



**Global
Underwater
Hub News**

IN THIS ISSUE

Venterra: Ocean Data Key to Floating Offshore Wind Progress

Viewport3's Secret to Success in Subsea 3D Scanning

OCEANDRONE: New AI-Powered Navigation and Collision Avoidance Systems

GUH Market Intelligence: Q4 Report

Plus, the latest news from across the underwater sectors

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NAVIGATING THE BLUE FRONTIER

A dramatic photograph of a lighthouse on a rocky island at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long rays of light that reflect on the water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The lighthouse is a small, white and red striped tower on a dark, rocky outcrop.



Offshore construction platform for production oil and gas

Providing Quality Medical and HSE Support for Remote Projects at Sea

By David Thompson, Director of UK Sales, RMI



For projects operating in hard-to-reach locations, ensuring the health and wellbeing of workers is mission critical amidst constant changes in equipment, personnel, location and varying logistical and legal requirements. In order to prevent injury and delays, consulting with experts in offshore medicine is essential, along with thorough preparation and planning.

Diving support

At offshore sites in the North Sea or globally, where air or saturation diving is required to carry out construction activity or minor repairs, RMI, which delivers medical and technical support for vessels and subsea projects, is providing a new specialist medical diving service. RMI ensures that subsea teams are supported by an expert on-call doctor, who is able to provide qualified trained advice to the medic and personnel alongside the patient in saturation.

On-site medical services also serve as an injury and illness mitigation resource. One preventative measure is ensuring that workers are medically screened prior to working offshore. Screening standards, such as Offshore Energies United Kingdom (OEUK) medicals, can help to identify major risk factors in individuals that would make it unsafe for them to work offshore.

Dealing with medical emergencies

Even with the best preventative measures in place, being prepared for medical emergencies in a remote offshore environment is essential. One of the main things that companies can put in place is both on-site and topside medical support and a comprehensive Medical Emergency Response Plan (MERP).

One recent example of a successful medevac involved an employee aboard an offshore support vessel who suddenly developed itchininess, hives, shortness of breath, and wheezing. The patient had a pre-existing allergy and had accidentally been exposed to the allergen.

Even after the medic on board administered subcutaneous epinephrine, the patient's symptoms recurred and worsened. The onboard medic called in RMI's on-call topside physician for guidance, who was able to provide clear direction on how to manage the situation. The patient developed biphasic anaphylaxis and was having a life-threatening allergic reaction.

RMI's physician directed the onboard medic to administer epinephrine and to use a drug mist delivery device to address the breathing difficulties breathing. They continued advising the medic to ensure critical medications were delivered timely and effectively to better control the allergic response. The patient began to improve and the MERP in place allowed the team to safely stabilise the patient until the local coast guard arrived and evacuated the patient to mainland, where he was able to achieve a full recovery.

Facilitating on-call medical support and MERPs are both specialist but vital considerations that organisations must make for any subsea project to ensure productive and safe operations at sea.



Paramedics unloading patient from Medevac



Working at height on offshore wind turbine

Smarter Subsea Handling Announces New Products for Pipeline Bundles Recovery; Cable Lifting and Handling

In response to market demand, Smarter Subsea Handling has developed two new product concepts which enhance the functionality of their internationally patented ROVAR variable and controllable buoyancy system.

“ROVAR” (Remotely Operated Vehicle for Assets Recovery) is a unique load-bearing, remotely operating and autonomous underwater vehicle with a controllable cryogenic buoyancy system at its core. The system carries any subsea infrastructure through the water column in all axes, enabling loads to be delivered to, removed from, and between locations on the seabed and surface.

Through consultation during 2023 with the oil & gas sector and the industry regulator (OPRED), as well as offshore wind project developers, Smarter Subsea Handling has developed two new products which, like its core ROVAR product, can be deployed independently from a conventional multi-use vessel as part of the backdeck equipment.

ROVAR-BB, or Buoyancy Beam, has been designed to provide dynamic buoyancy for handling elongated structures such as the removal of oil & gas pipeline bundles, and the handling (and repositioning) of cables, umbilicals and tubulars at any stage of a project lifecycle across all marine sectors. ROVAR-BB has been designed with buoyant caissons along its beam to allow the controlled lifting of elongated structures with different longitudinal weight distributions.

Integrated with cutting and crimping tooling, ROVAR-BB can cut and lift sections of pipeline bundles into, for example, 100m sections using multiple ROVAR units to spread the elongated load and recover the sections to surface. Once at surface, the sections can “hand-off” to fixed buoyancy for wet-tow to recycling yards, while the ROVAR units can remain onsite to continue the sectioning operation.

In circumstances when offloading sections of pipeline to a submersible barge is preferred over wet-tow, the ROVAR-WB or buoyant Wet Basket product, would be deployed alongside ROVAR-BB to collect sections of pipeline bundles (typically around 20m

sections). Once full, the ROVAR-WB's buoyancy would be activated for lift-to-surface and transfer of the sections to a submersible barge for eventual tow to recycling yards.

ROVAR-WB is an adapted subsea basket with integral buoyancy caissons for providing independent and controllable lift functionality without the need to use a conventional winch and crane. ROVAR-WB can be designed to any practical length and weight bearing capacity, and can be deployed as a “seabed trailer”, attached to a ROVAR master unit as a “seabed truck”, to be shunted or towed into position.

ROVAR-WB is optimal in multiple scenarios where wet lay-down is needed, or preferred, to simplify and reduce the costs of subsea operations. The seabed “truck and trailer” is ideal where infrastructure needs to be deployed in a “pick and place” or be recovered in a “hunt and gather” mode.

Richard Stevens, CEO said: “By expanding the operational capability of the ROVAR product range, we can reduce complexity and costs to marine operations, expand the range of solutions to subsea challenges, and address OPRED regulatory requirements.”

Smarter Subsea Handling are presenting at the Subsea Expo conference, 21 February 2024 at P&J Live, in the “Spotlight on Underwater Pipelines” session. For more information on the free-to-attend conference at Subsea Expo, visit www.subseaexpo.com

C-SAM and HycAero Renew 5-year Partnership

In a significant move underlining their commitment to innovation and sustained growth, C-SAM and HycAero have announced the renewal of their partnership for an additional five years. The extension marks a continuation of their successful collaboration and signals a shared vision to fortify their position in the industry for the long haul.

The partnership between C-SAM, a leading asset and rental software solutions provider, and HycAero, a prominent player in the aviation sector, has been characterised by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a drive for continuous improvement. With a focus on bolstering operational efficiency and streamlining various facets of their business, both companies have experienced a remarkable trajectory of progress.

The foundation of their partnership has been laid on the integration of modules encompassing asset management, stock control, quotation, production, sales inquiries, and finance. This comprehensive suite of tools has not only facilitated seamless operations but has also empowered both entities to delve into insightful reporting and strategic capacity planning, projecting their ambitions as far as two decades into the future.

One of the standout features of this extended partnership lies in its ability to optimise asset utilisation to its fullest potential. By leveraging innovative modules and strategies, C-SAM and HycAero aim to maximise Return on Investment by implementing advanced approaches such as component revenue splitting and forward-looking forecasting methodologies.

A key element driving their success has been the collaborative spirit that defines their relationship. The synergy between C-SAM's technological prowess and HycAero's domain expertise has not only enhanced operational efficiency but has also facilitated a seamless flow of information and processes, allowing for quicker decision-making and adaptability.