INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

iDSA

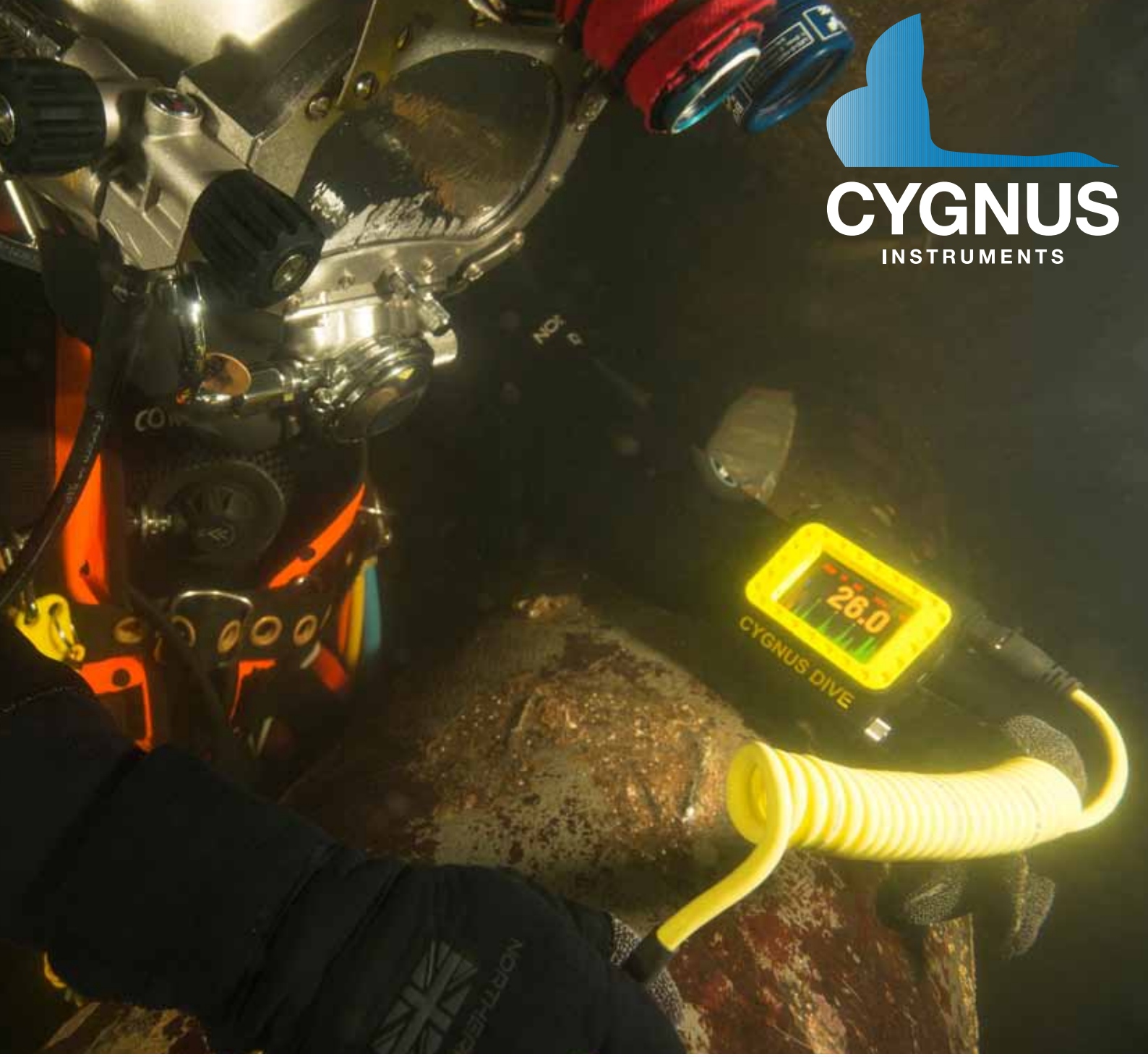
NEWS EDITION NO.26 JULY 2015

PLYMOUTH SHIPWRECKS

COMMERCIAL DIVING IN SPAIN

DEVELOPMENTS IN SICILIAN LAW

THE ANNUAL MEETING



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INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
IDSA
NEWS

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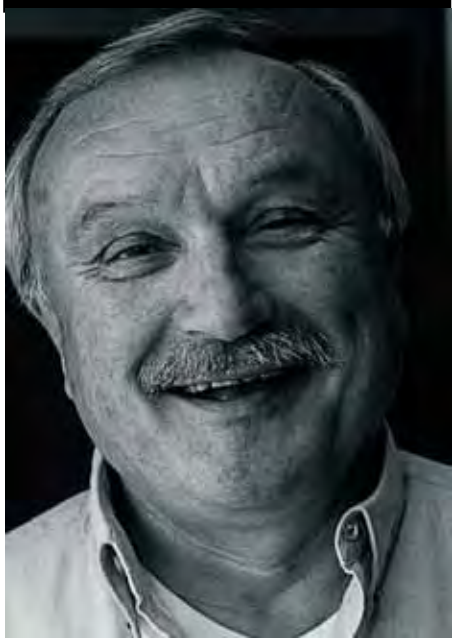
FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Members

First may I welcome the Aegean Diving Services as an Associate Member.

Another year has gone by, and we are again looking at the Annual Meeting, this year in Cork where our hosts – the Irish Naval Diving Section – are offering a very warm welcome, both professionally and socially. It looks to be an interesting meeting and currently the Board is considering the following items for the Agenda:

- A Commercial Diving Instructor Qualification
- The need for an IDSA Diver Training Manual
- The revision of the Level 2 Standard to include the use of mixed gases in Inland /Inshore Operations.
- Acceptance of Change 1 to the Standards and Procedures
- The possibility of subdividing the Level 2 syllabus – adding a 'bolt on' module to the existing 30m standard and taking it to 50 without Wet Bell or Hot Water Suit training
- A Logbook for Instructors
- A Logbook for Students
- The Use of the IDSA Logo
- Whether the Annual subscription should be less for a school teaching Level 1 and increased through Level 2, 3 & 4 ?
- Obtaining an ISO Approval
- Liaison with other organisations

Several of these items might affect the future shape and operations of the Association, therefore we would very much like to receive comments on these items, fresh suggestions will be most welcome, as will ideas for presentations - I am sure many members to know that Rory Golden has agreed to recount his involvement in the exploration of the 'Titanic,

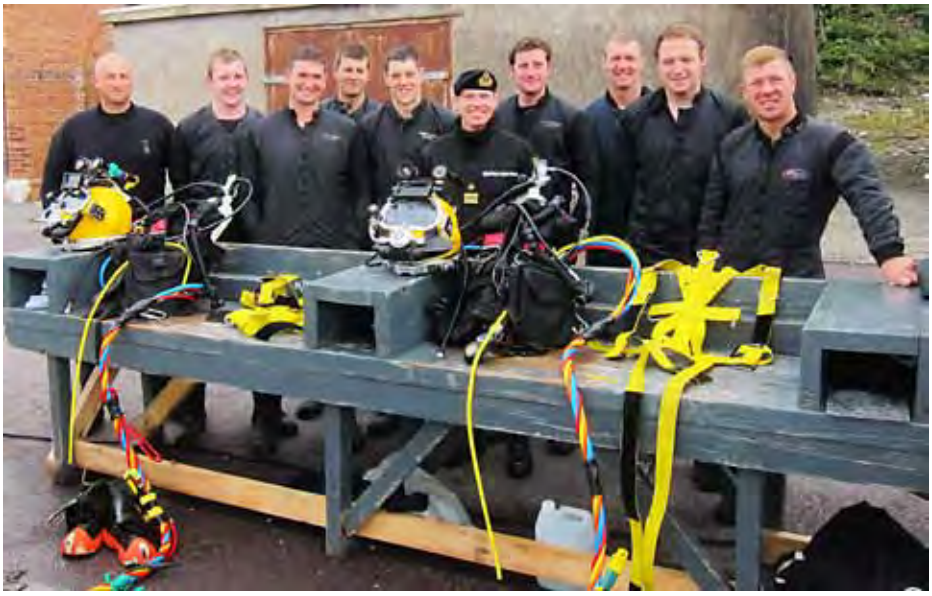
The move of the administration is proceeding slowly and it is planned that all correspondence and the accounts will be handled in Delft at the start of 2016.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible in Cork

Leo Lagarde, Chairman

THE IDSA ANNUAL MEETING IN CORK

Wednesday 16th to Friday18th September 2015



The Hosts

The Flag Officer Commanding the Irish Naval Service, Commodore Hugh Tully has agreed that the Diving Section of the Irish Naval Service, headed by Lieutenant Commander Tony O'Regan NS, MCDO will host the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Association. The meeting will take place in the Main Irish Naval Base which is situated on the island of Haulbowline in Cork City Harbour, on the South West coast of Ireland. Cork is the 2nd largest city in the Republic of Ireland, and the deepest natural harbour in Ireland. The Diving Section, formed in the late 1960's, uses part of the island for its Operational, Training, and Administrative requirements

ABOUT THE MEETING

The meeting Hotel is the Imperial Hotel situated right in the heart of Cork city. The meeting itself will take place in a Lecture Room at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), a modern sophisticated establishment about 20 minutes from the Meeting Hotel and a kilometre from the Diving Section (transport will be provided) The Institute has all the facilities necessary to train maritime personnel for all aspects of Offshore and Shipbourne routine and emergency operations.

Accommodation

The Meeting Hotel is:
The Imperial Hotel
South Mall
Cork,
Ireland
Tel: +353 21 4274040
E Mail:eoleary@imperialhotelcork.ie
Web: www.flynnhotels.com

A very special rate has been arranged for delegates from PM 15th to AM 18th Sep, which is: Bed and full Irish breakfast €115 per person per night – single occupancy, and €67.50 per person sharing per night – double/twin occupancy

Please Note:

All rooms must be booked and paid for by Individuals by E mailing reservations@imperialhotelcork.ie quoting reference **INS01**.

- A credit card number with expiry date, will be required to confirm bookings
- Bookings at the Special rate will not be accepted after 31st July
- There is no charge for cancellations made **before**1500 on the day of arrival. There will be a 100% 'non-arrival' charge after 1500

The Outline Programme

TUESDAY 15th September
1830 to 2030 Welcome Drinks at the Imperial Hotel and registration

WEDNESDAY 16th
0845 Transport leaves the Hotel for the Maritime College
0930 to 1 230 Meeting Session **One**
1230 to 1245 Group Photograph – Naval Photographer will print copies for all
1245 to 1345 Lunch
1345 to 1500 Tour of School – NMCI & Naval Base
1500 to 1600 Meeting Session **Two**
1630 to 1800 Guided tour of the Jameson Distillery.

THURSDAY 17th
0845 Transport leaves the Hotel for the Maritime College
0930 to 1230 Meeting Session **Three**
1230 to 1330 Lunch
1400 to 1700 Tour/presentations/ demonstrations.
1830 Transport leaves the Hotel for Dinner in the Officers Mess in the Naval Base
1900 Pre-Dinner drinks
1930 The Association Dinner
Note *: Transport back to the Hotel will be arranged as necessary.*

FRIDAY 18th
0930 to 1200 Meeting Session **Four**
1200 End of Meeting

Travel

The nearest airport is Cork airport which hosts a number of European flights and is just 10km outside Cork city. There are regular buses and taxis just outside the arrivals area, at a cost of approx €15 - €18 to the hotel. Please see www.corkairport.com for information.

Transatlantic flights arriving into Shannon Airport- This airport is approx 2.5 hrs by road from

Cork City's Bus Eireann providesconnections to and from all of Ireland's major cities.

Visit www.shannonairport.ie or www.aircoach.ie for information.

Dublin airport is located 10km North of Dublin City and served by a large number of buses coaches and taxis. The GObe bus serves cork city directly and takes approx 3.5 hrs with prices @ €28 return from the airport.

Please see www.dublinairport.com

Attendance & the Conference Fee

The meeting is open to both Members and non-members – the latter as observers. Thanks to the support of the Irish Naval Section, the Conference Fee for Members this year is €250 per delegate for Members and €300 for non-Members. Wives or Partners wishing to attend meals and other social occasions e.g. the Association Dinner may do so paying the amount relevant to the event.

The fee will cover: Attendance, welcome drinks on Tuesday evening, refreshments throughout the meeting, Lunch Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the Association dinner on Thursday evening and all transport.

ABOUT THE CITY

Since the City was founded by St Finbarr over 1,000 years ago it has grown from a trading merchant city to a cosmopolitan vibrant 21st century city of today.

The city, situated on the banks of the river Lee, is home to 123,000 people, spread over an area of 3,731 hectares, boasting the deepest natural harbour in Ireland with direct ferry crossings to UK and mainland Europe. Cork is a university city with a total student population in excess of 25,000 it has two main third level education institutes - University College Cork and Cork Institute of Technology.

Cork city has a number of strategic advantages that continue to be translated into further opportunities for growth and development. The city has a thriving commercial, social and cultural sector, and it's well balanced economy has attracted many major companies to the area. Manufacturing, especially electronics, telecommunications, ICT and Health, Pharmaceutical (8 of the top 10 companies in the world) are located in the greater Cork area. The services sector is also well developed.

Cork city's commitment and contribution to the Arts and cultural life is well established. The city is home to several galleries, museums.

Offshore diving operations management and training

- IMCA Diver Medic
- IMCA Trainee Air & Bell Diving Supervisor
- IMCA ALST
- IMCA & IDSA Diver Assessments
- HSE Offshore Medic
- Advanced Medical Skills
- First Aid & Emergency First Aid
- MCA Medical Courses
- RYA First Aid
- HSE Approved Courses
- Overseas Training
- In-House Training
- NPD Leadership
- DSV Audits
- Risk Assessments
- Personnel & Equipment

HSE Health & Safety Executive

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ALLTAB®
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Technological advances have changed the global business environment dramatically in recent decades. Technology goes forward with the speed of light, also in the diving industry. The ways of working under water are changing as well. The traditional methods are still used by many, but new data collection methods are emerging. Different devices may replace some work done by the diver, but much of the work conducted underwater still needs human presence.

Finland's leading company specialized in the underwater environment, Alleco, has created an underwater tablet that they use today for data collection in order to make their work faster and more efficient.

The idea started out in the field when the company's divers were collecting a huge amount of data and transferring it afterwards manually from the hand-written plastic sheets to the computer database. The data transferring phase took a lot of time and effort, so an idea to develop something that is more of the 21st century style emerged.

As a result, a tablet with a fully functional touchscreen was developed for underwater use and launched at the Eurotec diving conference in Birmingham in the fall of 2014. This innovative and robust piece of equipment can be taken down to 150 meters. With the ALLTAB underwater tablet the data can be fed into an electronic format right from the beginning of the research. Alleco developed a unique technology solution that enabled the use of touch screen underwater with or without diving gloves.

There were no existing applications for underwater usage, because quite frankly, who would have thought that you could be using your tablet underwater? Therefore, Alleco's team also created a data collection software optimized for divers. With the help of this software, they could easily collect the needed data and then right after the dive, or later on in the office, it could be shared, modified, or processed, and the results were ready. The combination of the software and the underwater tablet was a huge leap forward compared to the data collection methods used earlier.

The company has been working within the underwater field since 1989. "In the beginning of my career the data was collected onto plastic slates that you needed to make rough with iron wool so that the pencil trace would stick to the surface. Today, with ALLTAB, we are light-years ahead of those times", explains the company's founder and CEO Jouni Leinikki. "Now the data can be collected and managed with accuracy. Mistakes also happen more seldom and the data can be modified quickly to any form we need", clarifies Jouni

This new innovation has attracted a lot of attention in the international arena, not only among scientific divers, but also within the professional and military diving industry more broadly. The tablet can be used to carry and read documentation in a compact way. It also serves as a means to control devices that have Wi-Fi control software available, so using it as a larger screen for GoPro cameras is also possible. Diving instructors may carry along training materials in an electronic format, record the students' progress under water and give instant feedback.

Alleco has also continued its R&D activities and will be launching later this year a solution that makes it possible for the diver to have an internet connection and GPS positioning available while diving. The company has also developed other software solutions, the latest being a software for cave diving explorers. With this software, the diver can take measurements of the cave and after the information has been fed in the tablet, the program creates a 3D map of the given measurements. Last, but not least, why not make the deco time a little more fun – playing Angry Birds or watching a movie during decompression can make the otherwise boring time much more fun.

"We have received many enquiries about the data collection methods we use and the new opportunities our products offer for professional divers. It's great to be involved in developing new methods for data collection and be a part of helping our customers make their operations better and more efficient", says Alleco's commercial director Dennis Hamro-Drotz.

Digitalization is predicted to be in its early stages, which means that the future of the business environment is going to evolve even more. This means that companies need agility to adapt to the changes. Why not take advantage of the situation and harness technology to help keeping up with the challenges – even underwater?

For more info, please visit http://alleco.fi/en/products/equipment/alltab/, or watch a short video of the Alltab in use at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7ynlYTenyw

COMMERCIAL DIVING IN SPAIN

In December 2014 OCÉANOS the Commercial Diving School, Barcelona, hosted the first "Spanish Commercial Divers Meeting" with the assistance of all professional representatives in Spain who are working in both the Offshore and Inshore sectors of the Diving Industry,

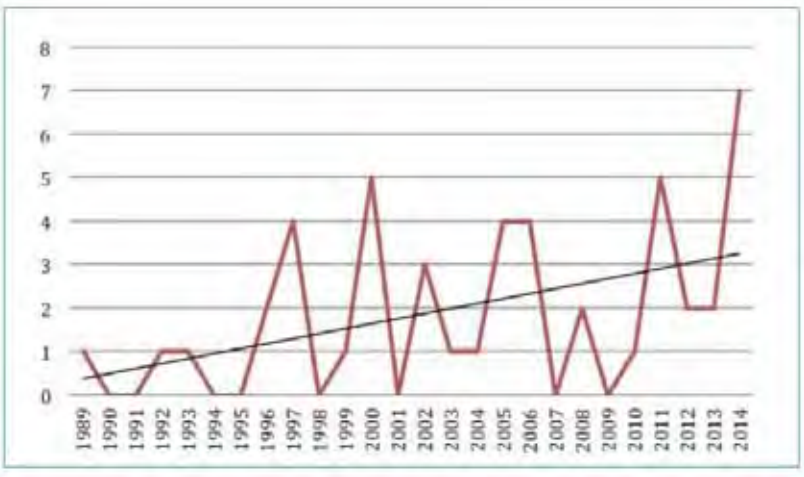
Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Buceo Profesional (ANEBP), the delegates represented diving companies, trade union of divers, safety specialists, hyperbaric doctors, related industries, and GEAS (Underwater Security Group) which allowed a full exchange of views, and it was soon apparent that they held similar views which were based on the fundamental importance of improving safety and maintaining a continuous training programme for divers and their support staff

Listening to the needs of the divers and the industry, OCÉANOS has one exclusive goal during a training course in that it should be rigorous and demonstrate the maximum safety both in operational procedures and equipment care - essential to underwater intervention. It is important that students become aware that professional diving work involves risk which should be assessed at all times and minimized. Therefore during the courses, especially at the level SSD 50m Wet Bell System – IDSA Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver) - the school incorporates safety tasks that students will find in a real work situation, e.g

- Participation in a risk assessment before each dive
- Take part in a briefing before each practical session where, in addition to planning the working procedures, the students discuss the potential risks of the work and study the actions contemplated to minimize them.
- Carrying out emergency drills of different types, loss of coms/air, unconscious diver, etc. and being assessed on their performance.

The student of the future is a professional who should incorporate safety practices that diving companies should consider in advance. If, unfortunately, the company has not made a risk assessment, the diver should be encouraged to ask for one and point out the risks and propose more or different security measures to minimize them. . Changes do not always come from above.

Diving accidents in Spain 1989 to 2014



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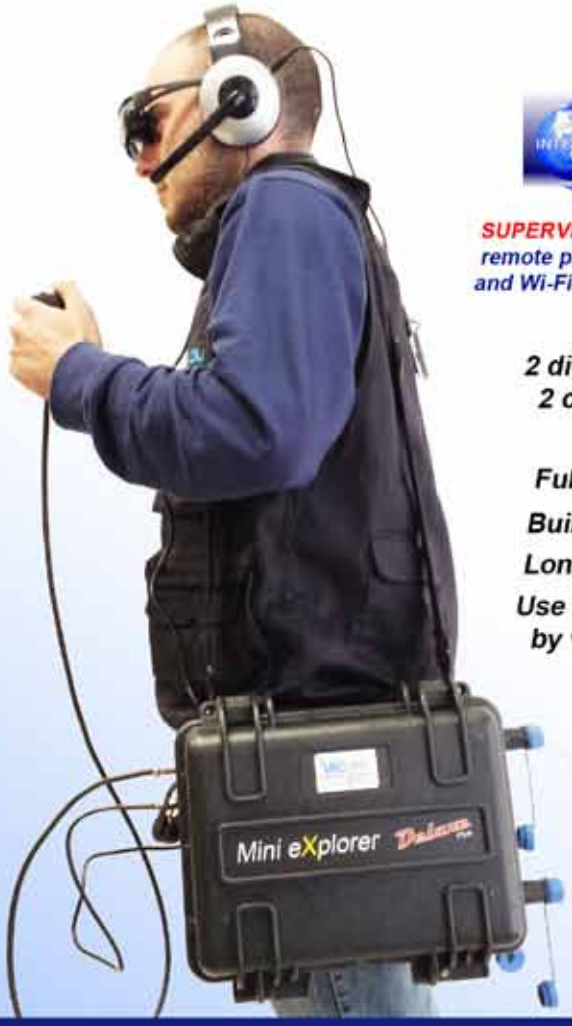

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The increase in accidents, as shown in the 'Accidents chart from 1989 to 2014 in Spain, cannot be allowed to continue. Océanos strongly supports the policy of using surface supplied intervention rather than SCUBA whenever possible and of using Surface to Diver communications – hardwire or wireless – with SCUBA unless the risk assessment demonstrates otherwise.

OCÉANOS intends to follow a policy of continuous improvement and, as a member of the ANEBP, to participate in meetings with the public administration for the renewal of the national underwater safety regulations and the updating of the training content of the Spanish Diving Standards. Currently, the Spanish qualification SSD60M makes reference to IMCA and IDSA standards and procedures.

In order to promote good practice for occupational divers, OCÉANOS follows the official national rules for commercial diving and the items and procedures established by IDSA Standards. The quality of the training Oceanos provides to students taking the IDSA Level 3 is a crucial factor in the effective development of skills, knowledge and attitudes for commercial diving.

This year the school has improved the dive control with a rackmount diver video, DVR, CCTV, communications and UPS that provides working efficiency and safety in each of the practices so that the instructor continuously maintains visual and audio contact with the student. Rackmount dive control ensures a general check of the pre and post dive procedures and the diving recording allows an evaluation of the work performed and to the correction of errors.

A new gas panel for the wet bell system and hyperbaric chamber has been incorporated into the dive plant at the base and the new vessel has been adapted with its own dive control system and wet bell panel.

By following a comprehensive safety and quality policy we expect that, in a short time , the competence of divers trained at Oceanos will be valued for its quality and not only for having a qualification approved by a national or international organization.

The new dive control station

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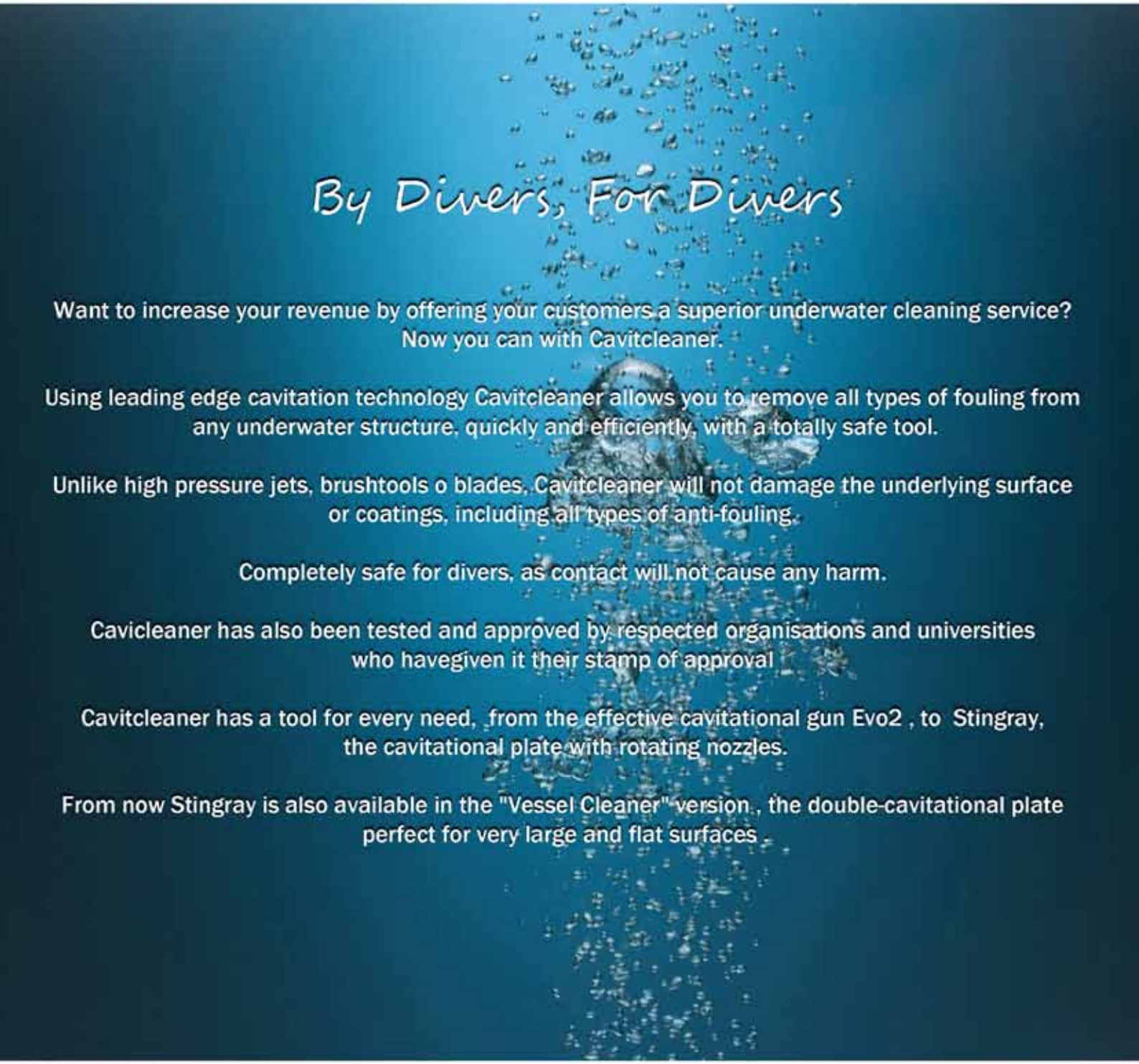

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Bergen International Diving Seminar

25th and 26th of November 2015.

This year will be the 24th Diving Seminar that has been run by NUI.

Since the first conference in 1988, the attendance has steadily increased from all relevant disciplines of the diving industry, research environments and authorities.

The Diving seminar is the only professional and academic meeting place for the commercial diving industry, Operators and Governing bodies where the latest global operational and scientific news are in focus. The seminar has a wide track record for its performance and exchange of information and competence to all parts of the industry. At the same time it is a valuable arena for meeting new people and expand your network.

The Diving Seminar is arranged bi-annually. All lectures are in English.

At the 2013 Diving seminar there were 210 participants from 11 nations and 24 speakers with a wide variety of topics. The feedback from the participants in 2013 was very positive and we expect the 2015 seminar to be same. The speakers in the 2015 seminar will have focus on "Catching the opportunity" for our business seen in light of the changes in the investments in the subsea industry today. Diving seen in a global perspective is one of the Diving seminars fundamental platforms.

We are looking forward to welcome you to the 2015 Diving Seminar.

For early registration or questions please visit: http://www.nui.no/products/the-diving-seminar/

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- Client representative

Please visit www.nui.no or contact us for further information.

The Sicilian Regional Bill n.698 and its regional, national, and international consequences.

By Manos Kouvakis
CEDIFOP Director

The new CEDIFOP course "underwater technical operator - underwater welder" started on June 2 in Palermo,. Students, besides Sicilians, came from other parts of Italy: Campania, Emilia Romagna as well as from Cyprus, Greece and Tunisia. The course lasts 14 weeks (OTS course) and covers the majority of the requirements of the IDSA Level 2 qualification, students then have the option to take a 4 week conversion course to IDSA Level 2 (underwater technical operator - underwater welder), which provides the remainder of the practical and theoretical requirements.

It should be emphasized that all CEDIFOP courses comply with the relevant international training standard scheduled by IDSA, which provide professionally safe and optimally managed training procedures - a policy adopted by CEDIFOP since its beginning.

We find the same provision also in the bill n. 2751 ("Discipline of work activities diving and hyperbaric") presented to the Chamber of Deputies by the Emilia Romagna elected congresswoman Deborah Bergamini, Vice President of the IX parliamentary committee (Transport, Post and Telecommunications) and Chairman of the standing committee on foreign policy and external relations of the European Union.

So states the bill: "We should acknowledge that the labor market and territorial area operated by the industrial diver (considered as a professional figure) go beyond regional and national limits, and therefore, in order to support the mobility of persons, the training courses developed in this field have to follow the path indicated by the rules of professional and industrial training.

While the Institute for the development of workers' professional training (ISFOL) regulates the necessary skills of port area operators on the Italian territory, the adoption of a teaching plan for required training in offshore field should comply with three internationally accepted standards, namely:

1) Training standards set by the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA), the only international teaching association in industrial diving area (there are several educational parameters in sport area, like PADI ,CMAS, SSI and others). Also worth noting that national training courses, such as those from the United States of America or Canada, always refer to the teaching parameters set by IDSA, or equivalent parameters as well (or more) accurated. The Association Idsa has drew up a worldwide series of inshore and offshore diver training rules, according to its own experience over the past 33 years and they are used by the different schools enrolled in the association all over the world;

2) Operational standards for off-shore activities (set by the International Marine Contractors Association – IMCA), as is the case for the above mentioned legislation UNI 11366 on safety and health protection in industrial diving and professional hyperbaric activities at the service of industry - operating procedures;

3) safety standards set by National Health and Safety Executives such as for example British HSE rules.

Only the correct application of these standards may ensure a greater international benefit to the Italian diver qualification, bringing the category up to the level it deserves. ."

"The same register of Divers - we read on in the Bergamini bill previously mentioned - must be divided into several categories, depending on the training and competence of the member, as it happens in other countries providing rules for safety and for the professionalism in the field. As an Italian example, we can refer to model proposed by ENI Spa, which is the Italian body for hydrocarbon business, providing rules similar to those existing in the rest of the world.

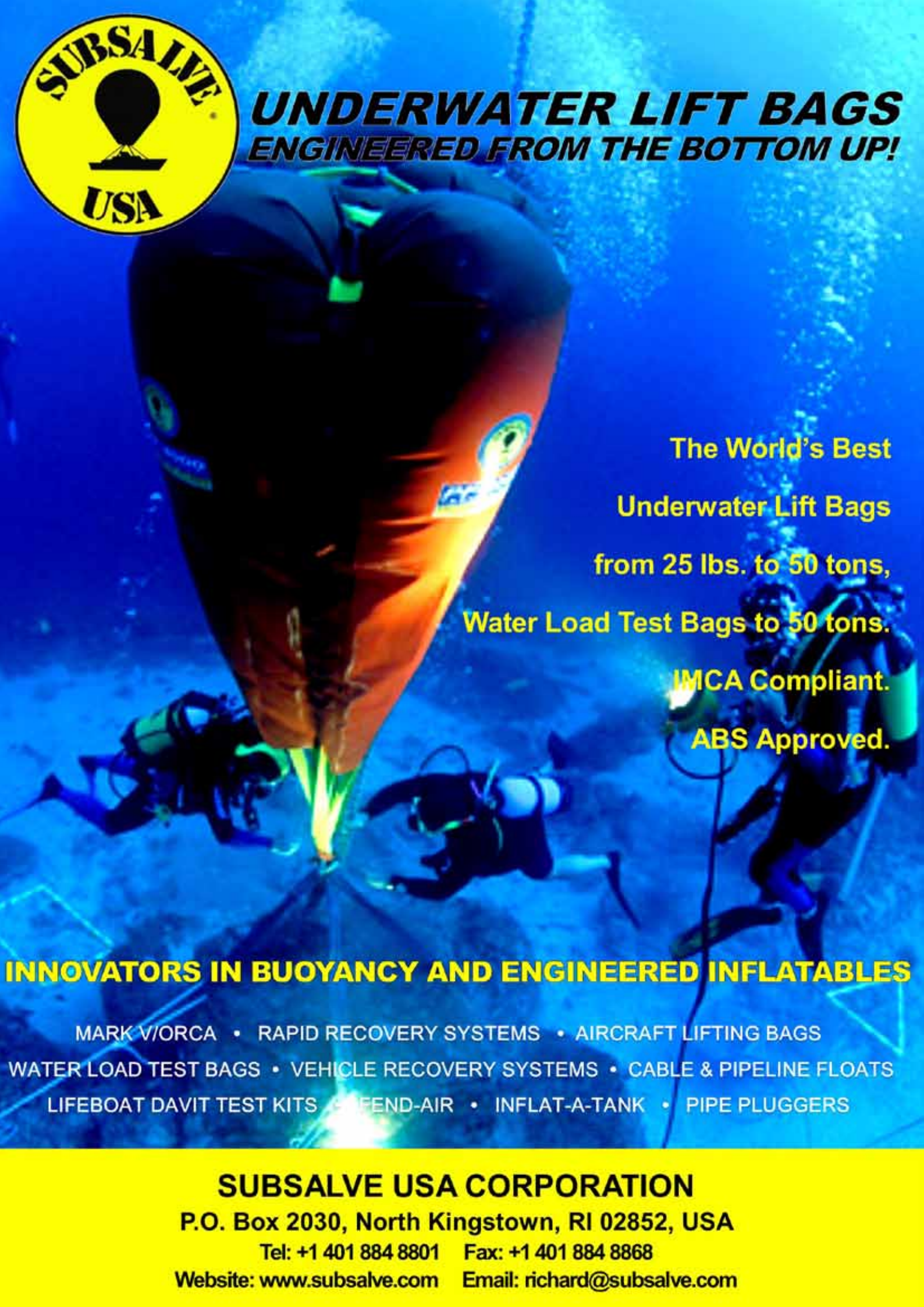
The only Italian government regulation dates back to 1982 and it only applies to activities within port areas. Such a situation penalizes Italian certifications in the IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association) dominated international arena, since IMCA recognizes only those countries offering an offshore diving legislation and territorial control rules (currently missing in Italy).

Italy could fill this gap in her legislation, by adopting Bill n. 698 (providing "Rules on the recognition and training standards in the field of industrial diving activities") currently being debated by the Sicilian Parliament.

This bill makes provision for offshore areas - Article 2.4, b applying also to non-territorial maritime waters (i.e. offshore), when the above activities are connected to regional interests, or to national people and companies."

Territorial control will be enforced with the registration of every activity in the Regional Labor Department register. The registration will be provided on a three level scale: Inshore Air Diver / Level 1 (up to - 30 meters), Offshore Air Diver / level 2 (from - 30 to - 50 meters) and Offshore Diver Sat / level 3 (activities beyond - 50 meters). Registration will be granted to all those having successfully completed special training programs.

As specified by article 5.3 and article 6.2, these training programs "... must comply with the internationally recognized IDSA (International Diving Schools Association) standards). In so far as they concern those subjects mentioned in the activities provided for in article 2.3, the training programs must comply with the standards set by the UNI 11366 ("Standards for safety and health protection in professional and industrial diving and hyperbaric activities" and the checks to be carried



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out to comply with obligations and thtgeneral Health & Safety requirements, as settled in the IMCA guide lines .

In this way, the Sicilian “license” issued by the Sicilian Government, for Divers who are enrolled into the Regional Register, would be directly recognized on the international market of the offshore industry. This would be an important landmark, promoting Sicily, Italy and other Mediterranean countries in this area of commercial diver training.

The above quoted bill will be signed soon into law by the Parliament of Sicily (note that Sicily is an autonomous region ruled by its own parliament called “The Sicilian Regional Assembly”), and it will also provide a standard model for all those countries currently not recognized by IMCA in its Information Note D03/15 ‘Diver & Diving Supervisor Certification ’which covers only those countries already having legislation such as the one Italy is going to build up, thanks to Sicily. Currently, these countries are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and in Europe: Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway, France and UK with its own British HSE certification standard, quite similar to the one proposed for Italy in the impending the Sicilian bill.

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PRESENTATION OF THE CAP TRÉBEURDEN, COMMERCIAL DIVING SCHOOL (Associate member of I.D.S.A.)

The CAP (Centre d'Activité Plongée) was founded in 1967. It started as an early SCUBA diving centre on the Côte de Granit Rose (Rose Granite coast) of Brittany near Trébeurden. In 1999 it obtained the authorizations to train scientific, police, coast guard and other categories of working divers. In 2013 the CAP decided to add a professional diving course as described in the new French regulations of 2012 to its wide range of existing courses.

One of the main partners in the sports diving activity is AQUALUNG, ex SPIROTECHNIQUE and owned today by AIR LIQUIDE (a world wide gas provider). AQUALUNG is the actual distributor of the GORSKY helmet in France of which the CAP owns 2 versions, a freeflow version and one equiped with a demand regulator and oral-nasal mask. CAP has an average turnover of 3000 SCUBA and leisure divers a year amounting to about 20.000 dives and 80 Classe 0 and Classe 1 Mention B Commercial divers.

This unique training in France received its official status at the beginning of 2014 together with 2 other training centres in the country. Why unique? On specific demand by the representatives of the diving industry, the SNETI (Syndicat National des Entreprises de Travaux Immergés) and the OPPBTP (Organisation Professionnel de Prévention du Bâtiment et des Travaux Publics: a health and safety organization for the maritime and construction industry), the french Ministry of Labour and Employement added a "Professional Title" to the qualification of the working or industrial diver, the C.A.H. (Certificat d'Aptitude à l'Hyperbarie). This certificate allows a diver to work down to a depth of 50 m. on air and mixed gas as well as with a wet bell. The C.A.H. is delivered after a specific training to safe diving operations. The Professional Title however, allows any holder of this ticket to operate on all infrastructures under water.

The courses are organized over a period of 3 months and have no more than 12 students per session. The 4 instructors of which 2 are ex-navy mine clearance divers of the french Navy of Brest, Toulon and Cherbourg, 1 is an ex-police diver and 1 is a civil engineering diver Inshore and Offshore. In total, they have nearly a century of professional experience, in the different fields of the same underwater activity, between them.

Training is spread out over 3 main locations: offices, classrooms and main workshops are located on the grounds of an abandonned satellite communication centre of the 1960's known as "le Radôme. The port of Trébeurden harbours the floating material and an AIR and NITROX filling station. Near Bégard the CAP occupies a 35m. deep quarry with an approximate surface of 5 hectares and a number of diving stations at many different levels. Three vans travel each day with equipment and personnel to this location for all practical exercises.

The main equipment, like airhoses, control panels, distribution manifolds, KMB 18's and KMB 37 hats, DIVEX AH5's, communications and video, are delivered by HYTECH bv Holland via DE ZEEMAN, Mechelen Belgium and by SMP UK.

The complete range of STANLEY hydraulic tools, from drills, jackhammers, angle grinders, chain saws and impact wrenches are driven by fueled units. 8 Lifting bags (AUTOMARINE; STARFRANCE) with secured dump valves up to 1500-2000 kgs. and the usual BROCO cutting and welding torches are all available with no restriction on the amounts of electrodes or oxygen used. Two 380 volts, 550 AMPS MILLER generators deliver the necessary power for the use of ARCAIR electrodes which are more difficult to handle than the classic ultra thermic cutting rods.

Divers from the CAP are instructed during 8 days in surface concreting and 8 days in surface welding in an external and recognized vocational training institute named the GRETA (Groupement d'Etablissement). The weld beads are certified by the official certification body VERITAS-APAVE for the 3 positions they are instructed: flat, vertical down and overhead. The acquired competences are reproduced under water at different levels with the necessary adjustments and safety procedures. The same procedures are followed for the under water concreting courses where they do all the basic formworks and reinforcements necessary to be competent to conduct any underwater concreting project.

The 25 m3 COMEX chamber with 2 locks came from the Military Hospital of Cherbourg and is used for medical purposes and for diving decompressions. For in water decompression the CAP relies on the MF 92 diving tables which were established by the french navy in combination with the Comex research centre in Marseille.

The main part of the practical training is done in a 35m. deep quarry at a distance of 25km. from the offices, classrooms and workshops. Containerized facilities are permanently on site for storage, dressing rooms and rest rooms. Deep dives to the range of 40 to 50 m. are done from the mv SOL AR MOR (which is equiped with a hydraulic launching platform on the stern for scuba divers. It holds up to 35 divers with a captain and a sailor: twin engined 400 HP with an overall length of 17.50 m.

The first session of 2015 was successfully concluded for the 12 first students at the end of March. After an audit performed by IDSA on the CAP, the objective is to be accepted in the near future as a FULL MEMBER training divers to LEVEL 2.

Mark van der Esch

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02 96 23 66 71
www.plongeecap.com

On board the mv "sol ar mor" at the Triagoz diving site – 45 m.

FROM THE WET FIELD IN THE OLDEN DAYS

Help! I'm trapped.

One of the biggest underwater works done in Belgium during the seventies, was the construction of the Rupel tunnel which - if we take into consideration the sole underwater operations - lasted from 1969 till 1980.

The tunnel was made of several huge floating elements that had to be laid and connected together across the canal of Willebroeck and the Rupel River. Therefore many dives had to be made at a depth of 24 meters (80 feet) by a team of almost 20 divers.

The tasks were extremely varied such as: cutting – welding – blasting – jetting – concrete pouring - and a series of other interesting operations.

One of the jobs I had to do during several days was to install 8" obturators inside drain pipes. At first glance this did not appear to be very complicated. But to do so and reach the drain pipes, I had to progress some 40 meters inside one of the elements of the tunnel. The elements had been completely flooded due to a construction defect. After the first 40m., I had to turn left pass through a door, follow the bottom concrete floor for about an other 10 meters to finally reach a small square opening (50 cm x 50 cm) present in the floor of the element.

This opening gave access to a small chamber (3 m high x 1 m x 1 m) and it was there that I had to install the plug inside a drain that passed through the bottom of that room.

So in fact, the most difficult part of the work consisted of passing through these small square openings. This was not at all easy due to the bailout bottle on my back. Anyway, I managed to do it several times except on this particular day of 29 March 1978.

That day I could enter the room and install my plug but when my job was completed I had the unpleasant surprise to feel that I was trapped in the room and could not get out.

Every time I tried to pass the opening above my head, I felt that my back was hooked by something. At first it didn't bother me; I just tried calmly a few more times. But after 10 or 15 minutes unsuccessful trials I started to get really nervous and the more I tried the more I got trapped.

Finally, after having made a real effort to calm down once more, I decided to stay at the bottom of the chamber and ask for a stand by diver. Unfortunately in those years, it was not yet the policy of the diving companies to have a stand by diver ready and so I had to wait about 20 minutes more before my teammate arrived above the opening and helped me to come out of my grave.

In fact, what had happened, was that one of the straps of my bailout had come loose and hooked into a rebar each time I tried to come out.

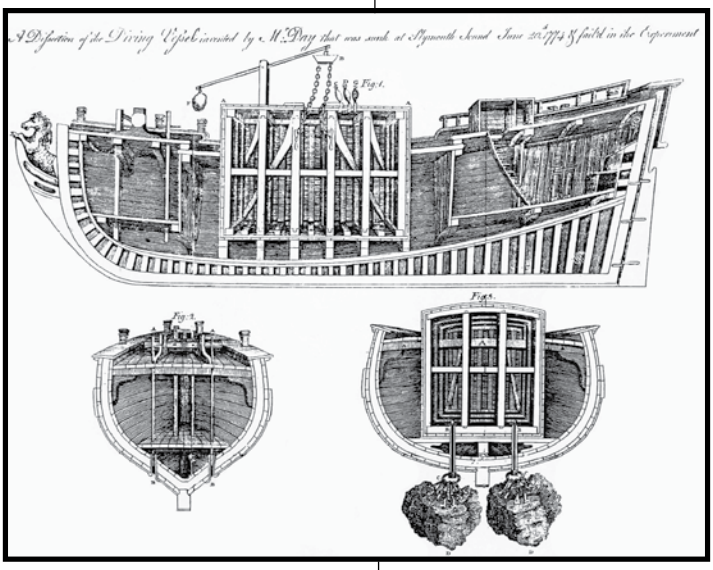
CONCLUSION:

Do not be like the idiots we were at that time. Have a standby diver ready in all circumstances.

PAPY ONE

THE SHIPS PROJECT

EXPLORING THE SECRETS OF PLYMOUTH SOUND



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On most days over recent summers a team of volunteer divers have been exploring the seabed in and around Plymouth Sound, they are in search of clues about past peoples and past events as part of a wide ranging heritage study called the SHIPS Project.

The SHIPS Project was started in 2010 to investigate the history of Plymouth, in the south-west of England, by finding out what lies hidden beneath the waters of its harbour and rivers. Some of the history of Plymouth is well known; stories of the sea Captain Drake, the Spanish Armada, the Pilgrim Fathers, the siege of Plymouth during the English Civil War, and the first recorded submarine fatality in 1774 when Mr Day a carpenter built a wooden 'diving chamber' for a bet, but regrettably having dived, failed to surface

Other stories are less well known such as the first humans who left their bones in the caves along the river Plym 140,000 years ago, the Romans who built a huge fort nearby, Viking raids and the tales of six

hundred or more shipwrecks within sight of the town. The history of Plymouth is both broad and deep but most of what we know is only from written history, so there is much more to the story that was not recorded and

hat is what the SHIPS Project hopes to discover.

Plymouth is closely tied to the sea as travel to Devon and Cornwall over land was both difficult and dangerous until recent times. At a time long past when sea levels were much lower the area we call Plymouth Sound was once dry land, Divers now explore where people once walked and the evidence of their lives is there to be found. It is not known if these ancient people used boats but it is likely that man will have sailed these waters from earliest times as this was the best way of transporting people and materials for trade and for war. Some of these ships will have been wrecked in storms and their remains would be scattered on the seabed, sometimes remaining visible but often buried under a protecting layer of sand and mud. On land, any lost objects would be picked up by a lucky finder but underwater these lost ships and their cargoes were out of reach. The waters of Plymouth Sound provided protection from all but the keenest salvors until the development of sports diving in the 1950s, so much of what has been lost is still there to be found.

The SHIPS Project team now spend the summer months exploring while the winter months are spent doing research on the previous season's discoveries and planning for the next season's fieldwork. The small team is funded by ProMare, a US charity foundation, but the larger part of the work is done by a team of volunteers as this is very much a community project.

A broad range of skills is required for such a wide-ranging project so the volunteers include divers, researchers, archaeologists, historians, finds experts and illustrators. The local volunteers are often joined by archaeology students from the universities in Exeter, Bristol and Oxford while hydrography and environmental science students at Plymouth University work on these projects. Support has been provided by local commercial organisations; survey companies such as Swathe Services and Sonardyne provide amazingly detailed maps of the seabed which are essential to the project. A recent venture has been to develop Mount Edgcumbe House in Cornwall as the home of a new maritime museum and the SHIPS Project team helped secure a £41,000 lottery grant to get the work started.

Two of the objects that we have discovered so far highlight the wide range of subjects we deal with. The first is a small two handled olive jar found on its own, lying partly buried in the mud on the bottom of the river Tamar, The jar was made during the later part of the Roman period so was it accidentally lost over the side of a ship travelling across the river, did it contain an offering to a pagan god or is it part of a cargo from a wrecked ship? The other object is more modern, a white ceramic mug found in the engine room of the Liberty ship S.S. James Eagan Layne beached in Whitsand Bay in 1945. During our research we found a survivor of the sinking, Purvis Evans, who at the time was a 17 year old working in the engine room. We wanted to know if the mug was really from the ship so we showed Purvis a photograph and he said, 'yes, on a cold evening I used to warm my hands on a mug of cocoa just like that'. For the ancient oil jar we know very little about why it ended up in the river but it's a good clue that may lead to more discoveries, while the WWII vintage cocoa mug gives us something else, a personal touch that brings us closer to the people involved in a shipwreck story.

The SHIPS Project is now in to its fifth year and support from an enthusiastic community will see it grow and continue for many years to come. The SHIPS Project web site provides a means to promote the work done so far and to publish reports about what is discovered. The team also do talks to groups and clubs about the SHIPS Project, promoting the work and recruiting more volunteers, but also recording stories about things people have found on the beach or under the sea. The SHIPS Project is uncovering more of our history, is making our shared heritage more accessible and allows many within the community to be involved in the discoveries.

Project web site: www.promare.co.uk/ships

pommec will be organizing the Kirby Morgan Basic Maintenance andRepair Technician Course

on Week 37: Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September 2015

Please let us know if you would like to attend on this date. Other dates will also be possible. Please contact us for more information: sales@pommec.com

- KMB Basic Maintenance and Repair Technician Course:
- Duration of the course: 2 days
- Lunch, coffee, tea, etc. included
- Divelab official KMDSI certificate after positive result of test
- Teaching material
- Contents:
- Neck Dam/Ring Assembly inspection & maintenance procedures
- Helmet & bandmask inspection & maintenance procedures
- Side block inspection & overhaul procedures
- Demand regulator inspection & overhaul procedures
- Bailout gas supply inspection & maintenance procedures
- Procedures & Checklist use

The KMDSI Technician Course has been devised to instruct technicians, and the users of KMDSI helmets and band masks how to perform routine or corrective maintenance procedures and equipment overhauls. The course covers demand regulator and side block overhauls, as well as all recommended owner level repairs, including face port insert testing.

- Only KMDSI dealer technicians are authorized to perform repairs for profit (please contact us if you require more information).
- The course does not include insert repair or fiberglass and gel coat repair.
- The course will only proceed if a minimum of 4 attend the course.

KIRBY MARGAN TECHNICIANS COURSE

NATIONAL HYPERBARIC CENTRE

TEAMS WITH DANMEDICAL TO DELIVER A STEP CHANGE IN MEDICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING TO THE OFFSHORE INDUSTRY

The agreement forms a key part of NHC's on-going programme of capability enhancements designed to deliver improvements in the quality of medical training and support. Under the agreement DanMedical's proven D-MAS HyperSat medical monitoring systems will be available for demonstration and training at NHC.

DanMedical's systems have recently been installed in the hyperbaric chambers of NHC's facility, allowing real-time medical monitoring of patients. The D-MAS device measures the patient's heart rhythm and ECG, blood pressure, blood oxygen content and core temperature, thereby allowing specialist doctors to provide real-time, expert medical advice from outside the chamber.

D-MAS has already been deployed by a number of leading offshore energy contractors and medical advisors world-wide. With the equipment now also in place at the NHC's hyperbaric facility, NHC will provide training and first-line support to Aberdeen-based clients and users of DanMedical's services and devices.

Alan Green, General Manager of NHC said:

"NHC is committed to improving the safety of subsea operations through the delivery of high-fidelity training and world-class emergency response services. We share this commitment to safety with DanMedical, whose capabilities complement our own. They are a key partner in our mission to advance the services and capabilities of NHC."

NHC's Stuart Sloan monitors a patient using the D-MAS Hypersat from DanMedical

IDSA Level 2 Assessment Bulgaria

IDSA level 2 assessments were carried out near the city of Varna, Bulgaria in March and April 2015 by Interdive Services Ltd (UK). Aqua Prom Ltd, a local commercial diving company, sponsored the assessment. There were a total of 12 students (11 were Bulgarian and 1 Polish).

The students were broken down into 2 groups, each group completed a full 6 day assessment programme covering all the elements required for the IDSA level 2 standard.

The majority of the tool phase and shallow rescues were completed alongside the harbour wall not far from Aqua Proms base and using the units mobile dive control. This enabled a quicker set up of the dive site and therefore more time for diver assessments.

For the deep phase the centre hired in a vessel that had a large deck space ideal for the assessments. The vessel had a variety of winches not only to assist in anchoring but also for the deployment and recovery of the Dive stage/LARS. The deep-water area was not very far from the base thus cutting down the travelling time.

The assessments were a great success with all candidates passing both the practical assessments and theoretical written examination requirement as laid down by IDSA.

The success of the assessments was down to the hard work put in by both the candidates and the staff at Aqua Prom Ltd to enable all the required elements to run smoothly.

For further information please contact Interdive on +44 1752 55 80 80 or email: diving@interdive.co.uk or please see our website

www.interdive.co.uk

LUKSIA' Finland – 20th Anniversary

Divers' training was started 20 years ago at Luksia. During this time Luksia has given diving training for about 400 divers who work in different fields of industry and research. To celebrate this 20th anniversary Luksia's diving sector organized an Open House Event on April 17, 2015. Luksia diving training and its premises were presented during the day. The guests included ex-students, cooperation partners and other interest group representatives.

In Finland vocational diving training has required a permit from public authorities since 1995 as too many accidents had taken place for untrained and unskilled divers. At present the diving sector at Luksia employs 3 trainers and gives training to 30 students on average per year. Other fields of study cooperate with the divers' training sector. Divers' training is organized at Ojamo quarry in Lohja. The quarry is appropriate for divers' training as it is in a sheltered location. In addition, the water is clear and the maximum diving depth in open water is 50 meters.

Divers' training is divided into two study programmes: construction and research. The construction diver's study programme lasts 12 months and includes a scuba diver course (IDSA level 1) and an underwater construction course (IDSA level 2). Training in explosion work, underwater welding as well as underwater concrete and moulding work. The research diver's study programme is further divided into archaeological research diving and research diving of natural sciences.

Luksia, Intermunicipial Federation of Vocational Education in Western Uusimaa offers vocational qualifications and tailored personnel training. Each year there are approximately 7,000 certificate and adult students. The number of personnel is slightly under 400.

YRGO – the Swedish Commercial Diving School of Gotenburg

On 22 May 2015 Leo Lagarde, Chairman of IDSA, presented the first Level 3 Certificates to be awarded following the school's successful audit by IDSA in September 2014. More than 180 dives have now been completed from the system, which is working well, and is now one of the 7 different dive systems used by YRGO.

ONLY

FULL MEMBERS (DIVER TRAINING)
are authorised to award
IDSA Diver Qualifications;
they do so having successfully completed
an
On-site audit to IDSA Standards.

ABOUT IDSA

The Association was formed in 1982 as a result of a meeting between Schools attending the American Diving Contractors Conference (Now 'Underwater Intervention') in New Orleans.

The aims of the Association were then, and are now;

- To implement common International Standards of Diver Training
- To provide a means of effective communication between schools.
- To improve the quality of commercial diving education
- To work towards improved standards of safety, emergency drills and procedures.
- To provide a common and collective voice to government industrial agencies on any matter affecting members.
- To co-operate on matters which may improve placement opportunities for graduates from member schools.
- To promote any activity, idea or subject which furthers the international operations of the Association.

The Association is concerned with all divers - Offshore, Inshore and Inland - as well as non diving qualifications e.g. Supervisor, DMT and LST. The Association has established International Diver Training Standards based on the consensus opinion of its many members, they are available in a separate publication. The Standards provide both a yardstick for those responsible for either administering existing National Standards or creating new ones, and a guide for Clients, Diving Contractors and Divers themselves. It is considered that the introduction of these Internationally agreed diver training standard will have the effect of;

- Equating Standards Internationally.
- Providing Guidance to Organisations setting Standards for the first time.
- Improving Safety.
- Providing Contractors with a direct input to the Diver Training Syllabus.
- Enabling Contractors to bid across National Borders on a more even playing field.
- Improving Diver quality.
- Providing Divers with greater Job Opportunities.

Some governments have and will, set their own National Diver Training Standards. The IDSA programme provides a means of equating them by maintaining a Table of Equivalence - see the Publications section of the Association's Website.

THE INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (IDSA) LIST OF MEMBERS

FULL MEMBERS: DIVER TRAINING

Royal Danish Navy Diving School	Denmark
Luksia Sukellusala	Finland
Ecole Nationale des Scaphandriers (ENS)	France
Irish Navy Diving School	Ireland
Centro Studi CEDIFOP	Italy
Centre Méditerranéen de Plongée Professionnelle (CMPP)	Morocco
Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC)	Netherlands
Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Oslo (NYD)	Norway
Oceanos Escuela de Buceo Professional SL	Spain
Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medicine Centre	Sweden
Yrgo-Commercial Diving School of Gothenburg	Sweden
The Ocean Corporation	U.S.A.

FULL MEMBERS: SPECIALIST TRAINING

KB Associates	Singapore
Interdive Services Ltd.	UK
The National Hyperbaric Centre	UK

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Aegean Diving Services Ltd	Greece
Aqua Prom Ltd	Bulgaria
University of Southern Denmark	Denmark
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt
Egyptian International Diving School(EIDS)	Egypt
Middle East for Commercial Diving	Egypt
National Institute for Commercial Diving (NCID)	Egypt
Universal Marine Institute (UMI)	Egypt
GT Corporation SE	Estonia
Faroe Dive	Faroe Islands
Centre Activities Plongee de Trebeurden	France
Institut National de Plongee Professionnelle (INPP)	France
Diver Ltd	Hungary
YAK Academy	India
Dolphin Dive Academy	India
Israeli Professional Diving Academy	Israel
IDEA Contracting	Kuwait
TechnoSub	Mexico
Regional Centre For Underwater Demolition (RCUD)	Montenegro
Academy Marocaine des Science et Technology Maritimes (ASMTM)	Morocco
Mieka Dive Training Institute Ltd	Nigeria
Forespro	Spain
MZ Plongee	Switzerland
PROfessional Diving Services	Switzerland
Caribbean Diving & Marine Ltd	Trinidad
Dolphin Diving Services	UAE
London Diving Chamber	UK
Divers Institute of Technology (DIT)	USA
International Diving Institute	USA
Santa Barbara City College	USA

RECIPROCAL MEMBERS

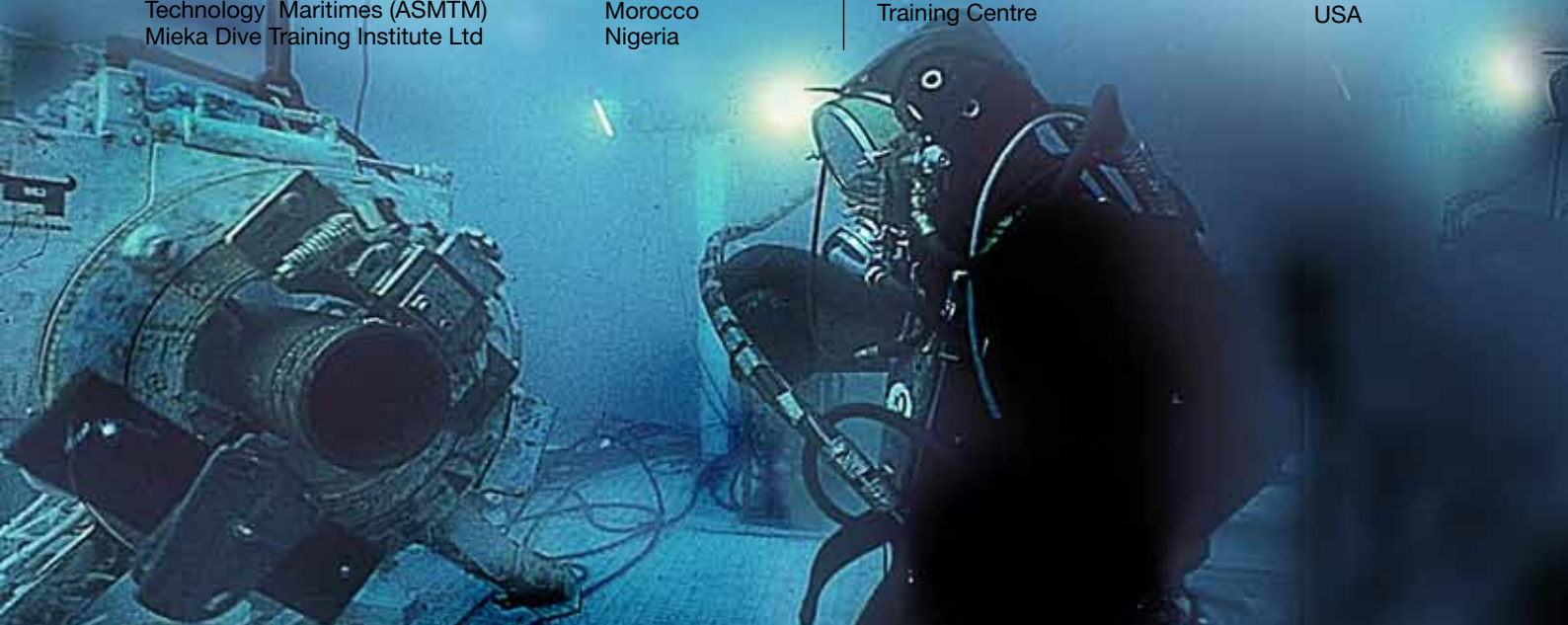
Dutch Association of Commercial Divers	Netherlands
Alliance of Russian Diving Schools	Russia
Association of Diving Contractors (ADC UK)	UK
Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE)	USA
Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI)	USA

INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS

Alpe SUB Srl	Italy
Drafinsub S.R.L.	Italy
InOut Security Service	Italy
Palumbarus Diving Works	Italy
Cavit Cleaner Limited	Malta
IHC Hytech BV	Netherlands
Pommec BV T.D.E.	Netherlands
Norwegian Association of Underwater Entrepreneurs (NBU)	Norway
Svensk Sjoentreprenad	Sweden
C-Tecnics	UK

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Aqua Dream SCUBA Academy	Cyprus
NAVFCO Military Diving School	France
Arena Sub Srl	Italy
SCAN Brl	Italy
Eprons Ltd	Latvia
Nautiek	Netherlands
Bergen University College	Norway
BPN Explorer	Poland
Aqua Mont Service	Serbia
Composite-Beat Engel	Switzerland
Searchwise Ltd	U.K.
Speciality Welds	U.K.
Underwater Centre	U.K.
Minnesota Commercial Diver Training Centre	USA



IHC Hytech

We keep you breathing

Decompression chambers

Diving panels

Personal gear

For almost three decades IHC Hytech is specialised in designing and manufacturing high-end commercial and military diving equipment. Every product that IHC Hytech makes or sells is supported by an extensive quality control and after-sales service. IHC Hytech is formed by a group of people, who have a wealth of experience in every area of commercial diving and are presenting a new perspective on many aspects in this field.

www.facebook.com/ihchytech

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