due to low battery while AutoTracker was still operating successfully. The SeeTrack software was developed to enable AUVs to carry out export pipeline inspections. Through SeeTrack AutoTracker the inspection data is improved and time is saved by reducing repeat missions which are usually required due to missing data. SeeTrack AutoTracker can also operate in areas where multiple pipelines and unexpected burials are encountered.

Ian Hobbs from Fugro said: “The data attained from this successful mission has provided us with clear and accurate information regarding the status of the pipeline. The SeeTrack software operated at an ideal offset and it is apparent that, with practiced operations, the software provides a time-efficient method for accurate pipeline inspection. We were very pleased with the results.”

Wood Group Kenny accepts Subsea Company of the Year award at the inaugural Subsea Energy Australia award ceremony.

Wood Group Kenny has been proudly operating in the offshore, oil & gas industry for over 40 years. With state of the art technology, a full R&D testing facility and highly experienced engineers, Nylacast have been recognised as the perfect solution to the arduous environments encountered during operations within the industry.

Nylacast’s lightweight, chemical, corrosion & abrasion resistant thruster nozzle provides a time-efficient method for accurate pipeline inspection. We were very pleased with the results.”
WHEN SCINTILLATION OCCURS AND YOUR DGPS SIGNALS BREAK UP, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN POSITION ACCURATELY ENOUGH TO CARRY ON OPERATING?

NASNet® DPR IS THE ANSWER.

If you are involved in marine DP operations you will be aware that we are now entering another period of atmospheric scintillation which will potentially affect DP operations in various deepwater oil and gas development regions worldwide.

If you have a traditional acoustic DP reference, which in deepwater has an update rate and latency of position inferior to that of a stable DGPS input, will it be capable of providing you with the information you need to remain safely on station?

To address the limitations of traditional systems Nautionix have introduced a NASNet® application for marine DP operations - NASNet® DPR - an acoustic positioning system which will allow you to carry on operating seamlessly, a true redundant system. As a stand alone system NASNet® DPR offers no interference to or from other acoustic systems and can operate in high ambient noise environments. This, along with its DGPS type system architecture, makes it the ideal DP reference.

For further information on how NASNet® DPR can help you reduce time, money and risk for your subsea operations please call the sales team on +44 (0)1224 775700 or email us at info@nautronix.co.uk

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