

DIVENWS

04 2026

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20TH ANNIVERSARY KBA

**THE BADGE
KHALED ABDULLAH &
CAPT. OMAR ALI EZZ EL DIN**

**IDSA ANNUAL
MEETING 2026
ANTWERP**

INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION



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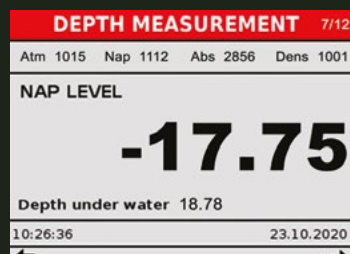
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**The Alan Bax Award
honorable mention:**

- Alan Bax (2017)
- Dag Wroldsen (2019)
- Leo Lagarde (2022)
- Carin Bot (2025)



GOLOPHON

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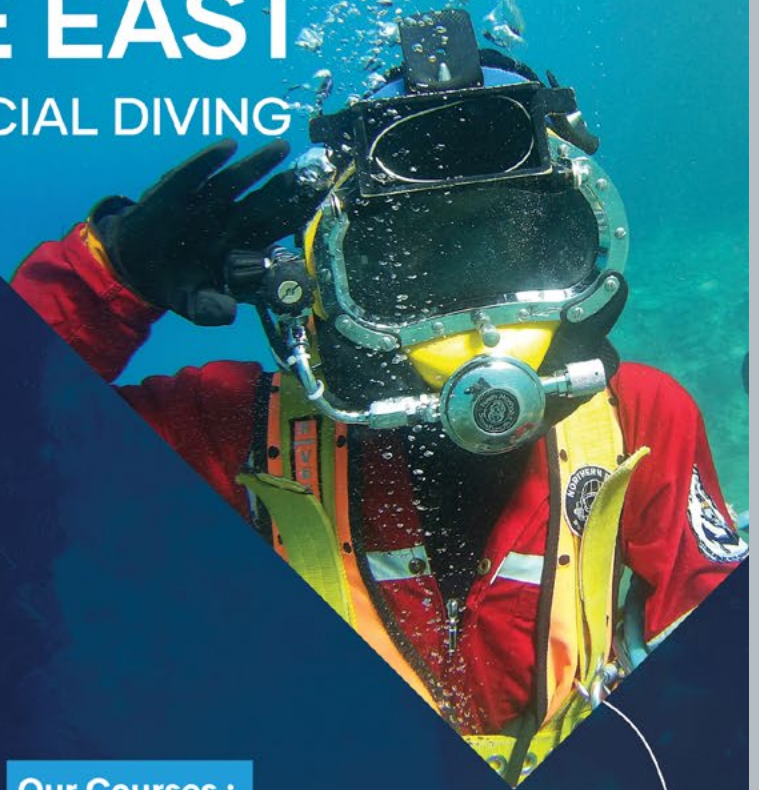
45 NEW MEMBER IFABME



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MECD is one of the most prestigious commercial diving and ROV training schools in the world with a unique link to the commercial diving arenas.

With a passion to help our students in the acquisition of commercial diving skills to build a career in commercial diving industry, we have established training courses that are relevant to commercial diving industry requirements on a global level.



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- ✓ Underwater Photography
- ✓ Diving First Aid course
- ✓ Chamber Operator course
- ✓ Offshore awareness
- ✓ Commercial Diving Safety

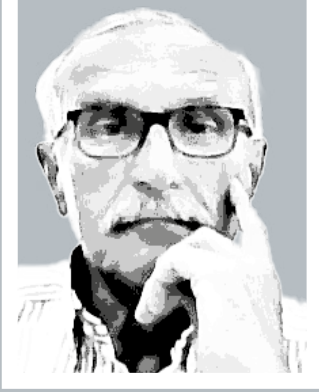
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INSPIRING
PEOPLE





FROM THE CHAIRMAN LEO LAGARDE

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that the next IDSA Annual Meeting will take place in Week 26 of 2026, hosted by our full member school SAB Diving in Antwerp, Belgium. Located in the heart of the Port of Antwerp, SAB Diving is a well respected professional training center offering IDSA Levels 1, 2, and 3. Their strong commitment to safety, high quality training, and professional standards aligns perfectly with our shared mission to advance diver training internationally. We warmly encourage all members to join us in Belgium. Your presence strengthens our community and ensures meaningful, constructive discussions on the future of professional diver education.

IDSA Standards – Progress and Updates

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the Technical Committee; Robbert de Bie (Chairman), Johnny Jensen, Hossam Elmasry, and Dan Hedberg for their excellent work in completing PART IV and PART VI of the IDSA Standards. After consultation with the IDSA Board, the full overview now stands as:

- PART I – IDSA Organization
- PART II – IDSA Level 1 and 2
- PART III – IDSA Level 3 and 4
- PART V – IDSA Training Handbook (in progress)

These developments bring us another step closer to a fully modernized and comprehensive standards framework.

Growing Community

We were delighted to welcome three new members to IDSA:

- H₂O Proservices Academy (Algeria)
- SUBWEB Technical Academy Limited (Nigeria)
- Professional Diving Training Center (Tunisia)
- Cente IFAPME de Dinant (Belgium)
- Justdive (Portugal)

Their addition reflects the continued international growth of IDSA and strengthens the global network of schools committed to high quality diver training.

Looking Ahead

With anticipation of building for our 2026 gathering in Antwerp, we hope to see all of you there as we continue working together to enhance safety, quality, and professionalism across the commercial diving sector.

Thank you for your continued dedication to IDSA.

We wish you a safe and successful season with many new students.

Warm regards,
Leo Lagarde
Chairman, IDSA



DIVE05

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Quarter page:

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Q3-2026 deadline is 10th of September 2026.

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FROM THE EDITOR ROBERT DE BIE



Call for Contributions to IDSA News

Dear IDSA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we open the first issue of IDSA News for 2026, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the continued enthusiasm within our global community. Over the past editions, we've seen how powerful our shared stories can be how they connect schools, companies, students, instructors, and industry partners across borders and time zones.

Together, we've built a publication that reflects not just the state of commercial diving, but the spirit of the people who shape it.

And now, as we move into a new year, it's the perfect moment to continue growing that momentum.

IDSAs News is more than a magazine; it's a platform for visibility, collaboration, and innovation. Whether you're training the next generation of divers, conducting groundbreaking underwater operations, researching new safety techniques, or exploring unique historical perspectives, your insight has value. Your experiences help elevate standards across the industry and strengthen our shared commitment to professional excellence.

📣 What We Invite You to Share

We welcome contributions from full members, associate members, instructors, students, and industry partners. No story is too big or too small. Consider submitting:

- Articles on commercial diving operations, training, safety, and new technologies
- Experience from audits, certifications, or field projects
- Perspectives from instructors and students, your path, your challenges, your lessons
- Technical features, such as equipment developments or specialized underwater work
- Historical pieces exploring the roots and evolution of our field
- Updates from schools, companies, and research initiatives around the world



How to Contribute

Contributions don't need to be long, a one-page article with a few photos is perfect.

Please include your logo, name, and contact details.

Send your submissions to:

✉ post@idsaworldwide.org

or directly to me at

✉ robbertdebie@gmail.com

If you have ideas for new recurring segments or topics you'd like to introduce into the magazine, I would be very happy to hear them.

The upcoming IDSA Annual Meeting scheduled for **Week 26 of 2026** and proudly hosted by our full member school **SAB Diving in Antwerp, Belgium** offers another exciting opportunity to come together as a community. SAB Diving, located in the heart of the Port of Antwerp, is a respected professional training center offering IDSA Levels 1, 2, and 3. Their commitment to high quality training and safety aligns perfectly with our shared mission.

As we look ahead to gathering in Belgium this year, let's also bring that sense of collaboration and expertise into this edition of IDSA News. Together, we can create a 2026 issue that truly reflects diversity, professionalism, and innovation within the commercial diving industry. I look forward to seeing your contributions and to seeing many of you in Antwerp.

Thank you for your commitment and I look forward to receiving your contributions.

The deadline for submissions for the Q3-2026 issue is 10 September 2026.

Safe Diving,

Robbert de Bie

Editor, IDSA News

Chairman, Technical Committee

ROV pilot technician is one of well-respected and highly paid careers in the offshore.

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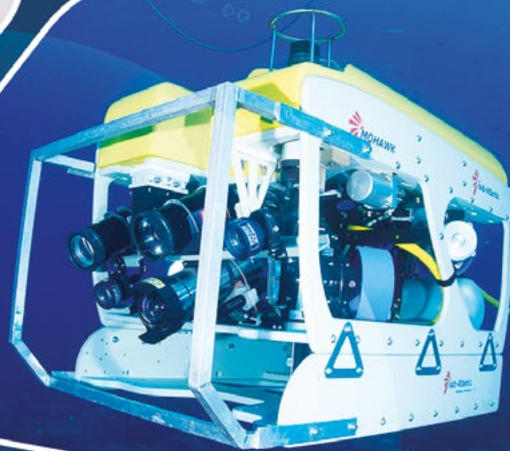
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THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRST AID IN COMMERCIAL DIVING

By Mona Shobair, Regional Sales Manager at Middle East for Commercial Diving - MECD

Commercial diving is one of the most demanding professions in the maritime and offshore industries. Divers operate in environments that expose them to risks such as decompression sickness, drowning, hypothermia, barotrauma, and equipment failure. Because medical assistance is often far from the dive site, the ability to provide immediate and effective first aid becomes critical. For this reason, professional training bodies such as the International Diving Schools Association emphasize first aid competence as a fundamental component of commercial diver training.

The International Diving Schools Association emphasize first aid competence as a fundamental component of commercial diver training. In 2020, IDSA published MEMO 018/2020 to advise schools to issue a First Aid Certificate to their divers. The memo highlighted the importance of first aid in commercial diving which refers to the immediate care provided to an injured or ill diver before professional medical treatment is available. In underwater operations, emergencies may occur rapidly and escalate quickly. Quick response can stabilize the diver, prevent complications, and significantly improve survival outcomes.

Following the introduction of the first aid memo, the IDSA Technical Committee has been working on developing and enhancing the first aid standards. As first aid training is not just a technical requirement

but a crucial part of safety culture in commercial diving operations. A great deal have been added to ensure that divers graduating from accredited schools possess the necessary skills to operate safely in professional diving environments. In 2025, IDSA Standards 2025-R04 "Dive Medical Assistance" was published to inform diving personnel about various diving-related illnesses, their causes, consequences, symptoms, and the corresponding first aid measures. Diving personnel should learn to dive in such a way that diving-related illnesses are prevented as much as possible and to take the appropriate first aid measures in the event of diving-related illnesses.

First aid is a critical component of safe commercial diving operations. Due to the remote and hazardous nature of underwater work, divers and their support teams must be



capable of responding effectively to medical emergencies. The standards established by the International Diving Schools Association ensure that commercial divers receive comprehensive training in emergency care and first aid procedures. By emphasizing preparedness, rapid response, and teamwork, first aid training not only protects divers' lives but also strengthens the overall safety and professionalism of the commercial diving industry.

**IN UNDER
WATER
OPERATIONS,
EMERGENCIES
MAY OCCUR
RAPIDLY AND
ESCALATE
QUICKLY**

KIRBY MORGAN HISTORY PART 5



MH 10 1971 The Morgan 10 recirculator helmet

The MH 10 was designed in 1971. This recirculator helmet was designed for use with the General Electric Mark 10 closed circuit breathing system and tested by the US Navy at the Aegir habitat as part of the Sealab undersea habitat experiments. The MH 10 featured side-mounted tubes connected to hoses that facilitated the flow of breathing gas to and from the back-mounted recirculator. This unit included a unique hood that was easily removable and adjustable. In total, only ten units of this helmet were produced.

MH 11 1971 The Morgan 11 recirculator helmet

After the US Navy's initial testing of the MH 10, the MH 11 followed in 1971 as part of the Sealab undersea experi-

ments. This dry helmet differed very little in appearance from the Band Mask design and was similar to the MH 10. It included a demand regulator

are designed for use with the Westinghouse-supplied U.S. Navy Mark 11 breathing system. Only 50 units of this mask were made.



used as a backup breathing system. This recirculator helmet featured a double face seal: one around the face and another around the mouth and nose. The gas flow tubes on this mask

Kirby Morgan Bandmask 9
The Kirby Morgan Bandmask 9 was initially introduced in 1973, becoming the first modern diving mask to gain Navy approval. Unlike earlier BandMask models, this mask was made from lightweight injection-molded Cycolac replacing the traditional hand-laid fiberglass. The KMB 9 featured an enhanced side valve, a redesigned adjustable regulator handle, and full two-way communications. Its enhanced oral nasal mask minimized CO₂ buildup, while the band design allowed the hood and face seal to detach from the main frame. During this period, the BandMask design





rights were still owned by U.S. Divers, who manufactured and distributed the KMB 9 from 1973 to 1975.

1974 MHX-12

The Morgan Helmet experimental 12

In 1974, the MHX 12 was developed with a fiberglass construction. A rubber hood liner inside the hard helmet ensured a dry environment for the diver's head. This dry helmet was designed to connect to the band mask. Two versions of the MHX 12 were produced; however, none were ever sold, and the design ultimately led to the development of the KMH-16.

1974 KHX-13

The Bucket Hat

The KHX 13, widely known as the bucket hat, was created in 1974 as a joke.

Kirby and Bev had been using a straightforward numerical system for their helmets. However, when they reached the number 13, they chose to skip it due to the superstition surrounding that number.

To create the bucket hat, Kirby gathered a bucket large enough for his head and added a handle on top. He soldered a viewport on the front, installed a steady flow valve, and even attached a

cowbell and an old squeeze ball horn for communication. To enhance the helmet's comfort, Kirby and Bev mixed foaming plastic and poured it inside.



The foam solidified in the bucket, forming a cushion for the head. As a final touch, they added a weight belt to the bucket hat, and it was ready for water testing. Surprisingly, the bucket hat really worked.

During this time, the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit was scheduled to test a new helmet, and Kirby and Bev saw this as an opportunity to pull a prank on the diving unit.

When the Experimental Diving Unit Team arrived at Kirby's pool, he had the bucket hat placed on a table under a cover. He gave a brief talk about the new diving helmet, explaining how the new yoke system would change diving forever.

Bringing the Navy team together for the unveiling, he quickly pulled off the cover from the bucket helmet and continued to explain and demonstrate its features, such as ringing the cowbell and hooting the horn... all without breaking a smile.

While one of the Navy divers was in on

the joke, the rest of the team seemed confused yet remained intrigued. To top it off, the ringer diver donned the bucket hat and jumped into the pool, using the cowbell as he surfaced.

Eventually, the rest of the Navy team caught on to the prank. While the bucket hat started as a joke, several important findings emerged from testing this unit's water capabilities. The helmet dives surprisingly well and is quite comfortable.

1974 MHX-14 The Morgan Helmet experimental 14

During this period, Kirby returned to the company, and Deepwater Development Corp. changed its name to Diving Systems International. That year, the MHX 14 helmet was introduced. This helmet had a rubber insert in front that separated the diver's face from the rest of the helmet to enhance the performance of the demand regulator. Water tests on the helmet yielded unfavorable results, leading to the suspension of work on the MHX 14. Only one unit was ever produced.

1975 KHX-15 Kirby Helmet experimental 15

The Kirby Helmet experimental 15 was created as a testing platform for Kirby's new neck dam and yoke system. It was constructed from fiberglass. Its rubber neck dam was attached to a metal band that clamped around the helmet with a cam lever. The yoke system provided a closure at the bottom of the helmet, which was smaller than a diver's head, securely fastening the helmet to the diver. The helmet was equipped with a simple steady-flow breathing system.

**THE DESIGN
OF THE YOKE
SYSTEM WAS
INSPIRED BY A
CHILDHOOD
MEMORY OF
KIRBY'S UNCLE**



The design of the yoke system was inspired by a childhood memory of Kirby's uncle, Lester Dresser, who would lift him up by placing his hands around his neck without causing any pain.

In 1975, NEDU had a Canadian exchange officer named Barry Ridgewell, who visited with a team of engineers to review the KHX 15. They were impressed, and Barry issued a purchase

order. However, the helmet was red, and Barry requested one exactly like it, but in blue. After painting the red helmet blue, Kirby sent it to Barry.

Years later, Barry found out that the blue helmet had red paint underneath and contacted Kirby about it, upset by the difference. Kirby said that the helmet was exactly what Barry had asked for a blue version of the red KHX-15.



order. However, the helmet was red, and Barry requested one exactly like it, but in blue. After painting the red helmet blue, Kirby sent it to Barry.

Despite the interest, the KHX-15 program soon stalled due to the politics surrounding the U.S. Navy's Mark XII helmet. At the time, the U.S. Navy was still using the Mk. V as its primary deep-sea rig, and it was too big of a shift for them to adopt a head-moun-

1975 KHXD-15 The Kirby Experimental Demand 15

The KHXD 15 was an improved second version of the KHX 15, featuring a silenced servo demand regulator mounted on the side of the helmet as part of the side valve for breathing gas.

Its servo demand regulator controls gas flow through the upper part of the helmet, clearing the viewing port and



delivering air to the diver. An adjustable exhalation lag maintains a tapered flow to help flush CO₂.

The helmet was easy to remove. Simply opening the cam clamp was enough, with no locking system needed. Water tests showed that the KHXD 15 performed exceptionally well and significantly improved upon current diving setups.

However, its larger overall size required additional counterbalancing weight, making it heavier than Kirby or Morgan preferred.

At that time, Kirby and Morgan had no commercial products available, so they took the KHXD 15 to the 1975 ADC show in Morgan City, where it attracted considerable attention. A potential buyer was eager to purchase it, but Kirby and Morgan had already decided not to sell the helmet because it was not suitable for working commercial divers.

Only one prototype was ever made and tested, and it is now on display at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

1975 KMB-10

The Kirby Morgan BandMask 10

was created to meet the growing demand for the BandMask models. Although the BandMask design originated with Kirby and Morgan, the production and distribution rights still

belonged to U.S. Divers.

During this time, U.S. Divers became best known for the KMB 10, widely recognized as the world's most popular lightweight commercial soft mask. The KMB 10 featured a redesigned non-return valve developed by U.S. Divers. The right-sided mounted manifold controlled the free flow and the emergency gas supply.

The mask was designed to be used with an umbilical made up of a breathing gas supply hose, a communications cable, and a pneumofathometer hose, combined with the lifeline to form a single unit.

The KMB 10 had an attached zippered

face seal to the main frame, held by two screws and five "spider" hooks.

The Navy Experimental Diving Unit tested the KMB 10 in September 1975. It was approved by the Navy after some modifications and became known as the Mark 1 Mod 0 Diver's Mask. They were distinguishable because the Navy versions had black frames, while the civilian KMB 10s were orange. The Mark 1 Diver's Mask was the same full-face mask but with key differences. It allowed two-way voice communication between the diver and the surface and included features designed to reduce flooding, face squeeze, and CO₂ buildup. One key difference was that the Navy version's hose couldn't be disconnected from the regulator or the side block, which meant the entire unit had to be removed for any work.

U.S. Divers manufactured the KMB 10 from 1975 until 1988. When, Morgan purchased the Commercial Diving Division of U.S. Divers, regaining the rights and tooling for the bandmasks including the KMB 10. At that time, the KMB 10 required improvements to bring it up to the level of the current



neoprene hood and mask-securing strap, built around the fiberglass frame. The face seal was fabricated from open-cell foam, creating a comfortable cushion that presses the seal against the diver's face. The top and bottom bands clamp the hood and

Kirby Morgan equipment. Kirby and Morgan reworked the KMB 10 updated the molding process, and switched to a stronger material. The result was an improved design built with an injected-molded main frame which ultimately became the KMB 28.

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PROJECTS



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SERVICE

THE BADGE

How did you get involved with diving?

What are your ambitions?

What annoys you the most?

In The Badge we talk to people from the Professional diving world and find out who they really are and what drives them.

In this month's issue, we meet Khaled Abdullah Taleb Mohammed Al-Mul who is Manager and owner and work loca on: Kuwait, Rawda.



Name and surname
Khaled Abdullah
Taleb Mohammed
Al-Mull

Age
68 years

Profession
Manager and owner

Company
Work Loca on: Kuwait, Rawda, Block 5,
Street 45, Building 7.

Hobbies
Motorcycle riding and motocross
racing. I am also a board member
of the Kuwaiti Automobile and
Motorcycle Club.



01 How did you get involved with the professional diving world?

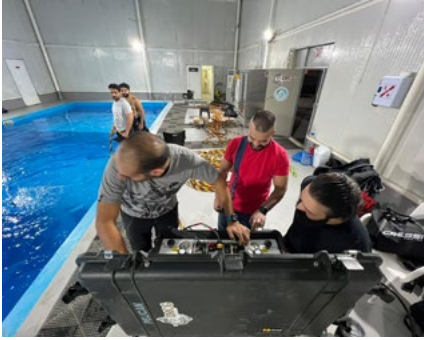
I started working at the Kuwait Ports Authority in 1976. My job was as a tugboat captain for one year. Then, in 1977, I enrolled in a commercial diving training course. The instructor was the head of the diving department. I trained on the old diving equipment: the heavy diving suit (sepia goggles), the Freeflow full-face mask, and later, scuba gear. In 1980, I was promoted to Director of Diving Opera

ons at the Kuwait Ports Authority. My primary goal was to develop diving equipment and improve the overall diving system to meet international safety standards. Our work involved ship inspection and maintenance services, salvage of sunken vessels, and maintenance of marine facilities. A er the libera on of Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion in 1991, the Iraqi army sank a large number of ships, tugboats, and marine vessels, including cranes used for loading and unloading cargo. I participated in the dismantling

and removal of eight bombs planted by the Iraqi army on a sunken ship in Shuwaikh Port. The bombs were intended to kill the crew and destroy salvage equipment during the recovery operation.

02 Who did you learn the most from?

In 2000, I met my mentor, Captain Mohsen Mokhtar El-Gohary, during a training course. I gained invaluable experience and knowledge in diving from him, and he became one of the most influential people



Welding Specialist From the International Academy of Diving Technology in Egypt in 2006, I obtained a Safety Officer certification in diving operations and a Level 2 Technical Diver Examiner certification. CSWIP STANDARD (3.2U) From Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport - Egypt, 2008 Chamber Operator Certificate & Diving Accidents Management Certificate & 2010 Association of Diving Contractors - ADCI Surface-Supplied Air Diving Supervisor (Certification Card) 2011 International Academy of Diving Technology - Egypt Supervisor (Controller) Technical Inspector CSWIP Standard (3.4U) Certificate

in my professional life. That same year, I enrolled in intensive courses at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Egypt, where I obtained the following certifications: Commercial Diver (30 meters depth, surface supply), Wet Cutting and Welding, Commercial Dive Instructor, and Scuba Instructor. In 2001, I established the IDEA Kuwait Scuba Training Center in Kuwait. Training was conducted, and 700 scuba diver certifications were issued at various dive levels through IDEA Europe. In 2002, I received a certificate from the International Academy of

Diving Technology in Egypt (Level 1 Technical Diver Examiner). CSWIP STANDARD (3.1U) In 2002, I was contracted by IDEA Europe to represent them in Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman. I became the Scuba Diving Course Director in 2002. (IDEA) Diving Course Director In 2006, I joined the Commercial Dive Academy in the USA. I obtained the following certifications: Commercial Diver Surface Supply (Air Mix Gas Dive to 100m ADCA) Underwater Welding & Cutting Commercial Diving in Hazardous Contaminated Water NDT Level 1 SNT-TC-1A Assure Technology I.N. Underwater





OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE DEDICATED MYSELF TO TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE MY EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE



What annoys you the most?

04

What bothers me most is the complexity and numerous procedures required to obtain the necessary international accreditations and memberships.

What are your drives and ambitions?

03

Initially, what attracted me to diving was the love of adventure, but later I became passionate about learning and achievement. At the end of each dive, I feel a sense of accomplishment and success in my mission. Over the years, I have dedicated myself to teaching young people my experience and knowledge, and I aspire to fulfill this noble mission until my last day. My Life



What is your life motto?

05

My motto in life is hard work, high-quality performance, and passing on my experience to new generations.



DO NOT FORGET
IDSA ANNUAL MEETING 2026

**ANTWERP,
BELGIUM
23RD TILL
26TH OF
JUNE**

Hosted by SAB Diving

We are pleased to announce that the 2026 IDSA Annual Meeting will be hosted by SAB Diving in the vibrant city of Antwerp, Belgium. As a long-standing IDSA member, SAB Diving is honored to welcome the international diving community for an inspiring, meaningful, and well curated multi day event.

Why Antwerp?

Antwerp stands as one of Europe's most dynamic maritime hubs, a city where international industry, cultural richness, and a strong connection to underwater operations converge. With its strategic port, innovation-driven spirit, and exceptional accessibility, Antwerp provides the perfect backdrop for IDSA's mission of advancing safety, professionalism, and excellence in the diving industry.

A True Antwerp Experience

The event is designed to highlight Antwerp's deep connection to water, its

river, its port, and the innovation it inspires. From tours and museum visits to a city cruise and curated partner program, participants and guests will experience the city's maritime heritage firsthand.

Stay Tuned

Registration details, schedule highlights, and speaker announcements will follow soon.

We look forward to welcoming the IDSA community to Antwerp in 2026!

What to Expect:

The 2026 program spans four days, featuring:

- **Tuesday 23rd:** Evening welcome drinks and informal reception
- **Wednesday 24th:** Conference sessions & SAB Diving networking event
- **Thursday 25th:** Guest speakers & the annual IDSA dinner
- **Friday 26th:** Cultural experiences and hands on diving practice

Across the program, attendees will enjoy high quality venues such as The Mills, Havenhuis, and MAS One Eighty, along with curated cultural excursions, networking opportunities, and exceptional dining.



KIRBY MORGAN COURSES

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- Kirby Morgan Helmet & Bandmask Operator Course.



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MEDICAL ISSUE FOR SAFE DIVING

By Dr Hossam A. El-Masry - CEO Middle East for Commercial Diving MECD



A HIGH-PRESSURE NEUROLOGICAL SYNDROME (HPNS)

High-pressure neurological syndrome (HPNS) is a condition that occurs for saturation divers exceeding 150 meters and is characterized by hyperexcitability of the central nervous system, leading to neurological and psychological abnormalities. Notably, it is essential to differentiate HPNS from nitrogen narcosis, decompression sickness, and oxygen toxicity.



Clinical picture:

- 1 Tremors is the most characteristic symptom of HPNS, occurring both at rest and during movement, Begins in the distal extremities and progress to the entire body.
- 2 Myoclonic jerks
- 3 Visual disturbance
- 4 Cognitive impairment
- 5 Mood disturbances
- 6 Changes in EEG recording
- 7 Nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, diarrhea, and loss of appetite may also occur.
- 8 Memory disturbances
- 9 Drowsiness, and sleep disturbances characterized by vivid dreams or nightmares.
- 10 Convulsions are not reported in these cases.

Prevention:

HPNS cannot be entirely prevented, but several approaches can delay its onset / progression / modify its clinical picture.

Reduction of Compression Speed

Slowing the overall compression speed or incorporating stops during descent to facilitate acclimatization can improve or prevent HPNS symptoms.

Modification of the Breathing Gas Mixture

Nitrogen has been used to counteract some HPNS symptoms due to its narcotic effect. Adding about 5% to 10% nitrogen to a helium-oxygen mixture has been reported to alleviate certain signs and symptoms of HPNS. Adding nitrogen to the helium-oxygen breathing gas mixture

offers several advantages, including lower costs, improved thermal comfort, reduced speech distortion, and alleviation of HPNS symptoms. However, divers should remain cautious of the potential risk of nitrogen narcosis.

Similarly, hydrogen has been used for the same purpose due to its advantageous properties for deep dives. As hydrogen is less dense than helium, it offers improved respiratory mechanics.

Divers who only experience HPNS eventually heal or recover. However, the symptoms can severely impair a diver's performance during a dive, leading to significant risks associated with poor decision-making or actions which is very dangerous in deep dives.

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NEW SUBCONN® DATA MICRO CIRCULAR 9 CONTACT

enhances data integrity without increasing connector footprint

MacArtney has expanded its SubConn® Micro Circular series with a new 9-contact variant that maintains the existing footprint while introducing a specialised shielding contact to improve data integrity in compact subsea instruments. Developed for system designers and operational teams alike, it ensures stable, low-noise performance in harsh underwater environments.

As subsea instruments pack more sensors into smaller housings, maintaining signal integrity becomes a design challenge. The Data Micro Circular 9-contact provides a purpose-assigned shielding path that reduces electrical noise and supports more integrated circuit layouts in space-constrained platforms.

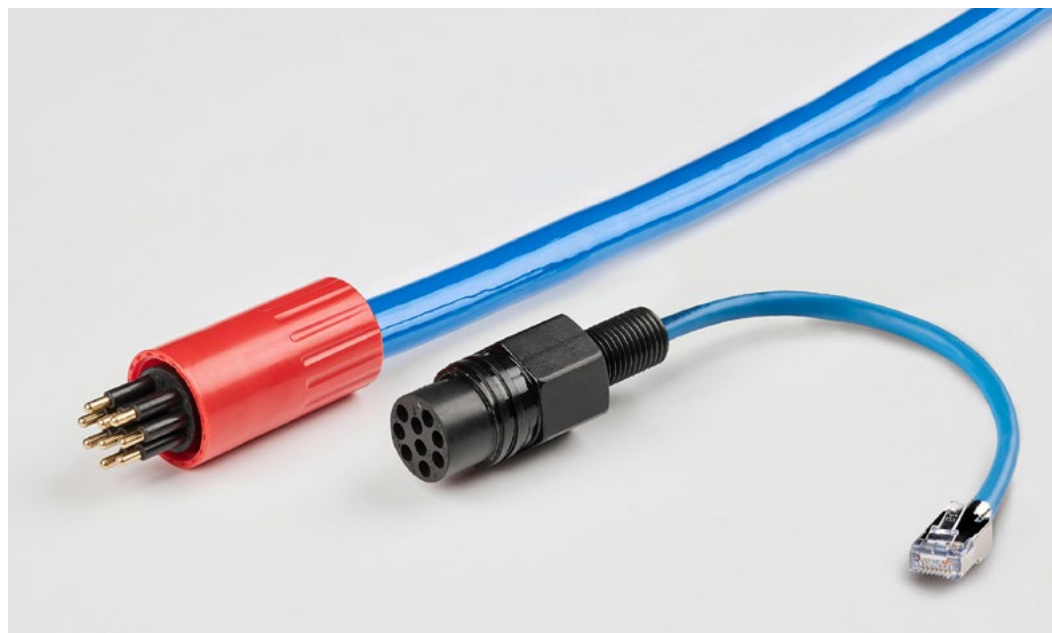
Paul Anthony, Global Business Development Director at MacArtney, comments: "Across the industry, instruments are getting smaller while expectations for data quality continue to rise. Many of our customers are designing sensor platforms where every millimetre counts, and they need connectivity solutions that minimise noise and enable more integrated layouts. For operators, this means cleaner, more reliable signals in the field. It's a small connector, but the impact on data performance is significant".

Enhanced signal path, same compact format

The connector maintains full com-

patibility with existing Micro Circular form factors, enabling system designers to add capabilities without altering mechanical interfaces. Testing has confirmed a stable 1 Gb data transmission on cable assemblies up to 20 metres, ensuring reliable signal and data performance for bandwidth-sensitive subsea systems. For operators, improved shielding and low contact

SUBCONN® DATA MICRO CIRCULAR 9-CONTACT CONNECTOR WITH A DEDICATED SHIELDING CONTACT PRESERVES SIGNAL CLARITY IN CONFINED SPACES, HELPING MODERN INSTRUMENTS OPERATE RELIABLY IN DIVERSE SUBSEA CONDITIONS.



resistance ensure clean, predictable signal and data transmission from deployment to recovery across varying depths, temperatures, and handling conditions. This is supported by a current rating of 5 A per contact (up to 15 A per connector), providing reliable power delivery for low-power sensor lines and high-integrity data communication. Polyurethane-designed cables will

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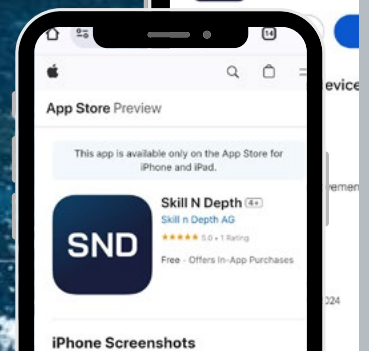
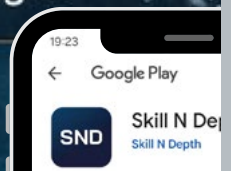


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iPhone Screenshots

IT'S A SMALL CONNECTOR, BUT THE IMPACT ON DATA PERFORMANCE IS SIGNIFICANT

be standard on inline versions to ensure consistent data-rate performance.

Dependable performance even at great ocean depths

The connector is wet-mateable and pressure-tested to 600 bar, ensuring dependable performance in deep-water conditions. Its contact design maintains stable electrical

performance across varying temperatures and handling scenarios, while a wide selection of housing materials – including brass, stainless steel, titanium and anodised aluminium – supports durability and compatibility across diverse platform requirements. It operates reliably over a wide range of water temperatures from -4°C to $+60^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Built for modern marine applications

The Data Micro Circular 9-contact integrates seamlessly into compact marine systems where data quality is critical, including oceanographic packages, environmental monitoring systems, autonomous platforms, small ROVs, integrated sensor suites, and multi-parameter survey equipment. Its combination of shielding, durability, and a famili-

ar footprint strengthens the signal pathway at the connection point for both next-generation designs and systems already in service.

Availability

The new 9-contact connector is available in inline and bulkhead configurations, including the SubConn Metal Shell 1500 range. In addition, we can offer right-angle and customised variants on request. MacArtney supports the entire SubConn® range and maintains substantial stock, ensuring immediate access to SubConn connector solutions worldwide.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL ANTHONY, GLOBAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR. TEL. +45 7613 2000, EMAIL: PA@MACARTNEY.COM OR VISIT WWW.MACARTNEY.COM



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"20 years ago, KBA Training began with a vision – to empower professionals with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel in their fields. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude. We could not have done it without you. From our humble beginnings, we are now a recognised name in profes-

sional development, and this was made possible by your support and your believe in our training programmes. As we conti-

nue our next chapter, we remain dedicated to our mission: in 'making the difference' in our training, that drives real-world results. We will continue to innovate, expand our offerings, and support your goals with the same passion that has defined us for the past 20 years. On behalf of the entire KBA Training team, Thank You for being an integral part of our journey. We look forward to many more years being here to offer you the best in our courses and to support you in achieving your training and development goals." said Mr. Darren Brunton, Managing Director of KBA Training.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KBA TRAINING AT TEL: +65 6542 4984, EMAIL US AT MARKETING@KBASSOCIATES.ORG OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.KBATRAINING.ORG.

KBA Training (KBAT) celebrated its 20th year in operations on 23 February 2026. KBAT started as a small organisation based in Singapore, as a subsidiary of KB Associates, with four staff, and as the FIRST IMCA approved training centre in Asia, offering the full range of International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) training courses (IMCA Trainee Air and Bell Diving Supervisor, IMCA Diver Medic and IMCA Diver Medic Refresher and IMCA Assistant Life Support Technician courses). Today, KBAT em-





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COMMITTED
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Integrated Subsea Engineering & Services LLC (ISEAS), operating under the guiding motto “Understanding in Depth, Committed to Core”, has emerged as one of the region’s leading providers of subsea engineering solutions. Headquartered in the UAE but serving projects globally, ISEAS has built a reputation on professionalism, technical rigor, and an unwavering dedication to safety in some of the industry’s most demanding environments.

ISEAS’s credibility is reinforced through an extensive portfolio of international certifications and accreditations that testify to its ability to execute safety-critical projects. Its membership in the IMCA, IDSA, EDA, and approvals from numerous classification societies reflect ISEAS’s ongoing commitment to advancing the standards of diving and ensuring that its personnel are trained and qualified in line with globally recognized benchmarks.

In May 2023, ISEAS further strengthened its credentials by securing approval

as an Inshore Diving Contractor from Shell’s Diving Centre of Excellence (DCOE), following a detailed audit of its capabilities through the QHSSE aspects of subsea projects. This approval represents more than just a certification; it validates ISEAS’s ability to deliver the surface-supplied air diving operations to Shell’s rigorous standards. It also marks a pivotal milestone that positions the company for expanded collaborations with leading oil and gas operators worldwide.

Landmark Operation: Confined Space Manned Diving in Abu Dhabi

One of ISEAS’s most remarkable undertakings in recent years was a high-risk, confined-space manned diving



operation carried out under Abu Dhabi’s Sustainable Used Water Program for the Strategic Tunnel Enhancement Project.

The task required the ISEAS team to inspect two vertical access shafts, measuring 73 meters deep and 2 meters and 3.1 meters in diameter, respectively, before progressing into a 5-meter-diameter tunnel. Within this environment, the team successfully installed two heavy-duty steel liner inflatable plugs to halt downstream water flow, thereby enabling the maintenance crew to safely



Execution with Precision

The operation was prepared and executed with rigorous attention to safety and detail. The process began with the acquisition of all statutory permits, followed by mobilization of specialized diving personnel and the deployment of critical resources, including mixed gas supply, medical oxygen, a fully equipped Deck Decompression Chamber (DDC), Launch and Recovery Systems (LARS), adequate craneage, and dedicated surface support equipment.

Each unit of equipment was subjected to comprehensive function testing, while the dive team participated in detailed risk assessments and toolbox talks. These preparatory measures ensured alignment on safety objectives and contingency actions before manned intervention commenced.

Initial preparatory actions included the deployment of in-shaft lighting and underwater cameras to enhance visibility and monitoring, the deployment of the clump weight to check for obstructions, and a dry run to validate accessibility and confirm the operational readiness of all systems.

Following installation of the plugs and completion of tunnel works, the retrie-

conduct remedial and enhancement works.

Once the maintenance scope was complete, ISEAS divers meticulously deflated, uninstalled, and recovered both plugs to the surface, all within an environment that was extremely restricted, complex, and unforgiving.



val phase was carried out with equal precision, ensuring both plugs were removed and brought to the surface safely, with ZERO harm to personnel, equipment, or the environment.

Challenges and Safety Culture

The project presented formidable challenges. Divers were required to operate within confined shafts of 2–3.1 meters in diameter, with severely restricted visibility and manoeuvrability. The tunnel environment itself posed the additional risk of moving debris and unpredictable conditions.

These factors demanded not only robust planning at the project management level but also extraordinary discipline, resilience, and courage from the divers themselves.

Safety remained the cornerstone of the operation. It was upheld through stringent adherence to protocols, standby diver preparedness, careful umbilical management, precision in lowering and lifting operations, systematic plug inflation/deflation techniques, and the 24/7 readiness of an on-site emergency medical team.

Conclusion

This project not only reflects ISEAS's technical proficiency but also its capacity to blend engineering precision with human determination. Every success was underpinned by a commitment to safeguarding lives, preserving the integrity of operations, and honouring the trust placed by clients.

By continuously upholding international standards, investing in its people,

**THIS PROJECT
NOT ONLY
REFLECTS
ISEAS'S
TECHNICAL
PROFICIENCY
BUT ALSO ITS
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and embracing some of the toughest subsea challenges, ISEAS demonstrates that it is not just a service provider, but a true partner in ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable subsea operations worldwide.



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THE BADGE

How did you get involved with diving?

What are your ambitions?

What annoys you the most?

In The Badge we talk to people from the Professional diving world and find out who they really are and what drives them. In this month's issue, we meet Damianos Veropoulos who is commercial diver and Co owner Hellenic Commercial Diving.



How did you get involved in the world of Professional diving?

My journey began in the Egyptian Navy, where I served as a professional diver (frogman). The discipline, teamwork, and respect for safety that I learned during my naval service shaped my entire career. After leaving the Navy, I recognized the need for organized, high-standard commercial diving services in Egypt and the region. In 1977, I founded International Naval Works (INW) to provide professional underwater inspection, maintenance,

01

and offshore support services to the oil & gas and marine industries.

Who did you learn the most from?

From my naval commander "Reda Helmi", who taught me that diving is not only about technical skill, but about responsibility that demands leadership, and absolute commitment to safety. Throughout my career as a professional diver, working with leading international companies such as Oceaneering International, Caldive limited, and 2W, I further developed this perspective. From global

02



partners and oil industry pioneers, I gained a deep appreciation for international standards, operational

**MY LIFE
MOTTO IS:
WE DO IT
THE RIGHT
WAY**

excellence, and the importance of continuous improvement.

Intellectually, I was deeply influenced by the writings of Tawfik El Hakim and Youssef Edris whose philosophy shaped my vision. I came to believe that true leadership begins with thought, a mind guided by knowledge, faith, courage and creativity.



What are your drives and ambitions?

03

I am driven to continuously developing our school, The Egyptian International Diving School (EIDS), to become one of the leading and most trusted institutions in the region – built on knowledge and professional training. I am committed to developing highly skilled professional divers who operate with discipline, safety, and



responsibility. I aim for EIDS to become a true center of excellence and a benchmark for professional diving training in the region.

My ambition is to position Egypt as a regional leader in commercial diving and offshore services while developing internationally recognized training programs for future generations.

What annoys you the most?

04

Neglecting safety and the absence of discipline.

What is your life motto?

05

"My life motto is: **We Do It The Right Way**. In commercial diving, there is no substitute for discipline, proper training, and respect for international standards. As a diving school, our responsibility is not only to teach skills, but to shape professionals who understand that safety, integrity, and competence are non-negotiable. Doing it the right way means building divers who can be trusted, with their own lives and the lives of others. In commercial diving, the right way is the only safe way.



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MARC CONFESSES TO SOME ENVY, AS HE INSPECTS FINISHED HELMETS AT THE SIEBE GORMAN WORKS



HISTORICAL DIVING

MARC JASINSKI REMINISCES

Forty years on, well known Belgian underwater photographer, cave diver and author Marc Jasinski looks back on an interesting period of his life.

The year of 1962 was definitely most interesting for me, because I became acquainted with the standard diving dress, during the CMAS World Congress on Underwater Activities, held in London in October that year.

We were invited to visit the Siebe and Gorman works, as I remember then managed by Commander Shelford. Among many distinguished guests, I remember Commandant Philippe Taillez, Frédéric Robert, founder and owner of Aquastar Watch factory in Geneva, and famous Italian underwater movie producer and cameraman, the late Victor Aldo de Sanctis.

Needless to say, we were all addicted to scuba diving, and in my youthful arrogance I felt that visiting Siebe and Gorman was akin to a study in industrial archaeology, although the name had barely been invented at the time.

I watched in awe expert copper-smiths hammering at copper plates, changing basic metal into the perfect polished shape so avidly sought after by modern collectors.

But most amazing was discovering that S&G was still manufacturing hand pumps, the very same model that had been in use for more than a century.

When I wondered aloud, why these (in my opinion) antiquated contraptions were not considered obsolete in this modern industrial world (remember, walking on the Moon was just a few years ahead), Commander Shelford produced (with a discreet smile) the obvious explanation: there were (and probably still are today) many far away countries where cheap labour abounds and is

FINAL ASSEMBLY STAGE OF A PUMP DUE FOR SHALLOW WATER DIVING WORK IN AFRICA



THE COPPERSMITH AT HIS BENCH, REFINING THE BASIC METAL SHAPE TO ACCEPT VALVES, PORTHOLE AND VARIOUS OTHER FITTINGS. IT WAS MORE ARTISTRY THAN INDUSTRY.

a lot more reliable than any old and poorly maintained – as is usually the case - powered compressor.

I learned the lesson and found it dramatically confirmed in 1971, while Robert Sténuit was experimenting with a replica of John's Lethbridge diving barrel at the Comex headquarters in Marseilles - I had been hired as an underwater cameraman by my good friend BBC producer and director Ray Sutcliffe, and I was also acting as assistant to Robert.

Practically nothing went according to plan, and as days went by and we were struggling to send the THING under a quite modest number of inches of water in the Comex experimental pool, our respect and admiration for great John Lethbridge's power of invention and expertise was getting deeper and deeper, a lot deeper in fact than our dives with the barrel.

However, after some days, Robert managed to get himself and the

barrel a few feet under water. Success, at last? Well, to put our modest achievements in perspective, remember that old John consistently dived to 50 feet, and sometimes deeper.

Then, an unexpected problem arose: there was a power failure while the barrel was hanging from an electric hoist under several feet of water. Everything went dead. Thanks to a huge, modern, powerful and sophisticated piece of equipment, in daily use for handling secret Comex experimental machinery, there was no way to get the barrel out of the pool and Robert out of the barrel.

John Lethbridge had known much hardship and several close calls, but definitely not of this kind.

His crew of hired hands was always available and didn't know of power or mechanical failure. No doubt the Master had his own ways to take care of the slightest lack of stamina or low morale among the crew. So much for electric hoists.

Back to the year 1962.

Victor de Sanctis hired me as his assistant at the Club Méditerranée diving base of Lipari, one of a group of volcanic islands off Sicily North coast. Victor was assigned to produce and film a story about a thinly veiled underwater dancing mermaid who was supposed to bring unheard of bliss to one unsuspecting and naïve character picked from among the Club's most athletic diving instructors.

Instead of bliss, the lady brought the whole films crew endless misery, because of her bad temper and utter lack of acting ability. Why Victor had picked this person for the leading role of his film I really can't figure out.

However, diving along the seemingly bottomless volcanic cliff (the cliff, not the lady, who was perhaps volcanic but definitely not bottomless) of Filicudi and Vulcano was magical, and those seascapes remain among the very best I ever saw, comparing only in my memory with Ras Muhamad or Zembra.

Sailing among these magical islands was a dream. So it was, indeed, for the crew of a small British motor yacht, who seemingly relied, instead of sound and proven navigation methods, on extrasensorial perception resulting from unrestricted use of an excellent malt liquor carefully stored on board in adequate quantities. It so happened that the crew failed to identify a huge and massive cliff for what it actually was and bumped head on into it at full speed. The instantly sobered crew managed to save their skin by hanging onto the cliff while the boat sank in shallow water, about 20 feet deep.

A palombaro (standard diver) from Messina was assigned to refloat the wreck and we were curious to see

how an experienced pro, working alone but for small boy acting as a tender, would manage to salvage a 12 metre motor yacht.

This expert wisely decided to take care of the whisky first. It was a famous brand, but our man didn't really like it, so we traded some the Scotch for a reasonable quantity of his favoured kind of grappa. As the great Humphrey Bogard said in the film *Casablanca*, that was 'the beginning of a beautiful friendship' and the good man soon offered to teach us how to use his standard dress.

Standard, yes, but up to a point, as the antiquated contraption had been often repaired, modified and simplified. But it still worked, and so did the petrol driven compressor that supplied us with a vast amount of exhaust fumes and mineral oils mixed in various proportions with some Mediterranean breeze.

In the best tradition of Mediterranean palombari, we took turns in the single available dress and quickly learned some tricks of the trade. It meant borrowing woollen underwear that had seen better times, but definitely very little laundering.



THE PALOMBARO FROM MESSINA AT WORK ON THE YACHT'S DAMAGED STERN. HE IS HAMMERING CHUNKS OF WOOD INTO THE GAPS INTO HOLES TORN IN THE HULL'S STEEL PLATES. EXPERT DIVERS WILL APPRECIATE SUCH LOCAL MAINTENANCE HABITS, WHILE PERHAPS STUDYING THE FINE REPAIR JOB ON THE PALOMBARO'S OWN HELMET AND FITTINGS.

The stench of sweat and urine mixed with exhaust fume remains to this day the strongest olfactive impression diving ever impressed into my memory.

Had I lived 50 or 100 years earlier, a finely tuned, silent and perfectly balanced Siebe & Gorman hand pump would have spared me the unwanted chemicals if not the pungent stench of a Sicilian underwear of uncertain colour.

How right Commander Shelford had been about his splendid machines!

Marc Jascinski,
Historical Diving Society

A FEW MONTHS LATER, IN LIPARI, OUR DIVER FRIEND HELPS A RATHER DIFFIDENT LOOKING MARC INTO HIS MUCH BATTERED STANDARD DRESS – HE GENEROUSLY SHARED HIS GEAR WITH US, BUT DECLINED TESTING OUR OWN SCUBA GEAR, WHICH HE DECLARED DID NOT LOOK SAFE ENOUGH TO HIM.





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PALERMO (1 February 2026) – The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic have approved Law No. 9 of 26 January 2026 on “Provisions concerning the safety of underwater activities.”

The law introduces several measures regarding the training and professional qualification of underwater and hyperbaric operators. The Agency for the Safety of Underwater Activities is tasked with defining training pathways and professional qualifications for underwater and hyperbaric operators (Art. 6). Registration in a dedicated professional register is mandatory for technical underwater operators working in shallow, medium, and deep waters, as well as for hyperbaric technicians (Art. 19).

Training and professional qualification of underwater and hyperbaric operators are regulated by a decree of the President of the Republic, following an agreement within the Unified Conference (Art. 25). The Agency for the Safety of Underwater Activities may promote specialist training, including through university programs, scholarships, doctoral programs, research contracts, and initiatives related to the universal civil service (Art. 6).

Requirements for registration in the professional register

The law establishes that the require-

ments for registration in the professional register of underwater and hyperbaric operators will be defined by a decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Art. 21). These requirements include participation in specific training courses and passing a qualification examination. Recognition of qualifications obtained abroad.

The law regulates the procedure for recognizing qualifications obtained abroad for the practice of underwater and hyperbaric activities in Italy (Art. 22). The recognition procedure will be defined by a decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and may include the assessment of submitted documentation and verification of the operator's skills.

Overall, the law aims to ensure the safety and professional qualifications of underwater and hyperbaric operators by defining training pathways and professional standards, as well as regulating registration in the professional register and recognition of foreign qualifications. This will help reduce safety risks and improve the quality of services provi-

**LAW NO. 9
OF 26 JANUARY
2026 ABOUT
PROVISIONS
CONCERNING
THE SAFETY OF
UNDERWATER
ACTIVITIES
IS APPROVED**

ded by underwater and hyperbaric operators. It is worth noting that Sicily already has a law regulating training pathways for industrial diving activities: Regional Law No. 7 of 21 April 2016. This law defines the training content for industrial diving and could serve as a model for the new national legislation. The new law may therefore represent an opportunity to harmonize training provisions at the national level and ensure greater safety and professional qualification for underwater and hyperbaric operators throughout Italy.

INDUSTRIAL DIVING: THE 'SICILY MODEL'

and the New National Safety Law



PALERMO (18 February 2026) - Italian industrial diving is experiencing a historic turning point. With the entry into force, February 11, of Law No. 9 of January 26, 2026, the State has established an organic framework for the safety of underwater activities and the protection of critical infrastructure.

This national pillar is completed by Sicilian Regional Law 07/2016, the only one in Italy to guarantee the "regulated training" now essential to meet the professional qualifications required by national legislation. While Law 9/2026 governs safety policies and equipment, training competence remains regional. The Sicilian model (L.R. 07/2016 and d.p.R.S. 31/2018) is no longer just a local regulation, but the operational tool for implementing national provisions: without certified training pathways, the new professional qualifications would lack a verifiable technical basis aligned with international standards.

Page 7 clarifies a key technical aspect: regulated pathways are open to all centres, but with different modalities. Schools that are not Full Members must follow a much more demanding training table in terms of the number of dives. By contrast, the **Cedifop Study Centre**, a professional training institution for indus-

trial diving operating within the Port of Palermo, by virtue of its status as an IDSA Full Member, is authorized to use a reserved table that optimizes the training process. This advantage is not a bureaucratic privilege, but the result of constant international audits that IDSA conducts exclusively on its members to ensure strict application of protocols, such as IDSA Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver), recommended by IMCA (doc. IN 1384).

The meeting point between national law and the labor market is the Register of Commercial Divers of the Sicilian Region. This online list allows immediate verification of professional qualifications, meeting the transparency requirements imposed by Law 9/2026. To date, Cedifop remains the only institution capable of training divers who meet both the requirements of the Harbour Master's Offices and those of the regional Register. With the launch of the national regulatory framework,

THE 'SICILY MODEL' COULD BECOME THE BENCHMARK FOR THE ENTIRE ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL DIVING SECTOR

the "Sicily Model" could become the benchmark for the entire Italian industrial diving sector, providing maritime companies with operators whose skills are certified and legally recognized worldwide.

**THE IFAPME TRAINING CENTRE
OF DINANT**

STRENGTHENING BELGIUM'S TRAINING CAPACITY FOR COMMERCIAL DIVING



Located in the heart of Wallonia, in the Meuse valley in Belgium, the IFAPME Training Centre of Dinant has developed a strong reputation in vocational education and technical training. Over the years, the centre has become a recognized regional actor in preparing skilled professionals for a wide range of technical trades.

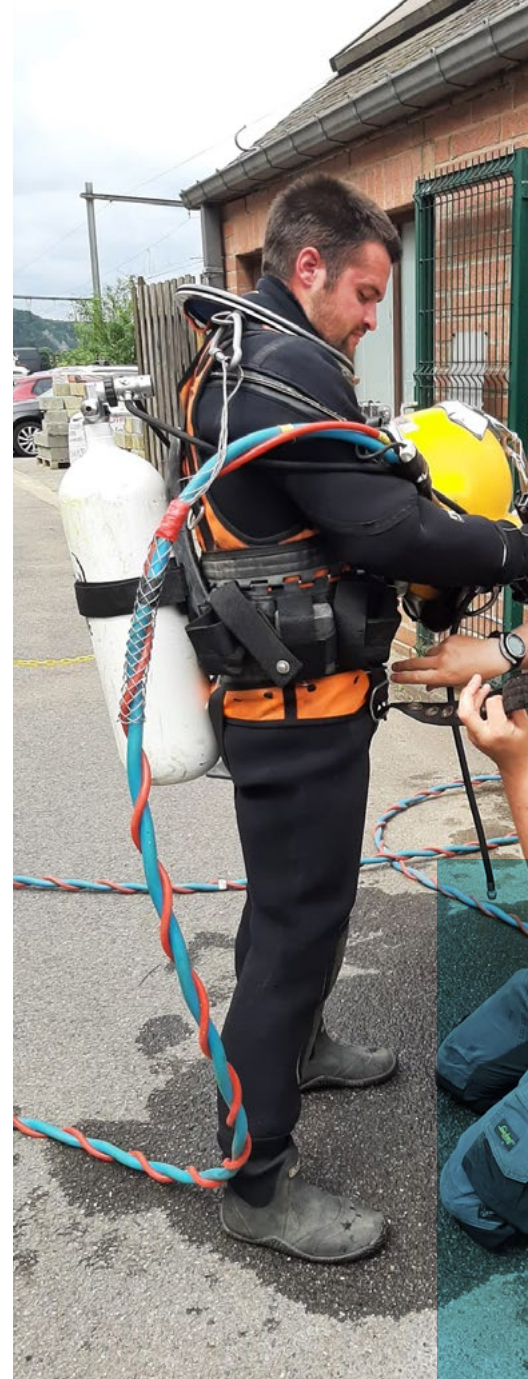


has long shared the same commitment to high standards in commercial diving training.

Among its flagship programs, the Underwater Works Operator (OTS – Opérateur de Travaux Subaquatiques) training has grown significantly and responds to a real demand from the maritime, inland waterway, and industrial sectors.

Historically, the centre has also been connected with the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) and

Our ambition is clear: to deliver high-quality training aligned with international standards and industry expectations. In this perspective, the IFAPME Training Centre of Dinant is proud to strengthen its engagement with the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA).



Our pedagogical teams continuously work to enhance the training experience through:

- the integration of advanced safety protocols,
- the use of realistic intervention scenarios,





- work of professional diving schools by:
- sharing best practices and pedagogical approaches,
 - participating in technical working groups,
 - developing exchanges with leading training institutions,
 - and opening new internship and partnership opportunities for our trainees.

About the IFAPME Training Centre of Dinant

The centre offers an environment designed to support high-level technical training, including:

- modern technical training facilities,
- an experienced team of professional instructors,
- strong connections with companies active in underwater and aquatic works,
- a training methodology focused on practical skills, safety culture, and immediate employability.

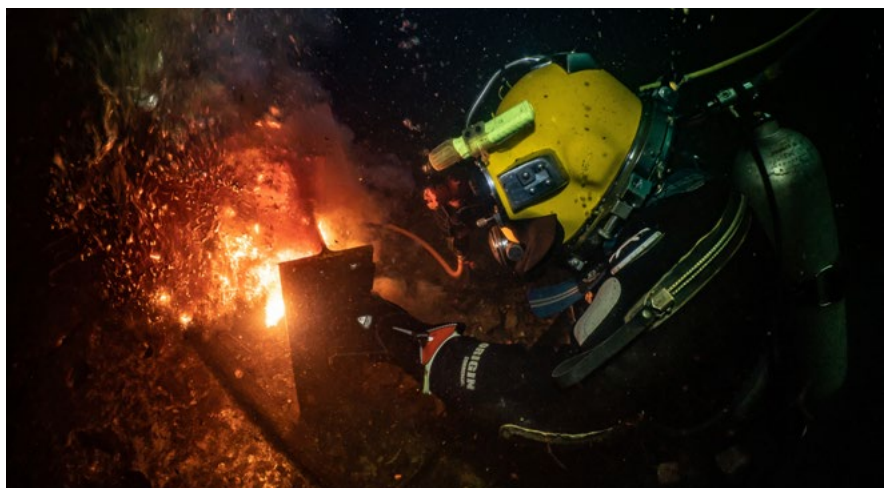


- and the implementation of modern equipment reflecting current industry practices.

Practical training and operational readiness remain at the core of our teaching philosophy.

Building Strong International Cooperation

Joining IDSA will also allow our centre to actively engage with a global net-



PROGRESS, PARTICIPATION, AND THE PATH TOWARD STRONGER GLOBAL DIVING STANDARDS

The IDSA Technical Committee—Johnny Jensen, Hossam Elmasry, Dan Hedberg, and Chairman Robbert de Bie—would like to provide an update on the ongoing development of the IDSA Standards and to invite further engagement from all members.

Over the past year, the committee has continued to work actively on strengthening the foundation that supports safe, consistent, and professional operations across the international commercial diving sector. The IDSA Standards are a cornerstone of that mission—and your input is essential to keep them relevant and effective.



Status of Parts I, II, and III

- Parts I, II, and III of the IDSA Standards have now been in effect for nearly a year. So far, the Technical Committee has not received any feedback from members.
- We would like to remind all members that these standards are living documents. If you have:
 - Comments
 - Practical observations
 - Suggestions for clarity
 - Concerns about implementation
 - Examples of operational challenges
- we strongly encourage you to share them with the committee. Your real world experience helps us continuously refine and improve the standards.

New Sections Under Review

- As announced at the last Annual Meeting, two important sections have now progressed to the external review stage:

Part IV – Supervisor Training

- This section outlines requirements, competencies, and responsibilities for supervisors overseeing diving operations. A clear, consistent standard for supervisor capability is essential for ensuring operational control and diver safety.

Part VI – Dive Medical Assistance

- Part VI focuses on medical readiness, emergency medical assistance, and diver health related procedures. As diving operations become more complex, access to qualified medical guidance—both onsite and remote—is increasingly critical.
- Both documents have now reached a stage where broader member review is necessary. These drafts have been distributed to all IDSA Full Members for evaluation, verification, and comment.

Your Input Matters

- The Technical Committee depends on member participation to ensure the standards truly reflect operational realities across regions, environments, and organisational models.

We request feedback on:

- ✓ Questions about the content or interpretation
- ✓ Suggestions for improvements or additions
- ✓ Clarification needed on any requirement
 - ✓ Practical challenges you foresee in implementation
- ✓ Any other technical concerns related to education, safety, or diving operations

- Whether your questions are about standards, training programmes,



safe working practices, or broader technical issues, we encourage you to contact the Technical Committee directly.

- Your contributions help us build standards that are:
 - Practical
 - Relevant
 - Widely applicable
 - Future focused
 - Consistent with international best practice



Together Toward a Safer Diving Industry

- IDSA's strength comes from shared expertise across its membership.

By engaging with the development of Parts IV and VI—and by continuing to provide input on the established Parts I, II, and III—you actively contribute to a safer,

OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE COMMITTEE HAS CONTINUED TO WORK ACTIVELY ON STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTS SAFE, CONSISTENT, AND PROFESSIONAL OPERATIONS ACROSS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL DIVING SECTOR

more aligned, and more unified global diving profession.

- Knowledge shared is safety gained.
Together, we ensure safe diving.

Robbert de Bie
Chairman, Technical Committee

The IDSA QCard:

UPHOLDING GLOBAL STANDARDS IN PROFESSIONAL DIVING

By Robbert de Bie

A Critical Credential in Professional Diving

In the highly demanding world of commercial diving where safety, competence, and clarity of qualifications are essential, the IDSA QCard stands as a vital professional credential. Far more than a simple ID, the QCard represents international training standards, verified skills, and the professionalism expected of every diver trained by an IDSA Full Member School.

What the QCard Represents

The IDSA QCard is issued exclusively by schools recognized as Full Members of the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA). It is awarded to divers who have successfully completed all required training modules and examinations according to the IDSA International Diver Training Standards.

Each QCard clearly outlines the diver's achieved qualification level, ensuring:

- Transparent verification of skills
- Immediate credibility with employers
- Recognition across borders and industry sectors

This clarity helps employers make in-

formed hiring decisions based on validated competencies.

A Mandatory Requirement for All Full Members

To protect the integrity of IDSA standards and ensure global consistency, it is mandatory that:

☛ **All IDSA Full Members should issue the official IDSA QCard to every student immediately after they pass their examinations.**

This requirement is not optional, it is a core expectation of Full Membership. By issuing the QCard, schools affirm:

- Compliance with IDSA training and assessment protocols
- That graduates are fully qualified according to international standards
- That employer-facing documentation is uniform and verifiable

Every school authorized to issue the QCard has undergone strict auditing by the IDSA Audit Committee, ensuring continued alignment with IDSA's

global benchmarks.

Strengthening the Global Diving Community

By consistently issuing the QCard, Full Member schools reinforce a unified message across the industry:

"IDSA trained divers are certified to a trusted, internationally recognized standard of professional excellence."

All QCards are registered, authentic, and fully traceable. Employers, contractors, and authorities can verify any card directly through the official IDSA verification channels, ensuring complete confidence in a diver's credentials.

Why Consistency Matters

In commercial diving, lives depend on competence. The QCard safeguards the industry by ensuring that:

- Qualifications are legitimate
- Training has met rigorous international criteria

- Divers entering the workforce are fully prepared for the demands of the job

Because of this, the QCard is not just an administrative formality, it is a cornerstone of professional safety and global confidence in IDSA trained divers.

About IDSA

Established in 1982, the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) developed the world's first independent, internationally harmonized standards for professional diver training. Supporting offshore, inshore, and inland sectors, IDSA remains committed to promoting safety, quality, and global recognition through its network of approved member schools.



Apox B.V is a leading expert in providing medical solutions tailored to the needs of divers and diving companies.

Based in the Netherlands, we proudly export our products to countries worldwide. All our items have been certified by a specialized medical doctor with expertise in diving medicine, holding a B qualification. At Apox, we boast a dedicated pharmacy department, ensuring that all necessary medicines are readily available to meet your specific requirements.

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Apox B.V.
Daggeldersweg 10, 3449 JD Woerden,
The Netherlands

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+31 (0) 348 447 869
Info@apox.nl
www.apox.nl

IDSA MEMBERS LIST

Full Members	Country	IDSA Level
SAB AKVO	Belgium	3
Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt	3
Egyptian International Diving School (EIDS)	Egypt	2
Middle East for Commercial Diving (MECD)	Egypt	3
Luksia Sukellusala	Finland	2
Ecole Nationale des Scaphandriers (ENS)	France	3
Hellenic Commercial Diving Academy	Greece	3
The Irish Navy Diving School	Ireland	3
Centro Studi CEDIFOP	Italy	3
Foundation NOK	Netherlands	3
Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Oslo (NYD)	Norway	4
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Diver Education (HVL)	Norway	3
OSNZ FROG	Poland	2
Oceanos Escuela de Buceo Profesional SL	Spain	3
Commercial Diving School of Gothenburg (YRGO)	Sweden	3
KBA Training Center PTE Ltd	Singapore	Specialist Diving Training

Associate Members	Country
H2O Proservices Academy	Algeria
Cente IFAPME de Dinant	Belgium
EUC Nordvest North Sea College	Denmark
Centre Activities Plongee de Trebeurden (CAP)	France
Ganpat University	India
Neel Diving Acadamy	India
Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM)	Ireland
Kerry Education and Training Board	Ireland
Idea	Kuwait
Divestuff Ventures	Malaysia
Regional Centre for Underwater Demolition (RCUD)	Montenegro
Nitrox SARL	Morocco
Mieka Dive Training Institute	Nigeria
SUBWEB Technical Academy Limited	Nigeria
Justdive	Portugal
Jacks Dive Chest CC	South Africa
PROfessional Diving Service	Switzerland
Professional Diving training center	Tunesia
DDS Project	Turkey
T.C. Piri Reis University	Turkey

Affiliate and Industrial Members	Country
De Zeeman Pro NV	Belgium
GT Corporation SE	Estonia
Dive Marine Services (Gibraltar) LTD	Gibraltar
BÚVÁR KFT	Hungary
ALPE Sub Srl.	Italy

Affiliate and Industrial Members	Country
Drafinsub Underwater Technology Srl.	Italy
Hytech-Pommec B.V.	Netherlands
MacArtney Benelux BV	Netherlands
Norwegian Association of Underwater Entreprenurs (NBU)	Norway
Commercial Diving Panama	Panama
Aquamont Service	Serbia
Subservices SL	Spain
Interspiro AB	Sweden
Skill N Depth AG	Switzerland
Aries Underwater Solutions LLC	United Arab Emirates
Atlantis Marine Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
Gulf Marine Contracting FZE	United Arab Emirates
HHA Diving Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
ISEAS, Integrated Subsea Engineering and Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
JVS Diving and Marine Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
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Kirby Morgen Dive Systems Inc.	USA



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