



The International Marine Contractors Association

Representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies

Issue 35

IMCA News	2
TCP	4
SEL	5
Regional News	6
ROV	7
Diving	8
Offshore Survey	9
Marine	10
Members' News	11

Ten productive years

The continued reduction in the lost time incident frequency experienced by member companies – and thus the number of injuries – is just one of many milestones IMCA can claim as it celebrates its tenth anniversary. Membership has risen consistently and the Association's areas of influence have expanded considerably with the global adoption of key guidance, aimed primarily at achieving zero-injuries – the 'holy grail' of the offshore industry.

Formed in April 1995 (through the amalgamation of AODC and DPVOA), IMCA started life with just a hundred members. While always an international organisation, early membership was substantially North Sea-based. "Despite much consolidation in the sector, our membership has continued to rise and now stands at nearly 270 companies in more than 30 countries," explains Chief Executive, Hugh Williams. "Indeed, over 50% of the membership is now based outside Europe."

IMCA is more active than ever before in the ever-important area of offshore safety. While statistics collected since 1997 show a continued annual drop in the IMCA member lost time incident frequency rate from 4.96 to 1.13 in 2004, there remains much to be done to meet the zero-injury goal. An extensive catalogue of guidance along with regular seminars and workshops are complemented by new ways of getting the message across, including pocket safety cards, DVDs and planned safety posters.

1997 saw the TCP core activity established to develop IMCA's competence framework, through which contractors can now demonstrate the competence of personnel working in safety-critical positions.

"It is interesting to look back over some of the major milestones we have passed during the course of the last ten years," says Technical Director, Jane Bugler. "In 1999 we won observer status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), an achievement that has enabled us to put

forward the extensive global experience and expertise of our members in specialist vessel operations during the development of new codes and guidelines. It also ensures that members are briefed on the latest developments which might affect them."

IMCA also works with a long list of other organisations, such as international regulators, other technical or trade associations where interests overlap (including DMAC, EDTC, IDSA, OGP, IADC, IAGC, OLF, OMHEC) and national authorities such as those in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, UK and USA.

The establishment in 2002 of the Americas Deepwater Section, with enthusiastic participation from members in that region, has helped to enhance the international applicability of the extensive catalogue of IMCA guidelines. At the same time, IMCA launched the members-only website, making a vast archive of more than 900 documents available for IMCA members to download. IMCA also continues to address new topics where working through the Association can benefit members. Recent years have seen heavy involvement in security topics and issues surrounding the development and

Annual seminar heads to Abu Dhabi

The 2005 IMCA Annual Seminar will take place on 22-23 November in Abu Dhabi at the Beach Rotana Hotel & Towers.

Once again the event is being organised by all four technical divisions, with particular focus on diving and marine issues. The programme is already developing well, although suggestions of presentations on topics of interest to members both in the region and around the world are still welcome.

There will be the usual exhibition, at which supplier members of IMCA will have the opportunity to demonstrate their latest products and services.

Details will go out on this shortly, but interested member should contact Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

continued overleaf

IMCA celebrates with Joe!

Joe Turner is IMCA's longest serving member of staff. Earlier this year – 20 years to the day that he joined Tom Hollobone and AODC on 25 February 1985 – Joe was surprised to find himself the guest of honour at an informal lunch with IMCA colleagues. If you have ordered a logbook or a publication from IMCA, the chances are that Joe has packed and dispatched it to you.

As you may guess from the picture, Joe is a keen sportsman. He is an active member of Surrey County Cricket Club and a regular visitor at their London home ground, The Oval. He is also a keen walker and maintains his contacts with the London amateur boxing scene.

The extraordinary twist in this tale is that Joe's service with IMCA follows his official retirement! Some two months into that state of affairs, Joe decided the pace of life was just too slow. He set out to find some action to remedy this and thus began his long association with IMCA and its predecessor on the diving side, AODC.

Today Joe joins us one day week to pack the bulk of the orders. Without his regular and valuable contribution the IMCA secretariat would be hard pressed and we look forward to his continuing support in the future.

Thank you Joe.



Ten productive years... continued from p1

implementation of the ISPS (International Ship & Port Facility Security) Code since 9/11.

The latest examples of its pro-active approach are the new *IMCA Contracting Principles*, designed to raise awareness of contracting issues and to provoke discussion between contractors and clients. It is also working with the wider industry to produce guidelines on risk allocation.

Last but by no means least, as IMCA enters its second decade, the secretariat has settled into new larger offices in London to accommodate its growing team of skilled personnel available to work with members on pressing issues, new opportunities and the latest challenges to face the industry.


IMCA launches Contracting Principles

The IMCA Contracting Principles were published on 25 February and given wide circulation throughout the membership, via our website and through a press release. The web page is getting a lot of hits, so it's clear the document is being well read already.

Since it is a discussion document, the Contracts Workgroup felt that a special event would help promote debate so a launch was organised for 21 April at Trinity Hall in Aberdeen.

After a brief introduction to IMCA by Hugh Williams, Frits Janmaat, IMCA President, and James Bogue of JLT Risk Solutions Energy Division provided background from a contractor's and an insurer's view on the development and status of the current typical contracting regime and risk allocation. Denise Greenhalgh, Technip, Chairman of the IMCA Contracts Workgroup, followed with a description of the Principles.

Alistair McGregor, Venture Production, then provided a client's perspective. He welcomed the Principles as being: an aid for dialogue, smarter behaviour, and the removal of unnecessary burdens; a stimulus towards



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transactional efficiency in the contracting process; and where IMCA had published the Principles under the acronym, FAIR, he described them as 'open and honest'.

Alistair also concluded that clients and contractors faced significant challenges. Dialogue was needed to achieve success for both parties and the Principles were an aid towards such a dialogue.

Lively discussion took place between the ninety participants from contractors, oil companies, legal organisations and other associations, followed by some welcome refreshment, where the consensus was that it had been a very successful evening.

With the launch of the Contracting Principles at the impressive Trinity Hall in Aberdeen, 21 April 2005 proved an important day for IMCA.

A wide variety of people associated with the oil and gas industry showed their interest by attending the launch.

Now, we have to continue the process of striving for 'fairer' contracts with a better balance between risk and reward by promoting dialogue with reference to the Principles throughout our industry. Though unsurprising, it is good to see that the conference planners for the sector are zooming in on the subject as well.

However, at a recent event on Contractual Issues, Risk Distribution,

Collaboration between Operators and Contractors, the 100 or 200 participants present were drawn only from contracting companies so it was not difficult to predict the outcome of these sessions: Contractors agreed that they are clear about what needs to be done.

These conferences, and more particular such sessions, only have value if they attract representative participants from all parties involved in the offshore industry willing to engage in serious discussions with a sincere intent to improve the present situation.

At the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, in a session on the subject of collaboration between operators and contractors, the



unbalanced risk/reward culture in many companies was presented, by an operator, as one of the major causes of value reduction in our business.

Progress is being made on preparation of the risk guidelines that IMCA intends to publish in the near future. These will be another step in the improvement process towards dialogue about 'fairer' contracts and a better balance between risk and reward under contracts in our business.

When this newsletter lands on your desk IMCA's first golf day will have taken place in Aberdeen with another planned for Australia in June. I hope these will become popular and regular events where members and their clients can combine productive networking with a challenging sporting event.

Also, on a social note, don't forget that the IMCA midsummer charity ball takes place again on 17 of June in Aberdeen, where IMCA members are welcome to enjoy a pleasant evening with their colleagues and clients.

Social events

The first IMCA Golf Day is due to take place on 12 May at the Deeside Golf Club, Aberdeen. We will bring you a report in the next issue. Meanwhile, preparations are at an advanced stage for the IMCA Midsummer Charity Ball, which will take place on 17 June. The social highlight of the IMCA calendar, this year's ball will take place at the popular Marcliffe at Pitfodells in Aberdeen, with funds being raised for the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, in aid of malaria research. The evening includes a three course dinner, with music, entertainment and a casino.

Please contact Nina.Adams@imca-int.com to make a booking or with any queries.

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Chairman TCPC: John Greensmyth, Technip

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Vice-Chairman ROV: Andrew Beveridge, Rovtech

IMCA Chief Executive: Hugh Williams

IMCA Technical Director: Jane Bugler

Basic safety training

IMCA has been looking at issues relating to training requirements around the global industry, in particular those for basic safety, offshore survival and helicopter underwater egress training (HUET) courses and certificates.

Contractors often find that they encounter differing requirements from client to client and between different regulatory regimes. Varying syllabi can make it hard to know precisely what potential employees' training may have covered or for them to show their clients that personnel are adequately prepared for the offshore environment where they are working.

To date, companies have had to evolve different ways of dealing with these issues and members have suggested that it would be useful to work through IMCA to improve the situation.

The first task is to assemble a matrix setting out training requirements around the world. Some work has already been done on this, notably at recent meetings of the Asia-Pacific Section, but more data is needed, so members' input is requested.

IMCA's broad-based guidance on safety and emergency training is also to be reviewed and a workgroup has been established to undertake that task. Again, any input from members would be welcome.

Please contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com to contribute to this important work.

High voltage training

Work on developing an outline syllabus for high voltage (HV) training is underway. The secretariat is liaising with a number of contractors and specialist training providers to discuss the particular aspects of training needed by those working with HV systems offshore, relevant regulatory and other industry standards.

Members with expertise in this area and/or those with specific issues to put forward for consideration should contact Nick.Hough@imca-int.com

DP operator competence

The subject of DP operator competency was discussed recently by the TCPC core committee.

The aims of IMCA and the Nautical Institute in relation to competency of DP operators are very similar. To that end, IMCA issued five TCPC information notes between November and May (TCPC 20/4, 22/4, 04/05, 07/05 and 11/05) highlighting issues relevant to the completion of Nautical Institute logbooks and the care required in assessing the training and experience of DP operators.

This is also relevant to the review of *IMCA M 117 – The Training and Experience of Key DP Personnel* – in which a workgroup under the Marine Division Management Committee has studied comments made by users of the guidance and met with the Nautical Institute to discuss various related issues.

The guidance is in the process of review and further news will be provided shortly.



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TCPC Information Notes *published since Issue 34*

TCPC 04/05	Nautical Institute DP operator training
TCPC 05/05	Update on IMO committee meetings
TCPC 06/05	North West European OSV operations
TCPC 07/05	Nautical Institute – DP logbook issues
TCPC 08/05	Emergency towing procedures
TCPC 09/05	Update on IMO committee meetings
TCPC 10/05	The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

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Philip Hargreaves, Stolt Offshore

Darren Bown, Subsea 7

Gavin Smith, Subsea 7

Mike Lloyd, Technip

Brian Robertson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section: Lou Cranek, Institute of ROVs

Asia-Pacific Section: Vacancy

Middle East & India Section: Mohamed Omar, International Naval Works

IMCA Schemes Administrator: Vicki Graham

Latest safety statistics published

IMCA has just published its analysis of members' safety performance in 2004 (information note *IMCA SEL 14/05*). A total of 36 contractors participated in the annual exercise – the highest number of contributors to date.

The analysis shows that the *offshore* lost time injury frequency rate (LTIFR) fell again to 1.65 LTIs per million hours worked in 2004 as compared with 4.25 in 2000, continuing the trend since IMCA first split the offshore and onshore analysis five years ago. The fatal accident rate also fell, to 2.75 fatalities per hundred million hours worked – down from just over 10 in 2000 and 2001.

The overall LTIFR has risen slightly this year – to 1.13 from 0.99 last year, although overall working hours have fallen sharply, largely due to a fall in the reported onshore working hours. While the overall figure was 4.96 in 1997, this is the first recorded increase in overall LTIFR and provides a reminder that, despite the remarkable improvements in offshore safety over recent years, there is still much to be done to hit the zero-injury goal. The SEL committee's work programme continues to expand, with a variety of media used to get the safety message across, from traditional guidance to safety cards, DVDs and online discussion forums. Members' feedback on their own successful safety initiatives is, of course, always welcome.

For the second year, the analysis includes the leading safety performance indicators set out by IMCA in early 2003. With two years' experience in using and reporting the various measures, members are now being asked for their feedback on them in advance of a work-group review, due to begin shortly.

Feedback to Jane.Bugler@imca-int.com

Safety seminars

The proceedings of *Elements for Safety: Completing the Health & Safety Jigsaw*, the IMCA seminar on which we reported in the last issue, have been distributed to delegates and SEL representatives and are available on request to members. The CD contains all 14 presentations together with reports on the highlights from the discussion sessions. The SEL committee is already thinking about next year's safety event. The intention is to focus on the practical aspects of safety and members' suggestions for themes, topics and presentations would be very welcome. Accessible venues in Europe and travel arrangements are currently being investigated, hoping to continue and extend the success of previous events at the football homes of Manchester United, Newcastle United and Ajax.

Pocket safety cards

The latest pocket safety card, entitled *Watch your hands – You've only got one set* has just been distributed to members. This is the eighth in the series, which continues to prove extremely popular among members world-wide. Indeed, the original stocks of the first six cards have already been exhausted and our print runs have been expanded.

Sets of 100 cards are available priced £25+VAT to members (£50 for non-members). Please state which card(s) you require when ordering. Members can also download the print files from the members-only website, which include space for company names, logos and other references.

Working at height DVD

The popular *Working at Height* DVD (*IMCA SEL 009*) has been updated. The revised DVD features subtitles in eight languages – Arabic, Filipino, French, Indonesian, Italian, Malay, Portuguese and Spanish – running alongside the original English audio commentary. The updated DVD is available to members priced at £10+VAT (£50 to non-members). As before, both NTSC (generally North America) and PAL (rest of world) versions are available.

SEL Information Notes published since Issue 34

- SEL 05/05 Protection from risks relating to exposure to carcinogens and mutagens: Proposed UK marine guidance notes
- SEL 06/05 Sikorsky S-76 accident and resultant changes to UKOOA Guidelines for the Management of Helideck Operations
- SEL 07/05 Update on IMO committee meetings
- SEL 08/05 EU Working Time Directive: Possible amendments
- SEL 09/05 Proposed European small claims procedure
- SEL 10/05 North West European OSV operations
- SEL 11/05 Emergency towing procedures
- SEL 12/05 Update on IMO committee meetings
- SEL 13/05 The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

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 Philip Bradbury, Integrated Subsea Services
 Steve MacMillan, J Ray McDermott Eastern Hemisphere
 Sal Ruffino, Saipem
 Ken London, Stolt Offshore
 Allan Hannah, Technip
 Foeke Tulner, Workships Contractors

Americas Deepwater Section: Lynn Lehmann, Saipem

Asia-Pacific Section: Leslie Wong Wui,

Stolt Offshore Asia Pacific/PT Komaritim

Middle East & India Section: Mohamed Osman,
 Maridive & Oil Services

Europe & Africa

New regional workgroups – one addressing decommissioning and another on renewable energy projects – have each held two productive meetings, most recently at Bluewater's Hoofddorp offices in the Netherlands. Both groups saw many interesting issues raised.

There have been wide ranging discussions on safety issues, technical innovation of many kinds and the appropriate sharing of commercial risk in construction and decommissioning projects. The draft position papers developed through these meetings have been revised a number of times, and the renewable energy workgroup is aiming to publish its position paper in time for the All Energy conference taking place on 25-26 May in Aberdeen. A position paper on decommissioning will be published during the summer.

Briefings

IMCA is planning an autumn briefing meeting for its new members and clients from within this region. The aim is to ensure new members understand IMCA and its work and to gain feedback on how the Association can work with and for new members, better spread its messages and continue to expand membership.

Middle East & India

The Middle East & India Section is proudly supporting and actively involved in plans for the IMCA Annual Seminar, which will take place on 22-23 November 2005 in Abu Dhabi (UAE).

Caspian Sea

When IMCA first gained members in the Caspian Sea area, they were grouped into the Europe & Africa region as, at the time, a number of companies ran their Caspian Sea operations from their European offices. However, with a growing number of companies now running Caspian Sea operations from the Middle East, the Overall Management Committee recently considered and agreed to reclassify this area as coming under the Middle East & India Section. Any such member wishing to retain links with IMCA's Europe & Africa Section activities may continue to do so.

Asia-Pacific

The section's latest successful meeting – held on 10 March in Jakarta, Indonesia – was attended by over 35 members and guests.

Discussion focused on the new requirements in Australia and it was agreed that senior representatives of the new Australian National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) should be invited to attend the next meeting, to be held on 9 June in Perth, Australia. IMCA has been active in discussions with this new body, which took over state regulation of offshore activities at the start of this year, and a major issue for contractors operating in Australian waters is the extension of safety case requirements.

Briefing on this topic was offered to members recently (*IMCA SEL 37/04*) and the topic has proved to be a hot subject at a number of recent committee meetings. It's hoped a constructive dialogue will be established between members and NOPSA.

On a lighter note, the section is also organising an informal golf day on 10 June, details of which are being provided to members.



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The latest section meeting took place on 9 May in Jebel Ali, UAE. A report will appear in the next issue.

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J Ray McDermott E. Hemisphere
Vice-Chairman: Charlie Rogerson,
Consolidated Contractors Co.

Asia-Pacific Section

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Vice-Chairman: John van Kuyk, Anglo-Eastern Group

Europe & Africa Section Steering Committee

Chairman: Robin Davies, Subsea 7
Vice-Chairman: Ian Stevenson, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section

Chairman: Roy Sijthoff, Allseas Group
Vice-Chairman: Craig Broussard, Subsea 7

Americas Deepwater

The section will hold its next meeting on 19 May at Stolt Offshore's offices in Houston. After a shorter world-wide update for members, this event will focus on key issues affecting members in the region – for example initiatives such as SafeGulf and STAMP (see below) and on other work being done in the sub-groups including offshore diving issues, the testing of deepwater ROV umbilicals, periodic DP trials for drilling rigs and digital video guidance. The meeting will also look at how to continue expanding the membership.

This is an important time, as the section begins to mature and looks to define its objectives and work programme for the future. This meeting will give members the opportunity to say what IMCA should be doing for them and the key issues contractors operating in the Americas face.

Joint SEL and TCPC sub-group meetings held recently have included a major focus on the SafeGulf and STAMP initiatives which aim to improve safety in the Gulf of Mexico. While agreeing that safety must maintain a high priority at all times, some members have expressed concern about the number of different initiatives and subtle variation in their requirements which can require a lot of time and resources to reach the same goal. The sub-group has been looking to establish exactly how IMCA members' operations are covered by these initiatives, the implications of this and how the guidelines and practices used by IMCA members already match the highest standards. Work and dialogue continue – members with an interest in this topic are encouraged to participate in future sub-group meetings.

ROV handling systems

The latest guidance note from the Remote Systems & ROV Division is *The Initial and Periodic Examination, Testing and Certification of ROV Handling Systems (IMCA R 011)*.

The objectives are to provide:

- guidance on aspects of ROV handling systems;
- criteria for the initial/periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV launch and recovery systems;
- criteria for initial/periodic examination, testing and certification of ROV wires, load bearing umbilicals and terminations.

This material updates and supersedes *AODC 036 Rev 1* on the same subject. It also incorporates the latest guidance based on *IMCA R 003*, which dealt with *Termination of load bearing umbilicals or lift cables used in ROV handling systems*. Input and feedback from around the world, notably IMCA's Americas ROV sub-group, has helped to ensure the international applicability of the new guidance.

Annual statistics

ROV statistics for the North Sea for 2002-3 were issued earlier this year via information note *IMCA R 02/05*.

A call has now gone out for input from members regarding their 2004 statistics.

For the first time, IMCA is aiming to produce figures for other areas of the world – Middle East/Caspian, West Africa, Asia-Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Brazil in addition to the North Sea analysis performed previously.

Activity levels will also be reported according to the type of operation, including inspection, drill support, construction and cable lay.

All ROV contractor members are asked to forward their returns as soon as possible.

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John Rossier, Covus
Dave McKay, Fugro Survey
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Keith Robathan, Saipem
Colin Mackay, Stolt Offshore
Neil Milne, Subsea 7
Dave Walker, Technip

Americas Deepwater Section:
Vacancy

Asia-Pacific Section: Neil Forbes,
Technip Oceania

Middle East & India Section:
Chris Blake,
Fugro Survey Middle East

Remote Systems & ROV Information Notes

published since Issue 34

- R 02/05 ROV and diving statistics for the North Sea: Statistics for 2002 and 2003
- R 03/05 The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

New ROV CD

The secretariat is now finalising a new CD which will make available the complete collection of current IMCA (and AODC) *Guidance on ROV Operations*.

This resource comes in the same style as the popular diving CD. It will therefore include guidance and information notes from the Remote Systems & ROV Division, plus material from the core activities (SEL and TCPC), including IMCA safety flashes issued over the last eight years.

All members of the division will receive a copy shortly.

CO₂ levels for HES testing

Members will recall that the 2004 update of the hyperbaric evacuation system environmental control testing protocol (*IMCA D 09/04*) included an increased injection rate for carbon dioxide, based on figures for the metabolic heat output of divers. However, despite detailed discussion prior to publication of the protocol, verification tests by members identified that the stated figure may have been too high.

IMCA commissioned Professor Michael Tipton of Portsmouth University, a leading expert on respiratory physiology, to undertake a series of representative tests and obtain data on CO₂ production levels for subjects in an HES in different wave conditions with a view to recommending a reasonable and safe requirement for scrubbing CO₂ within an HES. The report on this work has just been received. IMCA now intends updating the protocol to reflect the findings, aiming to publish a revised version later in the year.

Verification of diver qualifications

To help contractors verify the validity of diver qualifications, IMCA has produced an information note (*D 06/05*) setting out the contact details for all of certifying authorities whose certificates are recognised under the IMCA International Code of Practice for Offshore Diving (as updated in *IMCA D 04/05*).

Neurological assessment

IMCA has produced a new video demonstrating the neurological assessment of a diver. Available as a DVD/CD set with accompanying notes, the intention is not to set out detailed instructions, but rather to aid formal training on the subject. The video is intended as an introduction to the start of structured training on undertaking such assessments. It can also be used in refresher training.

The video set is available priced at £10 (members)/£50 (non-members).

Nick McIver OBE

IMCA congratulates Dr NKI ('Nick') McIver on his being awarded the OBE for outstanding services to diving safety. Nick has worked with the Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC), IMCA and several member companies over a number of years. Nick is well known around the North Sea and further afield, and it is great to see his major contribution recognised in this way.

North Sea diving statistics

IMCA is currently collecting members' input on diving activity in the North Sea during 2004. While there has been an overall decline in activity over recent years, the 2003 report showed that the situation appeared to be stabilising and this snapshot will no doubt provide further interesting reading.

Those contractors based in the North Sea who have yet to submit their figures are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Training Opportunities

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Dividing Information Notes *published since Issue 34*

- D 04/05 Diver and supervisor certification
- D 05/05 ROV and diving statistics for the North Sea: Statistics for 2002 and 2003
- D 06/05 Verification of diver qualifications
- D 07/05 The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

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 Jerry Starling, Integrated Subsea Services
 Darren Brunton, KB Associates
 Sal Ruffino, Saipem
 Joar Gangenes, Stolt Offshore

Americas Deepwater Section: Allan Palmer, Stolt Offshore

Asia-Pacific Section: RP Singh, Stolt Offshore Asia
 Pacific/PT Komaritim

Middle East & India Section: Steve MacMillan, J Ray
 McDermott Eastern Hemisphere

Digital video guidance

The digital video workgroup has nearly completed its wide ranging review. The resulting document will be of great interest to IMCA members and other parties.

This original aim of this exercise was to produce 'guidelines for digitally stored video data on offshore visual inspection tasks', but as work has progressed, the material has developed from a guidance project into an information based review of the various technologies available, for which the suggested title is now 'Digital Video – A review of current and future technologies'.

The use of digital video amongst members has increased in the last two years, and the need for clear information amongst contractor members and their clients is of paramount importance. There are a great many questions that need addressing, and it is hoped that the document will cover many of these.

The cross-industry group has involved IMCA members in the Offshore Survey and Remote Systems & ROV Divisions, together with representatives of key technology firms in the area, gaining valuable expert input from each perspective.

The review will cover the use of digital video data in offshore survey and inspection, the management of digital video data including client security and 'video overlay', as well as the best possible review of present and future equipment that is actually possible in what is a very fast-moving technological environment.

The workgroup may remain in place in the future to undertake further reviews of the technical appendices to this important document, as it seems likely that these will become dated rather swiftly.

The workgroup chairman – Will Primavesi of Saipem – is scheduled to talk about the workgroup's activities, including a presentation of the review document, at the IMCA Annual Seminar to be held in Abu Dhabi this coming November.

Offshore Survey Division Management Committee

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Vice-Chairman: Will Primavesi, Saipem

Stuart Reid, Andrews Survey
Ian McKenzie, Fugro Survey
Bob Downing, Maritech
Brian Beard, Noordhoek Offshore
Keith McGregor, Oceanteam IRM
Ray Morgan, Stolt Offshore

Americas Deepwater Section:
Stephen Browne, Subsea 7

Asia-Pacific Section: Dave Scott, Fugro Survey

Middle East & India Section: Phil Hillier, Fugro Survey (Middle East)

Competence of freelance geophysicists

We reported in Issue 34 on the launch of IMCA's information pack on competence assurance and assessment for experienced freelance personnel.

The pack is already attracting interest and a high number of downloads from the website at www.imca-int.com/competence and a further meeting is planned for later in the year with personnel agencies. This will enable two-way discussion on how best contractors and agencies can continue working together to integrate such personnel into their in-house competence schemes.

The finishing touches are now being put to inserts for the three grades of geophysicist set out in IMCA's competence framework. Members and known agencies will automatically receive a copy and they will appear on the website once available.

Agencies not already on our mailing lists are welcome and encouraged to get in touch.

Offshore Survey Information Notes published since Issue 34

S 02/05 The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

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3 & 3A Church Street, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4DT, Great Britain

FMEA management guide now available

Over the past ten years, IMCA has produced a considerable number of guidance documents to help members commissioning and carrying out failure modes and effects analyses – FMEAs – of dynamically positioned vessels.

In 2003, a comprehensive introduction to dynamic positioning (DP) was added to the IMCA website. However, there has not previously been a suitable guide to help decision makers and implementation professionals within the industry to assess quickly and easily the minimum requirements for carrying out an FMEA on a new vessel and to enable them to ensure that existing FMEAs either already meet suitable standards or are reviewed and updated to the required level.

This document is intended as a concise framework guide. It outlines the steps to be taken under different scenarios using flowsheets. It then goes on to address the basic questions likely to be asked by managers and professionals. It also directs users to relevant industry guidance and standards necessary to achieve the high level of assurance against single point failures required in the offshore industry.

Copies of IMCA M 178 are available on the members-only website or in printed form priced at £15/£60 members/non-members.

Marine Division Management Committee

Chairman: Hugo Bekker, Allseas Group
Vice-Chairman: Pete Somner, Subsea 7

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David Blencowe, Maersk Supply Service
Ken McLean, Poseidon Maritime
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Asia-Pacific Section: Andy Bolton, Technip Oceania
Middle East & India Section:
Lachlan McKelvie, Seabulk Offshore

DP guidance for OSVs

The international cross industry workgroup, being facilitated by IMCA, is now working on a second draft of guidance for the use of DP on offshore supply vessels (OSVs). The first draft received some helpful feedback, which led to a number of amendments, particularly in the expected areas of debate – those involving competency and risk assessment.

The guidance on procedures and best practice was highlighted in the first draft as a tentative proposal in order to draw debate. It certainly won attention and it will be of great interest to see if the resulting new section corresponds with the group's requirements.

Essentially, the principal risk to be assessed in relevant operations is that of loss of position and minimising this risk is the basis for the guidance in this section.

The main elements of the assessment are identified as the capability of the DP OSV and the nature of close proximity to an installation.

An installation is used because it is the simplest way of structuring the principle of the risk assessment, but it is recognised in the guidance that a supply vessel could be working in other operations, such as keeping station with a pipe layer, for example. DP OSV capability is examined and categorised. The nature of the close proximity is then similarly categorised. These categories are then used in a vessel positioning matrix, which is suggested as a tool to aid risk assessment.

The DP operational procedures described in the first draft have been revisited and reworked in more of a checklist fashion culminating in an example risk assessment.

The document has thus matured significantly and the workgroup will no doubt continue the process. The workgroup has itself grown to include another major supply vessel operator and other interested parties.

The responses to the first draft reflected the amount of care and consideration given by the workgroup not only to the concept, but to the needs of owners, operators and charterers. It was a time consuming task for all of those involved and will continue to be so, but the end product should justify the effort.

If you or your company wish to be involved in this project it is not too late to join the workgroup. Fresh eyes can be of great value. Please contact Philip.Wiggs@imca-int.com if you want to take part.

DP incidents

The fourteenth annual report on dynamic positioning station keeping incidents has been published (IMCA M 177). Some 51 reported incidents which occurred during 2003 are covered, with a comprehensive event tree for each together with analysis and summary of key findings and trends. Copies have been sent to all Marine Division members and to all known member DP vessels. Additional copies can be purchased, either individually or as part of a printed collection 1989-2003. Reports from 2000 onwards are also available for downloading.

Members who have yet to submit their incident data for 2004 are asked to do so as soon as possible, so work can start on that analysis. Please also ensure that report forms in use are the latest version, showing IMCA's new *5 Lower Belgrave Street* address on the front.

Marine Information Notes *published since Issue 34*

- M 05/05 Nautical Institute DP operator training
- M 06/05 Sikorsky S-76 accident and resultant changes to UKOOA Guidelines for the Management of Helideck Operations
- M 07/05 Update on IMO committee meetings
- M 08/05 North West European OSV operations
- M 09/05 Nautical Institute – DP logbook issues
- M 10/05 Emergency towing procedures
- M 11/05 Update on IMO committee meetings
- M 12/05 The use of simulators in relation to training, certification and competence assessment

Crane projects

The Marine Division Committee embarked on an ambitious and interesting programme in respect of crane and winch operations at the outset of this year. The intention is to produce guidance on:

- training and competence of crane operators on construction vessels and in use of small cranes and winch operation (liaising with TCPC committee)
- crane operations guidance generally, with focus on particular issues such as black box requirements
- revision of the crane specification document
- further development of operational communications guidance relating to crane operations
- a crane reliability study
- re-activating the lifting incident database
- an abandonment and recovery (A&R) winch specification document (based on the crane specification document)
- A&R and anchor handling winch operations generally.

The secretariat's current workload and that of the committees on other existing projects has slowed the start of these efforts although some progress has been made.

Workgroups will be formed when the secretariat and the committees 'get on deck' to tackle these tasks.

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Introducing new members

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Published quarterly to promote knowledge of safety and technical matters affecting the marine, underwater and engineering industry.

Succinct, positive contributions of potential interest to a wide cross-section of IMCA members are welcome.

Views expressed on these pages don't automatically reflect policies or positions of IMCA itself.

Edited & produced by Hannah Pearce <zintl@gn.apc.org>

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as of 30 April 2005

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5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR
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