

INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

idsa

NEWS

EDITION NUMBER 19 JANUARY 2012





Edition 19 January 2012

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Front Cover:
La Tribuna Illustrata
1934



Hosted by the Divers Institute of Technology (DIT)

ANNUAL MEETING 2012 SEATTLE

29 TO 31 AUGUST

The Divers Institute of Technology (DIT) located in Seattle, Washington., recently (March 2011) moved to a newly renovated, location on the north shore of Lake Union.. This new location boasts a much larger footprint -- with the flexibility to grow -- and showcases significant upgrades to the Learning Resource Center, student lounge, metals/welding shop and administrative offices.

Established in 1968 by John Manlove, DIT originally occupied Barge 41 on the ship canal in the Ballard neighbourhood of Seattle. In 1985 the barge sank, which forced the school to move to the location where it would remain for the next 23 years. This property proved to be an excellent choice for the school's program, but with the growth the school has experienced in the past 10 years, moving was inevitable.

Dedicated to the Right Tools and Resources According to DIT's Executive Director, John Paul Johnston, the new location was originally a ship's chandlery and was completely renovated and seismically updated four years ago. The school occupies the first and second floors of the Northlake building, located lakeside, and on the shoreline side, the metals program building houses the metals/welding module, student lounge and provides room for growth. Diving barges and the M/V Response are moored on piers that

have depths ranging from 12 to 45 feet of water. Deep dives are conducted on Lake Washington.

The new classrooms are open and spacious providing an excellent learning environment, with lesson plans being delivered digitally. On the waterfront, each diving barge is outfitted to meet the demands of a specific objective of the course, from underwater hydraulic tools and HAZMAT diving to pipeline projects and salvage operations. Underwater welding is accomplished in two 5,500 gallon tanks, which are outfitted with ports to allow the students to perform their work under the watchful eyes of instructors. This provides students immediate feedback about their progress and has resulted in a significant improvement in course outcomes. All surface-supplied dive training is conducted in open water, giving students real world experience that can't be duplicated in pools, tanks or quarries. The faculty and curriculum are respected throughout the industry, and it shows: 92% of our graduates are working in the field. Our program trains divers to excel in all aspects of both offshore and inland diving. Students perform deep dives to 165 feet, and conduct both in-water and surface decompression. The curriculum includes underwater welding, NDT, HazMat, hydraulic tools, and ROVs. DIT remains the only dive school to dive the

Divers Institute of Technology and The Underwater Centre in Fort William, Scotland, have formed an alliance that allows U. S. dive school graduates to complete specialized training not available in the U.S





ABOUT THE CITY

Seattle lies on a narrow strip of land between the salt waters of Puget Sound and the fresh waters of Lake Washington. Beyond the waters lie two rugged mountain ranges, the Olympics to the west and the Cascades to the east. It is a city built on hills and around water.

White settlers came to the Seattle area in 1851, establishing a town and soon established a village near a protected deep water harbor. This village was soon named Seattle, honoring a Duwamish Indian leader named Sealth who had befriended the settlers.

The new town's principal economic support was Henry Yesler's lumber mill at the foot of Mill Street (now Yesler Way), built in 1853. In 1883 a rail connection was completed by Northern Pacific, and the population increased accordingly and industries such as lumber, coal, fishing, wholesale trade, shipbuilding, developed.

Growth was slowed but not stopped by a devastating fire in 1889; however as a result there were municipal improvements, including the widening of streets, a professional fire department, reconstructed wharves, and municipal water works.

All then remained quiet until 1897 when the discovery of gold along and near the Klondike River in Canada's Yukon Territory and in Alaska once again made Seattle an instant boom town.

During the early 1900s the city's population became

increasingly diversified. Scandinavians came to work in fishing and lumbering, blacks to work as railroad porters and waiters, and Japanese to operate truck gardens and hotels. There were significant communities of Italians, Chinese, Jews, and Filipinos. The International District, home to several Asian ethnic groups, was largely developed during this period.

World War I transformed the city's shipbuilding industry, which turned out 20 percent of the nation's wartime ship tonnage. Seattle also gained a reputation for a boom-and-bust economy, and the twenties brought depressed conditions in shipbuilding and the lumber trade. World War II sparked an economic rebound as shipyards flourished again, as did the Boeing Company which increased its workforce more than 1,200 percent annually during the war years. The war's end, however, brought an economic slump to the area that persisted until the middle 1950s when Boeing introduced the 707 commercial jet airliner.

Since then the city's population has remained fairly stable around the half-million mark, but industry has gradually developed and attracted firms such as Microsoft.

Seattle has always exhibited a spirit of optimism, enterprise, and self-promotion. At one time this was institutionalized as "the Seattle Spirit," a movement that enabled the city literally to move mountains by washing down high hills to improve building sites, to connect Lake Washington and Puget Sound with locks and a canal, and to build the world's largest man-made island at the mouth of the Duwamish River

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Accommodation

The Conference Hotel will be the Holiday Inn, 211 Dexter Avenue North (+1 206 728 8123) and room rates are in the order of 125 Euros or USD 160 per night.

Attendance

The meeting will be open to members and non-members, the fee - which will cover attendance, transport (hotel to Conference room), refreshment, lunches, and the Association dinner- is expected to be in the order of €350 (USD450) per delegate.

The Agenda

The final Agenda will be circulated at the beginning of July, and items will be welcome from all members up to the end of June.

The Programme

The outline for the programme is:

Evening of Tuesday 28th Welcome drinks

Wednesday 29th am&pm-Meeting followed by evening cruise.

Thursday 30th am-Meeting, pm Visit to places of local interest

Evening - Association Dinner

Friday 31st. am-Meeting & Presentations.

Meeting closes lunchtime

Information

Full details will be posted on the website as they are finalised and/or may be obtained from the Administrator - info@idsaworldwide.org





I would first like to welcome our new Affiliate member Eprons Ltd from Latvia, and Reciprocal Member the 'Alliance of Russian Diving Schools', from Moscow.

As discussed during our Karlskrona meeting a major revision of the Operational & Administrative Procedures is taking place and it is planned to circulate the first of the 5 parts in January for comment from all members. I think it very important that ALL members from their wealth of experience respond within the time scale requested, so that the document reflects a truly representative view from all schools concerned with Commercial Diver Training – even a quick E Mail 'No comment' helps assess the response. The intention is to circulate the complete revision for approval at our next meeting in Seattle.

During the last year we have experimented with a course combining the facilities of two schools - CEDIFOP in Palermo approved to Level 2, and NYD in Oslo approved to level 3. The outcome of this pilot course is that although the students achieved the Level 3 Standard, the Board

has decided that future conversion courses of this nature must be run by one school which may hire or rent all the necessary equipment from another school, but must be responsible for the whole course. In other words if a school approved to Level 2 wished its students to achieve level 3, it would have to negotiate a contract with a level 3 school to take its students through a conversion course from level 2 to 3, as a level 2 school does not have approval to run any part of a level 3 course. Such a course must be run by Full Members accepted by IDSA to Level 3

It was reported at the annual meeting in Karlskrona that a Full Member was not teaching a Level 3 course to IDSA Standards. This has been investigated, and the Board has decided that the membership of the school is suspended until 1 March 2012 and that no more Qualification cards will be issued to that member until a revised programme had been received which corrected the omissions in the present course. If a revised programme is not been received by 1 March Membership will be terminated. In closing, may I wish all members a successful 2012,

I look forward to keeping in touch over the coming months and to meeting many of you in Seattle

LEO LAGARDE

ABOUT IDSA

The Association is concerned with all divers - Offshore, Inshore and Inland, and has established International Diver Training Standards based on the consensus view of its many members. 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 standards will have the effect of 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 competence and providing Divers with greater job opportunities.

Some governments have and will, set their own National diver training requirements. The IDSA programme provides a means of equating National Standards by maintaining a Table of Equivalence.

One of the main thrusts is towards International Diver Certification in order to bring together the various National Schemes which are currently in existence. However, the Association is not just concerned with standards; it also serves as a valuable forum for the interchange of News & Views between members, many of whom are the only Commercial School in their Country. Current routes for this interchange are the Newsletter - published in January and July, the IDSA Website: (www.idsaworldwide.org) the Annual meeting in September/October, and various and many forms of contact between members and the Executive Board.

For Membership and all other information contact the Administrator at: info@idsaworldwide.org

BOARD MEETINGS

Marseille

Sep 15

Before the Board meeting started, the opportunity was taken to meet with Eric Le Maitre a representative of OPPBTP (Organisme de la Prévention Professionnelle dans le Bâtiment et les Travaux Publics), a French organisation concerned with safety in the Construction Industry. OPPBTP has been selected by the French Government to review the French Diving Regulations and Training Standards, because of its expertise in Diving operations Inshore. It has been working in partnership with the professional unions on the new French regulations, and in 2012 expects to start work on the revision of the French Diver Training Standards. This meeting in Marseille permitted discussion of ways in which IDSA might contrib-



The Board relaxing with Gregory & Agnes Bernaciak from BPN Explorer, Poland, and Eric Albier from INPP, after their meeting.

ute to this revision, by the pooling of information with OPPBTP.

The full Board then met in INPP (Coutesey of the Director Paul Gavarry)

The Board relaxing with Gregory & Agnes Bernaciak from BPN Explorer, Poland, and Eric Albier from INPP, after their meeting.

The main points of this meeting were the preparation of a memo to all Members summarising the decisions made during the Karlskrona meeting, and discussion of the presentation to be made during the meeting of EDTC (the European Diving Technology Committee). It was also noted that on 8 March the OGP (The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers) was holding an Inland/nearshore Diving safety workshop in Houston, and John Wood the President of the Ocean Corporation had agreed to represent IDSA.



Mark van der Esch (Treasurer, front left), Dag Wroldsen (Secretary, rear left), and Alan Bax (Administrator, right) with Eric Le Maitre (OPPBTP, centre)

Video Conference 19 October

This was the second meeting held in this way which saves travelling costs which enables the Board to meet – almost face to face – at frequent intervals. Preliminary plans for next years meeting in Seattle were discussed and,

based on the recommendation of the hosts, the dates of 29 to 31 August 2012, were proposed, and agreed subsequent to the meeting. There revised Table of Equivalence was finalised and would be circulated to members.

Video Conference 5 December

This was a long & detailed meeting, and the following decisions were made

The Italian School which had been asked to revise its programme to meet the IDSA Standards to be suspended from the Association.

Liaison with IMCA, OGP, EDTC and similar organisations to be maintained, in particular contact to be made with the new Chairman of EDTC.

Following the Karlskrona decision that all Full Members would be audited every 5 years, an audit programme was drawn up for circulation to Full Members asking for their comment and agreement. The possibility of using auditors from a 3rd party was considered, but no conclusion reached.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING IN KARLSKRONA

6 to 8 September 2011

A pleasing number of delegates attended the 29th Annual Meeting held at the beginning of September in the Historic Naval Port of Karlskrona South East Sweden, where discussions were both fruitful and detailed. As might have been expected, there were delegates from all 4 Scandinavian countries in addition to those from 9 others which included Iran, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and the UK. The opportunity to look at the updated facilities at the Swedish Armed Forces Diving School was much appreciated.

Over the last two years the Swedish government has made large investments in the centre and the addition of a large indoor pool (12m diameter & 6m deep) plus a similar open air pool (25m diameter and 4 to 6m deep) which can be used for dirty training (cutting & welding etc), as well as routine familiarisation and emergency drills.

The whole centre, Classrooms, changing facilities, and administration offices have also been updated. The centre includes a research facility which has just taken delivery of a large Chamber suitable for physiological research as well as equipment trials. The Centre is built on a

Niclas Brannstrom & Lalle Petersson who were responsible for the organisation of the meeting



small peninsula with access to a jetty used for basic training on the seaward side and a berth inside the Naval Dockyard on the other where the extremely well equipped diving vessel 'Agir' can berth.

These facilities plus the modernisation of the existing Submarine Escape Tower and related facilities means that trainee divers benefit from the most up-to-date equipment & training areas.

During the meeting a number of changes were agreed in the presentation of the IDSA Standards and Procedures, which will now be updated and published in 5 separate parts

1. Details of the Association.
2. Training Administration
3. The Diver Training Standards
4. The IDSA Code of Practice for Training Operations
5. A Guidance Handbook for Specialist Diving Courses

This will allow for both ease of access and enable parts to be updated individually without waiting for a wholesale revision.

All parts will be available as a printed version, on a CD and on the IDSA Website.

Perhaps one of the most significant changes to be agreed was the unanimous support for the proposal that all full member schools would be audited on a regular basis in the future. Up to the present

A group photograph outside the School Building



time, the original full member schools, already well known world-wide for their high standards, have not been audited by the Association, they will now be audited every five years. This is part of the drive to standardise training so that not only will safety and quality be improved but also employers will know what they can expect from a newly qualified IDSA Diver.

In the present climate it is essential that high standards are not only maintained, but are seen publicly to be maintained, and this regular audit of all schools is seen as a way of making these high standards visible.

It will, of course, be a heavy administrative burden and new auditors will need to be recruited to the present team. As an initial step, schools will be asked to put forward the names individuals who meet the IDSA qualifications for Auditors and who will be capable of understanding and upholding the standards. At the present time, it is envisaged that auditors will have no connection with the school being audited or with any IDSA Full Member School, and that conflicts of interest will be, as at present, strenuously avoided.

Subsequent to audit, all Schools will be required to issue IDSA Qualification Cards to their successful students. In keeping with the commitment to high standards, the meeting agreed that no allowance would be made in future for prior learning outside the range of IDSA qualifications; in future all students will be required to follow all parts of each course

Other items discussed which will be included in the revised Standards and Procedures were:
Course lengths: be standardised as follows

- Module A: 80 hours
- Module B: 120 hours
- Module C: 200 hours
- Module D: 48 hours

However it is very strongly recommended that the lengths in weeks agreed in Rotterdam, are followed unless the Board agrees otherwise, that is:

- Level 1: 5 weeks
- Level 1+2: 10 weeks (5+5 weeks) total
- Levels 1+2+3: 12 weeks (5+5+2 weeks) total

Also that a normal working week would be assumed to be 5 (five) days of 8 (eight) hours per day, subject to extensions and changes necessary to make allowances for bad environmental conditions, equipment breakdown, the requirement for training under working conditions, staff sickness etc.

Bottom times

The proposal by the Royal Danish Naval School to modify the bottom times required for levels 1, 2 and 3 were accepted, and are readily available from the Administrator – info@idsaworldwide

New competencies

A requirement for Wet Welding Experience and the use of Helmet mounted video cameras to be included in Module C of the Diver Training Standards.

The Table of Equivalence

To be revised to show all Members teaching the IDSA Standards, and their National Equivalents.

The availability of a Chamber

(i) Commercial SCUBA Operations (Levels 1)

For all dives a two person two compartment chamber should be within 2 hours travelling time from the dive site.

(ii) Surface Supplied Diving Operations. (Levels 2 & 3)

For dives less than 10 metres, a fully operational two person two compartment chamber should be within 2 hours travelling time from the dive site

For all other dives either a fully operational two person two compartment chamber or a two man one compartment chamber should be on-site either of which can be mated with the nearest therapeutic chamber.

NOTES

If the therapeutic chamber at (i) or (ii) above is not owned or rented by the School, then evidence must be provided that the School has a written, in-date agreement with the designated chamber owner/operator and that the chamber is operational and available during SSDE diver training.

In the case of (ii) above, evidence must be provided to show that the School on-site chamber has been mated to the designated therapeutic chamber – for example a documented TUP drill.

Wet Bell Recovery

The secondary means of recovering a Wet Bell or basket to be subject to a risk assessment.

Rules & Regulations

To be re-worded to allow a Chairman to serve for 3 x two year terms.



Secretary Dag Wroldsen (NYD) makes a test dive in the training pool

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THE SOCIETY FOR UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY (SUT), LONDON

The Administrator attended a meeting of the Diving & Manned Submersibles Committee of which he is a member, in November, representing IDSA. The Committee is Chaired by Dr John Bevan, Head of Submex and founding Chairman of the Historical Diving Society and consists of representatives from the various sections of the UK Diving Community–

Offshore, Inshore, Scientific, Media, Recreational etc. as well as representatives from HSE, IMCA & similar organizations. Apart from reports by the various representatives the guest speaker at this meeting was Neal W. Pollock, Ph.D. Research Director of the Divers Alert Network (DAN) describing DAN's research activities.

IMCA

In November IDSA Chairman Leo Lagarde and the Administrator Alan Bax met the Executive Director Hugh Williams, for an informal discussion and exchange information concerning current ideas and activities. The meeting was of value to both parties, who will maintain contact in the future as they have in the past.



*Relaxing after their meeting, right to left :
Leo Lagarde,
Jill Williams,
Hugh Williams
and Alan Bax*

THE NORWEGIAN COMMERCIAL DIVING SCHOOL (NYD)-OSLO



Rob Gatt

*Mr Salim Diler with
the Managing Director
and Owner of NYD,
Dag Wroldsen*

The school reports that it was pleased to host a visit by Mr Salim Diler from India at the end of September. He is an associate of the YAK Academy (Full Member) in Mumbai, and is considering the possibility of creating a School on the East Coast.

He was given a tour of NYD's extensive diving areas, equipment and facilities, and entertained by the School's Director.

In mid November the School was also very pleased to host the visit of two guests from Australia, Rob Gatt and Bronwen Campbell. Rob is now the Executive Director of ADAS (Australian Diving Accreditation Scheme), following the sad demise of Paul Butler in September.

Rob was a member of the Victoria Police from 1982 - 2010 and spent much of his career as part of the Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad. From Police Diver he moved on to Dive Supervisor and then to Training Manager. He joined ADAS in 2010 as Deputy Director, where he was instrumental in the creation of the world's first Dive Supervisor Training Simulators.

In 2002 the EDTC (European Diving Technology Committee) published 'Personnel Competence Standards for the Diving Industry' which were structured under a 'Goal Setting' formula. The overall aim was to ensure that all European divers, and those working in European waters, would reach an agreed minimum standard of competence before being allowed to work in the sector. At that time these standards represented a very useful 'starting point', but they are now in need of updating as this approach has generally become more sophisticated. It is to be hoped that the newly appointed officers of EDTC, with their commitment to high standards will address this issue as a matter of urgency, and that they will consult with a range of other interested parties.

GOAL SETTING AS A BASIS FOR DIVER TRAINING



Jill Williams, M.Ed, M.A., was the Director of the Health Education Unit at King's College, University of London for ten years, with responsibility for the planning and organisation of advanced courses, leading to qualifications which met both professional goals and academic standards. She then moved to Fort Bovisand Underwater Centre where she was Admin and Publicity Manager for eight years until its sale to new owners in 1996. She was External Evaluator for the HSE during its development of a Central Examination System. She now acts as Minutes Secretary for IDSA meetings and for its Executive Board, and is joint editor of IDSA News.

A 'goal setting' agenda is a trend which has been popular with planners since the 1980s when it was seen as the answer to criticisms of 'prescriptive' courses. In the latter, students are selected for, and follow, a particular course and are then tested in some way to ensure that they have achieved the stated goals. The idea of goal setting grew out of a movement which saw many of the traditional, prescriptive courses as 'elitist' and sought to make access to a wider range of participants more open. This was thought to be possible at all levels – in schools, for example, where final examinations were often replaced (partly or wholly) by continuous assessment so that 'less academic' students were not discriminated against; in work situations where lack of formal qualifications could be balanced by the opportunities afforded by on-the-job assessments and the award of NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications) or similar; and to entrance to higher education where entry requirements, normally proof of academic achievements, could be replaced by portfolios delineating relevant 'life experiences'.

In diving, where the accident rate in the North Sea had led to the setting up of a number of courses (which would teach the required skills in a logical manner, giving relevant experience where possible, and an understanding of what was seen as a necessary theoretical underpinning), the emergence of the 'grandfather qualification' is a good example of goal setting to equate the opportunities of those who have learned their skills 'on the job' and those who have graduated from a course in a diving school.

There are, of course, supporters and critics of both types of approaches. At their worst, formal courses can be restrictive, selecting their students from a small, narrow group of applicants, and easily becoming out of touch with changing needs as a result of their isolation from the 'real' world. Critics claim that such students are likely to be ill-prepared for the real world of work, and may have little of value to offer to potential employers, though 'old boy' networks often conceal this initially. In contrast, the best of the formal courses can offer clarity to students about what is needed to succeed, can keep up to date with employers' needs, and ensure that a qualifying student benefits from a clearly structured course of progressive learning and gains the depth of skills and knowledge which will form a sound basis for future development and progression. The best of such courses are characterised by clear, informed leadership and rigorous professional standards in teaching and assessment.

Equally a 'Goal Setting' approach has its supporters and detractors. A major strength of a goal-setting approach is that there is clarity about what the end result of the learning process should be. It allows for flexibility in how these outcomes are achieved – there need not, for example, be a set course to follow and all a candidate needs to do to succeed is to demonstrate that the required skills and knowledge are present. The 'field' is therefore much more open, candidates are not limited by having to attend certain training courses, and are able to get their requisite knowledge through a variety of sources. Critics of this approach point out that, apart from tasks requiring a low level of skills and knowledge, simply being able to show that an individual can 'do something' is not enough in the modern-day work situation. Many work tasks demand a level of understanding which enables an individual to select an appropriate response from a number of alternatives; assessment of performance is complex and time-consuming and setting tasks which can demonstrate that learning goals have been achieved can be fraught with difficulty.

It seems to me that the belief that there is a split between a 'training schools approach' and a 'goal setting approach' is a false one. Whilst it is natural for employ-

ers and unions to want to keep control of work practices and employment conditions, and it is equally understandable that schools believe that breadth and depth of learning are crucial and are best learnt in a controlled environment, in my view the two are not mutually exclusive.

For years the schools have - of necessity - done their own 'goal setting', originally with reference to the requirements of HSE in the UK, or other relevant bodies elsewhere, and latterly by consulting with each other to improve and update. IDSA in fact offers an exemplar of how to maximise expertise for the general good - experienced schools came together and negotiated the goals which they thought were appropriate for the training of professional divers; they then went on to set out how training could achieve these goals through structured courses. That this is not a simple task is illustrated by the length of time such developments have taken - not just the original detailed planning but later refinements and adjustments. Inevitably such refinements are a continuous process if the changing needs of industry and of the modern world of work are to be met.

In talking to professionals in industry and in diver training I have been struck by the absence of discussion and interaction between the employers of divers and those who train them. There seems to be no formal mechanism whereby trainers can be helped to understand employers' changing needs, and a 'them and us' situation has developed which does not reflect well on either side. It is quite logical that, as the employers are the ones who should know what they require of divers, they should make such needs known to the schools and then be in a position to give feed back to the schools as to whether their requirements are being met or not. To do this usefully, they also need to understand more about training including its needs and limitations.

An organisation such as EDTC, which can bring together representatives of employers, unions, and training is thus in an ideal position to undertake the responsibility of Goal Setting for the training of entrants into the diving industry - and such Goal Setting should also include, logically, discussion and clarity about how the achievement of such goals can best be assessed.

In turn, it would then be up to training establishments to

show how their courses can achieve such goals. This is not an easy task as those working to the IDSA Standards have found, but much of the work has already been done and it would not be necessary for EDTC to 're-invent the wheel' but merely to negotiate adjustments where these were required. And what of alternative entry to the diving profession? The so-called 'alternative' routes are largely based on work experience already gained. Under many modern safety regulations such work is likely to be forbidden, since unqualified personnel are unlikely to be able to get the experience without breaking the law.

An alternative might be an apprenticeship system, such as are found in the USA and other parts of the world, and this can have much to commend it since learning takes place in 'real life' situations. However, relatively few employers would be in a position to undertake such training either safely or economically. A few examples are in existence: Smit Salvage, in Rotterdam, for example, has trained its own salvage divers under a special scheme which seems to be of a very high standard. But this is a very big company with excellent facilities and dedicated staff - in other words it can provide an in-house training school. Most employers would have difficulty in structuring the learning process in such a way, and in these cases the safe and logical development of trainees might be compromised.

In theory there is no problem with an apprenticeship which can give adequate depth and breadth to the theoretical and practical learning experiences of the trainee diver - it would be up to individual companies to prove their ability to do so - just as individual schools have to prove their competence through audits such as those carried out by IDSA.

Updating by EDTC of setting Goals against which a diver's competency can be evaluated should, in my view, be welcomed. It would be a unique opportunity to bring together all interested parties in the production of a benchmark against which other forms of training can be judged, but to do so requires proper consultation between ALL interested parties. With new leadership, it is to be hoped that the committee will take this unique opportunity and make the goals of quality diver training explicit and 'fit for purpose' so that trainers can get on with the job of achieving them.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN DIVING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (EDTC)

The EDTC held its annual meeting in Marseille on September 14, The members of the Board attend, the Chairman and the Treasurer as industry representatives for their respective countries, The Secretary as a guest and the Administrator as the IDSA representative - IDSA being a member of EDTC

An EDTC Workshop in 2012

It is planned to hold an EDTC Workshop in Brussels May 11 & 12 2012. It is intended that The Workshop focuses on the Freedom of movement of Inland/Inshore Diving Personnel. Display stands may be available, and if appropriate it is intended that IDSA will apply for one.

The new Chairman of EDTC Jorn Ryberg (Left) with Dag Wroldsen (IDSA) and the outgoing Secretary of EDTC OC Andersen (Right).

EDTC Training Standards for Diving & Hyperbaric Doctors The Chairman of the Medical Sub-Committee Doctor Jurg Wendling reported that his Committee had developed a detailed programme of training for doctors involved in diving & Hyperbaric Medicine. The programme was agreed after some discussion and will be introduced as soon as some final details have been resolved

Windfarm Diving Regulations

A working party was formed to look into this matter, and our Chairman Leo Lagarde was appointed as a member IMCAA reported on the status of current IMCA documents - it is of interest that IMCA Guidance documents are now available at no cost on their website www.imca-int.com.

National Reports

National reports were given by the representatives of a number of EU countries, Italy and Sweden reporting that new Diving Regulations had been introduced.

Elections

At the end of the meeting an election was held, and the Executive Board of the Committee is now Jorn Ryberg (Sweden) Chairman, Jurg Wendling (Switzerland) Vice Chairman, Roger O'Kane (UK) Secretary, Jane Bugler (UK), Claus Mayer (Germany) and Pasquale Longobardi (Italy), members

The new Chairman of EDTC Jorn Ryberg (Left) with Dag Wroldsen (IDSA) and the outgoing Secretary of EDTC OC Andersen (Right).



THE IDSA TABLE OF EQUIVALENCE

A List of Schools teaching the IDSA Standards together with their National equivalent

COUNTRY/SCHOOL	IDSA LEVEL 1 Commercial SCUBA Diver	IDSA LEVEL 2 Surface Supplied Inshore Air Diver	IDSA LEVEL 3 Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver	IDSA LEVEL 4 Closed Bell Mixed Gas Diver
AUSTRALIA				
Equivalent National Standard See Note 4	Part 1		Part 3	Part 4
BELGIUM/SYNTRA				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 2 See Note 1	YES		
Equivalent National Standard		OOW - SYNTRA		
BELGIUM/CFPME				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 2 See Note 1	YES		
Equivalent National Standard		OTS-CFPME		
CANADA				
Equivalent National Standard See Note 4	Unrestricted SCUBA	Unrestricted SCUBA Plus Restricted Surface Supplied Diver	Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver to 50m +Unrestricted SCUBA	Bell Diver
DENMARK / Royal Danish Navy Diving School				
IDSA Level taught:	YES	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	YES	
Equivalent National Standard	National SCUBA Diver		Surface Supply Diver – 50m	
FINLAND/Luksia				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 2 See Note 1	YES		
Equivalent National Standard	National SCUBA Diver	National Surface Supply Diver-50m		
FRANCE				
Equivalent National Standard	Class 1 Mention A or B	Class 1 Mention A	Class 2 Mention A	Class 3 Mention A
INDIA/The YAK Diving Academy				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	YES	
ITALY/CEDIFOP				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 2 See Note1	YES		
MOROCCO/Centre Mediterranee de Plongee Professionnelle (CMPP)				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	YES	
	Class 1 Mention A or B	Class 1 Mention A	Class Mention A	
NETHERLANDS/The National Diving Centre				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	Combined with Level 3 See Note1	YES	
	Certificate A		Certificate B	
NEW ZEALAND				
Equivalent National Standard. See Note 4	Part 1		Part 3	Part 4

COUNTRY/SCHOOL	IDSA LEVEL 1 Commercial SCUBA Diver	IDSA LEVEL 2 Surface Supplied Inshore Air Diver	IDSA LEVEL 3 Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver	IDSA LEVEL 4 Closed Bell Mixed Gas Diver
NORWAY/Norwegian Commercial Diving School (NYD)				
IDSA Level taught:	YES	Combined with Level 3 See Note 1	YES	
Equivalent National Standard	Labour Inspection Authority (LIA) Level A Inshore SCUBA		Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) Part 1 : Surface orientated Diver North Sea Offshore LIA Level B : Surface Orientated Diver Inshore	NPD Bell Diver
SOUTH AFRICA				
Equivalent National Standard See Note 4	Class 4	Class 3	Class 2	Class 1
SWEDEN/Farjenas Diving School				
IDSA Level taught:	YES	YES		
Equivalent National Standard	Diver Certificate A	Diver Certificate B	Diver Certificate C Wet Bell 60m	
SWEDEN/Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medical Centre				
IDSA Level taught:	Combined with Level 2 See Note	YES		
Equivalent National Standard	Diver Certificate A	Diver Certificate B	Diver Certificate C Wet Bell 60m	
UK-Pre April 1998				
Equivalent National Standard See Note 3	HSE Part 4	HSE Part 3 Plus Task Training module	HSE Part 1	HSE Part 2
UK-Post April 1998				
Equivalent National Standard See Note 3	HSE SCUBA	HSE SCUBA Plus HSE Surface Supply Plus Tools Training module	HSE SCUBA Plus HSE Surface Supply Plus Tools Training module Plus Surface Supplied Top Up	HSE Closed Bell
USA DIVERS ACADEMY				
IDSA Level taught: See Note 2				
Equivalent National Standard		American National Standard for Divers - ANSI/ACDE-01-2009 (USA)		
USA/Ocean Corporation				
IDSA Level taught:See Note 2				
Equivalent National Standard		American National Standard for Divers - ANSI/ACDE-01- 2009 (USA)		

NOTES:

1. Not taught as a separate course.
2. Currently the Training Programmes of the members of the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) meet the ANSI Standards, and students are eligible for IDSA certification once they have achieved the necessary authenticated in-water experience.
3. The Task Training Module must cover the requirements for Task Training contained in the IDSA Level 2 Standard.
4. Subject to confirmation
5. Generally the high standards cover all those below, i.e. the award of IDSA Level 3 is conditional upon the diver having qualified Levels 1 & 2 previously.

DIVING AND MARINE CENTRE

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

by Michael Whelan
(Diving Superintendent)

The Diving & Marine Centre is Plymouth University's unique diver training centre situated on Plymouth's historic waterfront. We are currently safely supervising over 5000 dives per year, and are the only training centre in the UK where students can learn to dive professionally as part of their chosen academic pathway.

The Centre offers unparalleled opportunity for the students (and staff) to participate in a wide range of water based activities.

Professional Diver training as part of a degree

Every year, approximately 360 successful applicants enrol on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Professional SCUBA diver training course and maritime training, after completing a selection programme which comprises a stringent aptitude test, interview and detailed medical assessment.

Eight of the Universities degree courses include a diving option module

STAGE 1/YEAR 1 PRE MODULAR TRAINING

The first year incorporates many safety and life skills students need to work in the marine environment, which are externally accredited. As well as completing modules and training required for the HSE Professional SCUBA course students also gain qualifications under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), which sets qualification standards for masters, officers and watch personnel on seagoing merchant ships. The STCW Convention was the first to establish basic requirements on training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers on an international level. These include:

Manual Handling, Health and Safety

Executive(HSE) this course aims to provide employees working with an understanding and awareness of Manual Handling and their individual and collective responsibilities under the organisation and legislative policies.

HSE First Aid at Work

Once qualified, holders of this First Aid at Work certificate can be used as First Aiders in the workplace. The Syllabus Includes: First Aid Priorities, Managing Incidents, Basic Life Support, Examination of a Casualty, Unconsciousness, Control of Bleeding, Fractures - Burns and Scalds- Common Illnesses, Heart Attacks, Eye Injuries, Dressings, Recording and Reporting, Regulations, First Aid Kits



Oxygen Administration HSE.

This course is designed to teach the administration of oxygen as a means on increasing the effectiveness of First Aid treatment of diving accidents. Oxygen treatment takes place on the surface – either on a boat or dry land. This course gives confidence to divers so they can assist with a diving-related injury.



Power Boat level 2,

Royal Yachting Association (RYA). This course provides the skills and background knowledge needed to drive a powerboat and is the basis of the International Certificate of Competence.

It includes close quarters handling, high speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Personal Survival Techniques is the STCW name for Sea Survival. This course is a mandatory requirement for those working in the offshore industry we teach the necessary skills to survive in a hostile environment if you have to abandon ship. (STCW A-V/1-4)

Personal Safety & Social Responsibility

PSSR is a course offering new and experienced crew members the basic health and safety advice required on modern and traditional vessels.

It covers basic hazards, personal protective equipment, general health and safety advice and general and emergency routines which you might come across.

VHF and Global Maritime Distress Safety System RYA / MCA

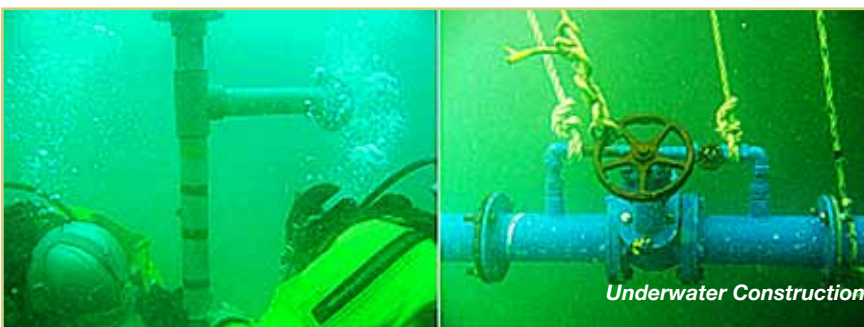
If you use a marine VHF radio onboard any British vessel, you are required to hold a marine radio operator's certificate. This course, which on completion, you will be a competent radio operator and know the correct procedure for distress, urgency, safety by means of marine VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radio.

Fire Awareness Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE)

This course teaches students basic fire risk assessment and the importance of fire prevention.



Life line training on the universities pontoon training area



Stage 2/Year 2 - Diver Training

Stage 2 is incorporated into the academic module and, if successful with the basic training, will lead to the adventurous and challenging HSE Professional SCUBA course, accredited by the HSE. This allows students to work professionally underwater. The course incorporates both scientific and engineering skill based modules.



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GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE FIRST GROUP OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS AT THE YAK DIVING ACADEMY – MUMBAI INDIA



The Chairman of the YAK Group, Mr. DS Yadav (right) presenting Student Tombra Dickson with his certificate and log book on graduation.

The Yak Diving Academy was established in early in 2010 and later that year was audited by IDSA and accepted to teach IDSA Level 2 – Surface Supplied Inshore Air Diver. Since then several courses have been run to this level. In 2011 the academy succeeded in obtaining agreement to train Nigerian students through the Niger Delta Amnesty Program set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Two groups of students have been sponsored by the Amnesty for Diver Training to IDSA Standards. The first group of 20 students successfully completed their Level 2 training and graduated on 21st Dec'2011

The training of the second group is in progress and it will graduate shortly.

The academy is proud to be associated with IDSA, and has worked hard to maintain the necessary quality of training and safety established during the audit.

The academy is now making preparations to gain acceptance to teach IDSA Level 3 – Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver – during which training will take place in the use of a Wet /Open Bell and Hot Water suit.



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PAUL BUTLER MEMORIAL

1943 - 2011

Sadly Paul passed away suddenly on the 14th of September, 2011 whilst in Marseilles. Paul has been the manager of Australian Diving Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) since 1996, and has been instrumental in developing the scheme into what it is today.

Paul was born in Adelaide on the 16th of March 1943. He spent short periods of work in the Australian Services Canteen Organisation, Australian Glass Manufacturers and The Victorian State Public Service Crown Law Department. From 1960 to 1980 he was active in 2 Commando Company, Williamstown where he eventually attained the rank of Captain, and he also served in the United Nations Forces in Cyprus.

In 1962 he joined the Victoria Police where his love of diving was born as a member of the Search and Rescue Squad where he was involved in over 600 operations. He then headed south with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions as expedition leader then later as project manager and diving superintendent (1980 -1990). Throughout this time he was also the NSW state manager for National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) where he carried out search and rescue operations for the RAAF. He then went on to the Australian Emergency Management Institute in 1990 where he conducted and managed emergency training for emergency services, government and the private sectors.

In 1994 Paul worked with Des Walters in the Descend Underwater Training Centre in Albury NSW, where he was the senior commercial dive instructor, training in AS 2815 Parts 1, 2 & 3.

From 1996 to 2003 he managed Offshore Safety and Security in the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR). It was in 2003 that Paul undertook the leadership role of ADAS in which he was strongly instrumental in developing one of the world's leading and safest diver accreditation schemes.

Paul's friend and work colleague, Rob Gatt recently wrote about Paul

"One of the things that stands out about nearly all the above work places is that they have several very strong themes in common that are essential to their success.

They provide a service to the community. They are about helping others in a time of need. They are leadership roles in the community, and they are positions that require close comradeship.

Knowing Paul, it comes as no surprise that these were the places of work he was drawn to, but also that he would go on to be a leader within many of them. Places where his strong leadership skills would allow him to work with his mates to help others in the community."

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RELIVING DIVING HISTORY

By Bjorn Kahrs
Chairman The Historical Diving Society, Norway.

In 2005 the Norwegian Historical Diving Society built a replica diving bell based on a drawing from a diving manual published in 1734 in Stockholm. The diving manual was called: "Konsten at Lefwa Under Waten" or in translation: The Art of Living Under Water. The author Mårten Triewald had seen Edmund Halley's demonstration in the Thames in 1716 and the title of the manual was in honor of Halley.

Our Society wanted to make a diveable bell which would meet today's safety standards as far as possible. The lifting point had to be certified for twice the weight of the bell which would be approx. 1500kg. The only way to meet this was to build a steel shell, cover it both inside and outside with wood and then cover the outside wood with lead as all bells described from this period are lead bells. Since 2005 we have performed nearly 200 dives. The longest at 2 meters for 40 minutes and the deepest to 30 metres.

One of these dives was quite spectacular

and it was at one of your member schools the Norwegian School of Commercial Diving.(NYD) The school has helped us dive the bell on previous occasions . Once at the Maritime Museum in Oslo and once during a Scandinavian historical diving event near the school. At this event we used the school facilities to dive the bell. They dismantled one of their diving baskets and mounted the bell in an A-frame and so it was possible to dive our replica Triewald Bell with other modern Bells to be used when marketing the schools' potential. February/March our bell went in the water at NYD together with their open bell, closed bell, a standard hard hat diver, divers in commercial SCUBA equipment, lightweight helmets, band masks, Superlite 17 helmet etc. All together they had 18 divers in the water at the same time. The only drawback was that the visibility was not the best, but the picture is truly historical. All these diving techniques covering over 275 years in the water at the same time.



THE 'MOOSE' SUIT

Another dive into history took place at NYD. In 2012 our society arranged a meeting of the Scandinavian historical diving societies and again we had a lot of help from Dag Wroldsen and his staff at NYD.

We offered the participants the opportunity to dive with our replica 1734 bell. To our great surprise Lars Gustavsson, the chairman of the Swedish society, turned up with a copy of a diving suit described by Francesco Negri a monk from Italy. He visited Stockholm in 1663 and observed a dive to the sunken warship "Vasa". He gives a description of how they dress the diver with a detail that made it possible to make a replica.

So we could put a diver in the water in a copy of a bell from 1734 in a copy of diving suit from 1663. A truly historic dive.



The Moose suit in the Bell

ADAS SIMULATORS RECOGNISED AT INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CONFERENCES



ADAS was invited to present at the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) annual seminar in New Orleans, the Canadian Underwater Conference (via web seminar), and the Norwegian Underwater Intervention (NUI) Diving Conference in Norway this year to further introduce the simulators for dive supervisor training and assessment. Active Learning Partners also represented both organisations in presenting at the !DEA11 conference in Melbourne about their experiences in winning the platinum award at the Learning Impact Awards 2011 for the "most impactful use of technology worldwide in support of learning".

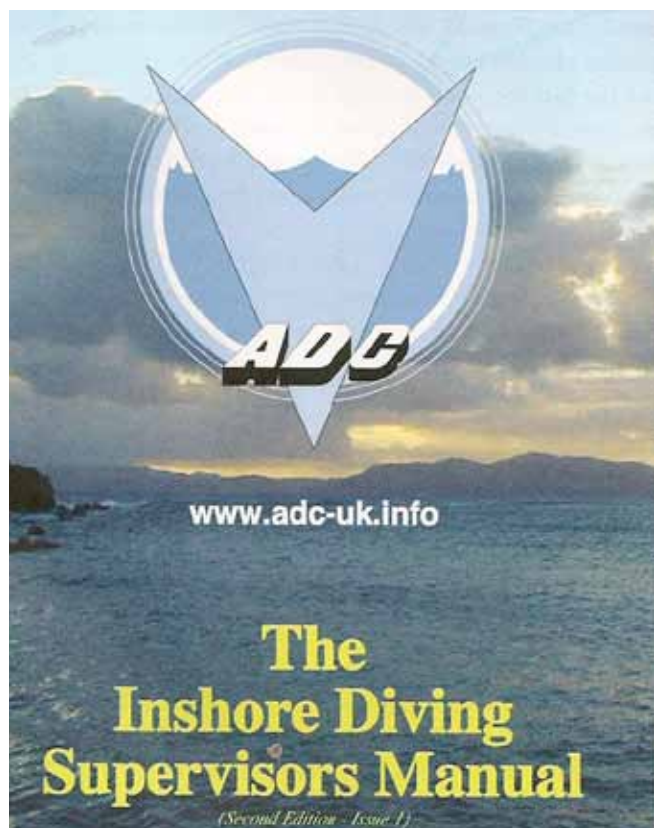
ADAS has been an active part of a working group to develop a document on the use of simulators in diver training. The guidance document IMCA C 014 Rev.1 was published recently with new additions recognising the use of simulators for diving supervisors, life support technicians (LST) and dynamic positioning operations. The guidance document introduces some exciting new options in the training and assessment of diving supervisors and LST operators that have existed in other occupations for many years.

The guidance document allows for the use of simulators to replace a specified proportion of the supervisor training time which is currently only able to be achieved offshore.

While there is no intention to completely replace the offshore training component, as that was deemed to continue to be critical in the development and training of a supervisor and LST, the international work group and the IMCA members did agree that the simulation would allow for exposure to a variety of situations that may or may not occur during the offshore time. Further work is currently underway to standardise the risk management practices and scenarios used during the simulation sessions. ADAS will continue to play an active role in the work group.

ADAS, with support from the Australian government, have been the first in the world to develop simulator technology directly targeted at diving operations, meaning that there will be two Class A simulators available for use within Australia. We should expect to see simulation used more widely around the world in the near future.

More trained simulator operators and the ability to provide support to simulator trainers remotely means that we are now in a position to train greater numbers of dive supervisors and commence use of the simulator for attaining recognised panel time.



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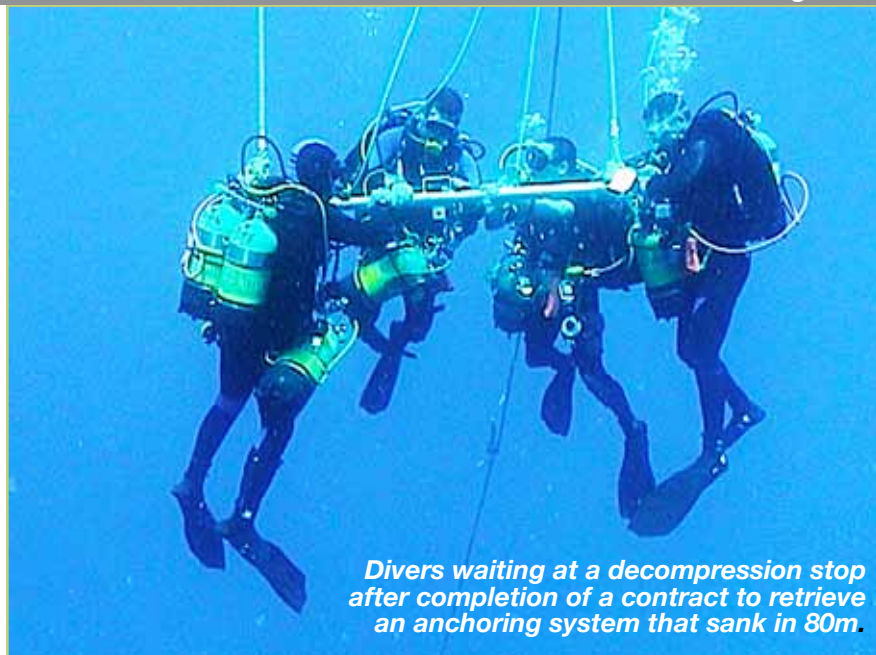
THE COMMERCIAL USE OF TRI-MIX IN ISRAEL

In Israel Tri-mix is sometimes used in bounce-dives of over 50m depth in order to conduct survey, photographic, and similar tasks or to save, money, time and the logistics needed for the preparation of a dive.

According to Israeli diving regulations, diving contractors/clubs and Supervisors/instructors must be authorized by the state, which checks whether or not operations are being carried out according to American Nitrox Divers Inc 'ANDI' international regulations.

Divers waiting at a decompression stop after completion of a contract to retrieve an anchoring system that sank in 80m. Dives may be conducted from any ship available. The recharging facilities especially facilitating tri-mix are located in certain diving clubs around the country and the equipment required for a diving operation is loaded on the ship. The compressor used for tri-mix is oil-free and only specially trained personal are allowed to operate it. The Israeli Professional Diving Academy (IPDA) is the only school in Israel that teaches Tri-Mix diving.

Due to the fact that tri-Mix diving can only be used in SCUBA operations, no communication underwater is possible. Detailed pre-dive briefings are carried out and each diver must know them as he must carry out the



Divers waiting at a decompression stop after completion of a contract to retrieve an anchoring system that sank in 80m.

operation on his own without supervision.

This type of diving is extremely dangerous and the safety regulations are very strict. Using Tri-Mix means that during descent and ascent different gases must be used by the diver. Each diver has a special notebook attached to his arm with the ANDI Tri-Mix gas table and has to change between the different gases according to calculations based on this table.

Each dive is carried out by two divers who must check each other underwater at all times. Bottom time is strictly calculated and is overseen using a stop watch both underwater by the divers themselves and by the supervisor on the surface. During decompression 100% oxygen must be used.

Peter Vered

Director, Israeli Professional Diving Academy (IPDA)

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COLLABORATION ITALY/NORWAY IN A PILOT COURSE FOR SURFACE SUPPLIED OFFSHORE AIR DIVER (50 METRES) - TO THE IDSA LEVEL 3 STANDARD



The 4 Italian students with their staff Instructor (2nd right) at NYD.

A pilot course to establish the feasibility of running a joint course using the facilities of two schools was held late in 2011. The purpose of the course was to convert 4 existing Level 2 divers to Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver). The first part of the course which focusses on Theory and Surface orientated dives to 50 metres, as required by the Level 3 syllabus, was held in Palermo by CEDIFOP a Full Member School accepted to teach to Level 2, and ran for two weeks. The second part was held at the Norwegian Commercial Diving School (NYD) in Oslo (accepted to Level 3), it lasted one week and covered the remainder of the Level 3 syllabus (the Theory & Practice of using a Wet Bell and Hot Water suits).

The course was recognised by the Regional Department of Sicily for Education and Professional Training, which accepts the IDSA qualifications, and monitored the course accordingly. This guaranteed the training and allowed Students from CEDIFOP, to take part in this type of joint course, for the first time in Italy.

The practical deep diving operations in Palermo were carried out using equipment from the school and a diving vessel equipped with a basket was hired from a local contracting company ALPE SUB (An Industrial Member of IDSA). The diving area was in the open sea about a kilometre from the coast. Dives were carried out using U.S. Navy air tables Revision 6, and training mainly concentrated on rescue from the basket and emergency procedures involving an unconscious diver or communication failure.

The deep phase of the course in Palermo was followed some two months later by the Wet Bell/ Hot-water suit phase at NYD (Oslo) which also included practical surface decompression and an experience dive outside the syllabus using NYD's T.U.P. (Transfer Under Pressure) system.

At the end of course, each student was issued with an individual certificate from NYD & CEDIFOP detailing the specific training carried out, plus an IDSA Qualification Card naming both Schools.

The outcome of this pilot course, evaluated by the IDSA Executive Board, is outlined in the chairman's message (Page 4), and is that such joint courses may only be run by two schools accepted to the same IDSA Level.

CEDIFOP's aim in planning this course in Italy, was to spearhead improvements in the quality and safety of Italian diver training, an aim which will continue as they prepare for acceptance to teach IDSA Level 3.



Students in the basket prior to a dive from the ALPE Sub Diving Vessel off Palermo

Offshore diving operations management and training

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- IMCA trainee air and bell diving supervisor
- IMCA diver assessment
- IMCA ALST
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IHC MERWEDE ACQUIRES HYTECH TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN THE OFFSHORE MARKET



IHC Merwede has announced that it acquired Hytech on 3 May 2011. This acquisition enables IHC Merwede to further secure its position in the offshore market. IHC Merwede designs and constructs dive support vessels suitable for operations to a depth of 300metres. Hytech designs the on-board equipment required by these vessels.

By combining knowledge and equipment, IHC Merwede is now able to develop complete saturation diving systems in house. The purchase of Hytech fits in with IHC Merwede's strategy of growth through acquisition, which aims to offer turnkey solutions to customers of all its maritime divisions.

The acquisition is beneficial for both companies. "Thanks to Hytech, we now have an in-house centre of knowledge for offshore diving activities and are able to supply our offshore vessels with diving equipment," says Govert Hamers, President of IHC Merwede. "In addition, we are able to speed up the expansion of Hytech, because of our financial capabilities." "Jan Lagrouw, Director of Hytech, sees the access to essential know-how as an important advantage: "IHC Merwede's knowledge, combined with its financial backing, allow us to develop, manufacture and support larger, more complex and capital-intensive diving systems."

THE UNDERWATER CENTRE

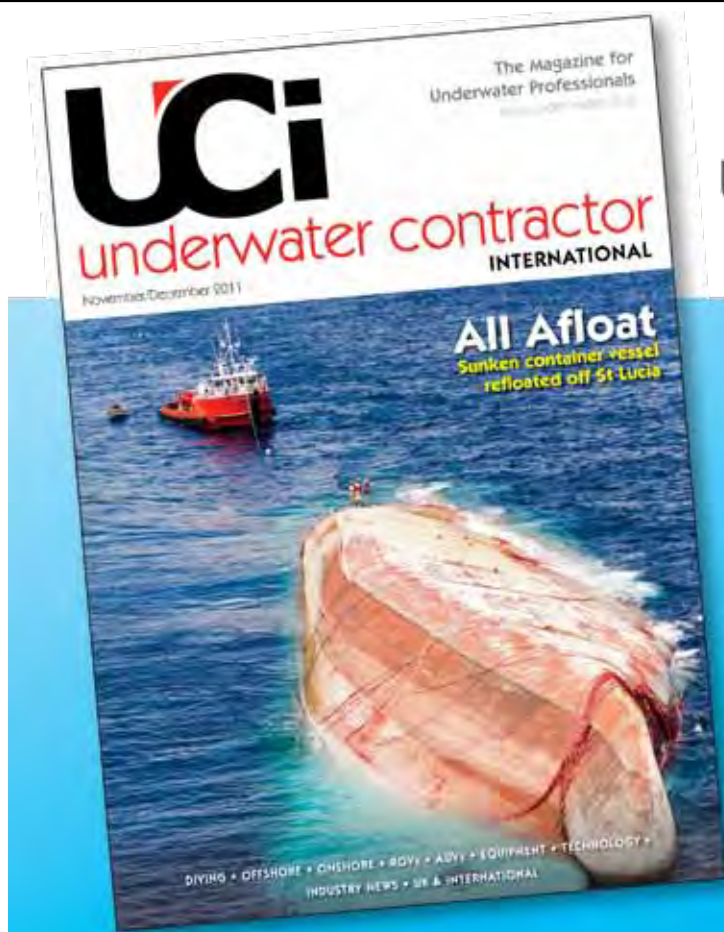
Fort William, Scottish-based subsea training provider the Underwater Centre has picked up a top award at the inaugural Energy North Awards Ceremony held in Inverness, Thursday, September 29.

The Centre triumphed in the Best Oil and Gas Industry Service Supplier category. The Best Oil and Gas Industry Service Supplier recognises those companies that are involved in the oil and gas industry in the HIE region. The Underwater Centre's primary focus is on providing industry specific skills and competency training for commercial divers and ROV pilots; helping graduates into their new careers and providing the energy sector with the workforce that it needs. Speaking after the awards ceremony, The Underwater Centre's General Manager, Steve Ham said: "It is an honour to have won this award and it is testament to the hard work of all the staff at the Centre who have helped to deliver our service in the UK and across the globe."

The Underwater Centre is the only training centre in the world that offers the full range of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) commercial diving qualifications in air and mixed gas diver training, from HSE SCUBA to HSE Closed Bell diving.



Steve Ham (Centre) General Manager receiving the Award from Nicky Marr Master of Ceremonies (Left)



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Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC)
Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Oslo (NYD)
Farjenas Diving School
Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medicine Centre
Divers Academy International
The Ocean Corporation

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