DIVENWS 09 2025

TRAINING IN NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

ALL-STAINLESS STEEL COMMERCIAL DIVING HELMET: THE NEW STANDARD

THE BADGE: DAMIANOS VEROPOULOS

IDSA ANNUAL MEETING 2025

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The Alan Bax Award honorable mention:

- Alan Bax (2017)
- Dag Wroldsen (2019)
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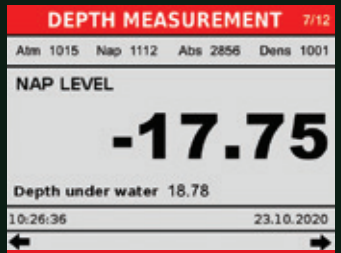

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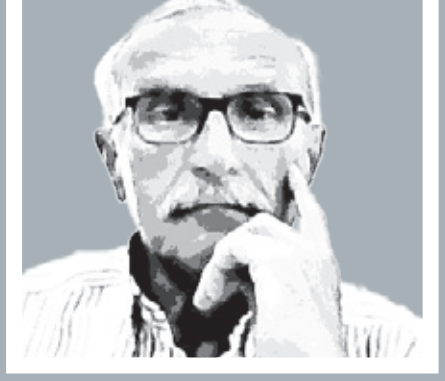

FROM THE CHAIRMAN
LEO LAGARDE

Dear Members,

We are pleased to reflect on a successful annual meeting held this year in Stenungsund, Sweden. Our heartfelt thanks go to YRGO, our gracious host, for their excellent support in organizing the event. A special highlight was the presentation of a real chairman's gavel —a thoughtful and symbolic gift that we will proudly use in future meetings.

On behalf of **Lars William Wroldsen** and myself, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the trust you have placed in us by re-electing us to the IDSA Board for another two years. It is an honor to continue serving this vibrant and dedicated community.

We also extend our appreciation to the **Technical Committee (Robbert de Bie (Chairman), Johnny Jensen, Hossam Elmasry, and Dan Hedberg)** for their outstanding work in renewing and restructuring the IDSA standards. Their efforts have resulted in a clear and comprehensive framework now divided into six parts:

- **PART I** – IDSA Organization
- **PART II** – IDSA Level 1 and 2
- **PART III** – IDSA Level 3 and 4
- **PART IV** – IDSA Supervisor Training (in progress)
- **PART V** – IDSA Training Handbook (in progress)
- **PART VI** – Divemedical Assistance (in progress)

We were delighted to welcome three new members to the meeting: EUC Norvest North Sea Colleges (Denmark), Smart Dives (Dubai), and Skill N Depth (Switzerland). With 26 participants, the meeting was both well attended and highly engaging.

We explored several important topics and were inspired by two guest speakers: **Edvin Tousi** from Era Marine and **Robert Venema** from Scandinavian Ocean Minerals. Their insights added great value to our discussions.

We were also pleasantly surprised by the nominations of **Jacks Dive Chest** and **SAB Diving** as potential hosts for our next annual meeting. The board will review these nominations and inform you of the decision in due course.

Encouragingly, several schools are preparing to become full members. We look forward to receiving their applications and organizing audits in the coming year.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to IDSA. Stay safe, and we wish you a successful season with many new students.

Warm regards,

Leo Lagarde Chairman, IDSA

FROM THE EDITOR

ROBBERT DE BIE

As we prepare this edition of IDSA News, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support and contributions. The Q3 2025 issue marked our 10th edition under my supervision, and together we've transformed the magazine into a vibrant platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovations in the diving industry.

But we can do even more.

IDSA News is not just a publication, it's a voice for our community. It's a place to **promote your school, company, and projects**, and to showcase the incredible work being done across the globe in commercial diving. Whether you're a full member, associate, instructor, student, or industry partner, your stories matter.

What We're Looking For:

- **Editorials and articles** on commercial diving operations, training, safety, and innovation.
- **Stories from instructors and students**—share your journey, challenges, and achievements.
- **Insights from audits or certifications**—let others learn from your experience.
- **Technical features**—equipment reviews, UXO clearance operations, underwater engineering, and more.
- **Historical perspectives**—like Peter Dick's fascinating dive into early diving patents.
- **Industry developments**—such as the nuclear diving training at ENS.

How to Contribute:

- A **one-pager** is enough—include photos, your logo, 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 topics or columns, I'd love to hear them!

Let's continue to build a magazine that reflects the diversity, expertise, and passion of our global diving community. The last **IDSA Annual Meeting in Sweden (Week 26, June 24–26)** was a great opportunity to connect and share ideas. So let's bring that energy into our publication.

Thank you again, and I look forward to receiving your stories. The deadline for the next issue Q1-2026 is on the 10th of March 2026.

Safe Diving,
Robbert de Bie I Editor, IDSA News
Chairman of the Technical Committee

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THE IDSA MEMBER ‘ECOLE NATIONALE DES SCAPHANDRIERS’ [ENS] RELAUNCHES UNDERWATER NDT TRAINING

TRAINING IN NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

The ENS has just passed the LLOYD'S Register audit enabling it to provide training and issue certificates for underwater non-destructive testing inspectors (NDT Diving Inspector). The ENS is now the only Lloyd's approved centre in Europe capable of providing this highly specialised professional training.
NDT involves carrying out visual underwater inspections with and without instruments on industrial or maritime installations and producing detailed reports for clients.

A new success for the ENS

Founded in 1780, Lloyd's Register is the world's leading and oldest classification society. Over the past ten years, it has accredited around 300 NDT inspectors from around the world. In order to add this specialised training to its catalogue, ENS has created a technical platform exclusively dedicated to this speciality with the support of the 'OLEUM La Mède' training centre of the French oil company **Total Energies.**

"Thanks to this new training facility, we can now offer courses in our new training workshops for all inspectors responsible for underwater inspection of industrial and maritime installations such as oil and gas platforms, merchant ship hulls, port structures, dams, wind turbines, etc." explains Jérôme Vincent, Director of ENS.

This Lloyd's certification for inspectors in non-destructive testing had not been taught or refreshed since the closure of the INPP in Marseille.
However, it enables divers to access expert assignments, which are often better paid and involve interesting travel to a wide variety of industrial facilities such as nuclear power plants, ports and offshore installations. It is also essential for ensuring the long-term operation of these facilities.

The ENS has innovated by offering a hybrid educational path (40% distance learning – 60% face-to-face), which is very practical as more than 80% of the trainees come from abroad, sometimes from far away. This allows them to prepare the entire theoretical part at home and only come to the school for the five days of practical training. This solution reduces travel time and the cost of the training.
The training is currently delivered in two languages, French and English.

A lack of specialised NDT instructors

Engineer, in charge of the Non-Destructive Testing department at 'COMEX Nucleaire' from 1992 to 2003, presi-

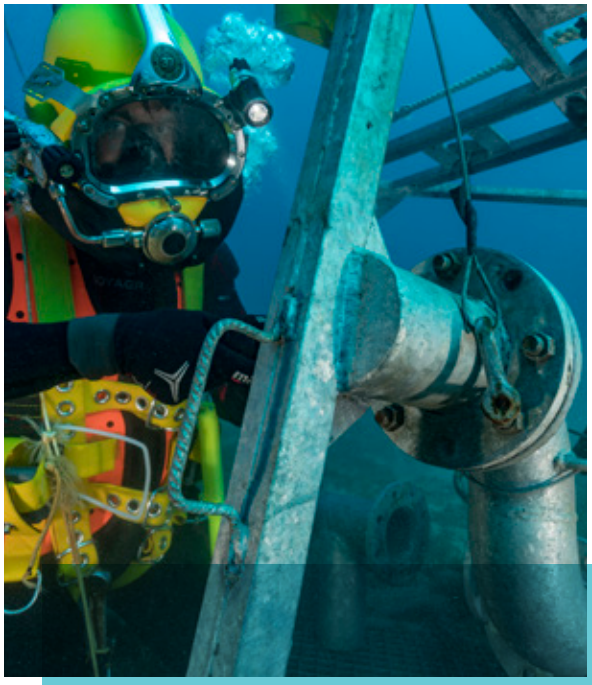
dent of the COFREND regional committee (the French organisation for Non Destructive Testing), Christian Venture became a specialist instructor at ENS for underwater NDT training. He shares his passion for the profession and some of his concerns.

"I believe I am currently one of the few instructors in Europe specialising in the inspection of underwater industrial structures and associated non-destructive testing. I'm not getting any younger, and retirement is not far off, so it's time to train the next generation. Who will train or certify the next generation of inspection divers every five years? Without this certification, it is impossible to carry out non-destructive testing and check the condition of submerged industrial infrastructure, which is vital for the global offshore and maritime industry."

A little-known speciality that is attracting more and more divers

"In May 2025, we trained our very first international class of trainees in NDT. Nine students from Cameroon, Ivory Coast, France and Poland. The demand for this skill is very high abroad, especially in India. It's important to note that once a diver is certified as a Lloyd's NDT inspector, they can double their salary. It's a completely different job, moving from building underwater infrastructure to monitoring its compliance.

We plan to schedule five sessions of eight candidates per year" explains Jérôme VINCENT.



Many modules are covered during this training course*.

The theoretical programme covers the history of the offshore oil and gaz industry, offshore technologies, different types of platforms, platform dismantling, wave propagation, Foucault currents, radiography, ultrasound, magnetoscopy, etc.

The practical programme covers a wide range of techniques for carrying out underwater inspections, inspecting the quality of welds, taking photographs (CCTV), assessing the state of corrosion, detecting cracks in structures, writing inspection reports, etc.

At the end of this comprehensive course, the international 'NDT Diving Inspector' certificate approved by Lloyd's Register was awarded to candidates who passed the final exam.

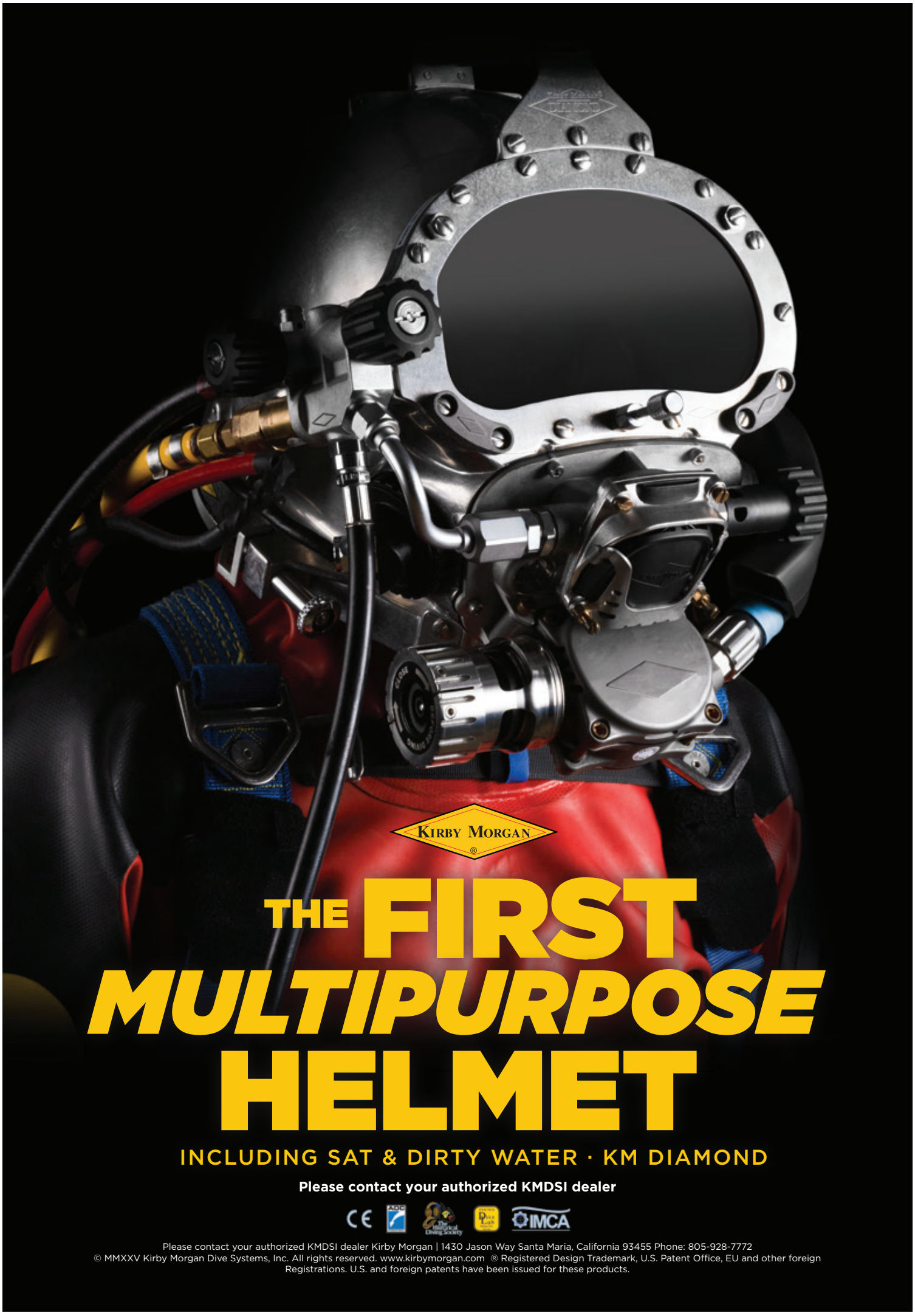
The first training course ended in May. Karol, Gilles, Nicolas, Raphaël, Sidick, Hans, Arnaud, Sylvain and Quentin all left with their NDT inspector certifica-

tion. Five of them will begin working on oil rigs in Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Gabon for major companies such as STAPEM OFFSHORE, PERENCO and PETRODIVE. The others will join their companies in Normandy, Brittany and Monaco for port or maritime assignments.
It looks like a very promising start to their careers.

IN MAY 2025, WE TRAINED OUR VERY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CLASS OF TRAINEES IN NDT.

*For further information, please call +33 4 94 54 01 01 or write to info@ens-france.com

TEXT: LYDIA FOURNIE, JÉRÔME VINCENT
PHOTOS: LYDIA FOURNIE, ALEXIS ROSENFELD.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KIRBY MORGAN HISTORY PART 4

1966. KMCSHX-5. Kirby Morgan Clamshell Helmet eXperimental-5

This fiberglass helmet was the next progression in clamshells. This model used a demand regulator as a backup breathing system. The primary breathing system was a back-mounted semi-closed recirculator. The photograph shows Kirby suited up for a test, using a chest-mounted breathing bag on a venturi recirculator. This helmet used a face seal and was free-flooding in the rear. The clamshell hinge was moved to the center of the helmet. Only one was made and it is now missing.

Kirby recounted that Bev informed the Navy of his ability to produce a superior hat compared to the previous KMCSHX-4. The submission was made, and Kirby believed the matter had been concluded.

Morgan reflected on the utility of the hat in numerous Navy tests. The Navy appreciated the demand regulator as a backup in case of issues with the semi-closed breathing system. Despite not being the final iteration, valuable lessons were gleaned from this hat. At this juncture, Kirby and Morgan had collaborated on the helmet for three years. They foresaw the future integration of electronics, communications, and underwater diver-worn television cameras with lights. Recognizing their lack of expertise in these areas, they partnered with an electronics firm in Santa Barbara. However, the partnership soured as the electronics company turned out to be fraudulent, prompting Kirby to sell Morgan his shares and pursue aviation. As they were midway through constructing the next helmet, Kirby departed the company. Morgan eventually exposed the deceitful practices of the electronics company and saved the business by buying them out. Financial assistance from Pete Brumis, a commercial diver for Associated, helped sustain the company through 1967 and 1968.

This was the final version of the clamshell helmet. It was made of fiberglass and hinged at the front. It had a face seal and oral nasal. The rear of the helmet was free flooding. This helmet was used on the SEALAB project and was featured on the front cover of LIFE Magazine in October 1968. Twelve were manufactured in 1968 for the U.S. Navy and were colored red. Eight were manufactured for the commercial diving market and were colored yellow. Several dry versions were tested but were not successful. The wet head version had limited success. There are minor differences in the attachments and equipment on several of these helmets. Using this helmet, four U.S. Navy divers, San Huss, Bud Aun, George Powell and "Goose" Langdon made a successful dive to 850 feet off the Santa Barbara Channel Islands in 1970.

Kirby: "I seem to remember that we never got any money for the R&D on these, so they were not as good as they could have been. A little R&D money and a few weeks would have made these much better. We sold these hats at $1300 each. It was around this time that the "Spook Group" and "Spook Divers" started turning up in the shop. (Special military divers). To get this project done we needed to expand and to raise money. We were always short of money. We got mixed up on a bad business deal and I left the company around the middle of this project. Bev was able to salvage the project and kept the company going."

Morgan: "With Kirby gone we found ourselves doing more and more military projects. The projects were interesting, but cut into our commercial products development. The Band Mask-8 (KMB-8) was developed out of the KMB-7. We could not keep up with the orders and do development

work, so I decided to sell the product line to U.S. Divers and continue the company as, "Deepwater Development Corp." doing development work on diving equipment. U.S. Divers started manufacturing and marketing the KMB-8 Band Mask with my supervision.

In 1966, the KMM-6, marked the introduction of the first production mask with an attached hood.

It featured two earphones on the inside the hood, protected by metal cups, significantly enhancing hearing capabilities. Prior to this, all masks had face cushions and seals glued in.

A U.S. divers demand regulator was utilized with this mask, and approximately ten units were manufactured. Kirby recalls that the original version incorporated a Scubapro regulator, which was later replaced with a U.S. Divers regulator for easier modification to accommodate the adjustable Dial-A-Breath. Kirby approached Agonic, a machine shop, with a Conshelf 12 regulator and sketches, explaining the need for custom-machined components to serve a specific function. This design involved some engineering work, resulting in about ten units with the hood securely attached. Eventually, Bev proposed the innovative idea of adding a zipper to the hood. Morgan emphasized the significance of this change, as it allowed exhaust bubbles to exit outside the hood, thereby improving hearing. Additionally, the mask featured two earphones instead of one. The air flow control knob still featured a Victor welding valve, a carry-over from the MM3, and the spider remained attached by metal rings.

1967. KMB-7.
Kirby Morgan Bandmask 7

This was the first of their masks to use the band. Bob Kirby designed and made the band and the retaining balls, while Dick Quitner crafted all the side blocks. They utilized U.S. Divers Conshelf12 regulators, modified with their Dial-a-Breath, for years until 1977, when they manufactured the entire regulator.

The most dramatic aspect of the mask was its face seal, stretched across like a trampoline with a hole for the face to fit through—an entirely original design by Bev. After observing a diver with a face squeeze, the team recognized the need for a different approach and developed a removable hood and face seal secured with a simple two-screw band known as the Kirby Morgan BandMask. This innovation addressed the issues with glued-in face seals, allowing for easy removal and replacement without the need for adhesives. Additionally, earphones were placed in pockets within the hood for easier replacement.

A crucial advancement was the introduction of an adjustable demand regulator. Unlike scuba air supplies, compressors used by commercial divers can vary widely in output pressure as they cycle on and off during a dive. This variability, combined with the different depths at which divers work, necessitated an adjustable regulator to effectively meet surface-supplied divers' needs. The adjustable regulator has since been incorporated into all their masks and helmets, featuring a demand regulator.

Around 1967-1968, many vital guests visited the small shop at Santa Barbara Airport, where Kirby kept his airplane just outside the door. The team often closed the shop to go flying. Frequent visitors included astronaut Scott Carpenter, who was part of the SEALAB program, along with representatives from General Electric, Westinghouse, Union Carbide, various

foreign navies, and the U.S. Navy, all interested in the new diving equipment being developed. Some visitors, including Scubapro, U.S. Divers, and Dacor, expressed interest in buying the business.

Kirby and his partner called this period the "Big Buyout." Despite the enticing offers, they recognized that these proposals often masked the reality of restrictive contracts that limited their creative freedom and independent design.

The Kirby Morgan Band Mask 8

The Kirby Morgan Band Mask 8: In 1967, the KMB 8 became the first mask from the company to sell on a large scale. It included significant upgrades over the KMB 7, such as the capability to attach a bail-out bottle for emergency gas supply, thanks to a new three-hole valve designed by Dick Quitner for the side block. In 1968, Kirby left the company and returned to aviation, working at the Santa Barbara airport. However, Kirby would occasionally visit Morgan to check on his progress. Morgan had been selling KMB 8s to U.S. Divers, who modified them to fit their scuba tanks. This modification would eventually lead to the KMB 8 ½. The KMB 8 was manufactured from 1967 to 1969 and sold over 500 units during that time.

THE KMB 8 BECAME THE FIRST MASK FROM THE COMPANY TO SELL ON A LARGE SCALE

The Kirby Morgan Band Mask 8 ½:

In 1969, Morgan began selling the KMB 8 to U.S. Divers, who modified it to fit their scuba tank valve system. Although this modification was acceptable, the valve proved inadequate for sufficient flow rates. Ed Tolorino, the design engineer at U.S. Divers, developed the oral-nasal concept, and subsequently, U.S. Divers provided him with their entire commercial line. Also in 1969, the band mask was licensed for manufacture to U.S. Divers, making the KMB 8 ½ an exclusive product of U.S. Divers.

In 1970, the side valve of the mask was modified, and the new valve included restricted orifices. As a result, the company advised against using this mask at depths greater than 125 feet. That year, U.S. Divers planned for 125 units of this mask, but received orders for over 800. They were outpacing others in purchases from General Aquadyne, which had a successful year. The next year, U.S. Divers budgeted for 1,000 units and sold all of them. U.S. Divers maintained sufficient production and effectively distributed the masks until Kirby resumed work with Morgan

After lengthy litigation with U.S. Divers, Morgan won back the rights to manufacture the Band Mask. In 1988, he purchased the entire U.S. Divers Commercial Division, regaining complete rights to all trademarks, including "Kirby Morgan," as well as trade dress protection, which covered the mask's actual shape, copyrights to the manuals, and logos.

LOGGED OR LOST:
WHY COMMERCIAL DIVERS CAN'T AFFORD TO SKIP THE LOGBOOK

By Robbert de Bie

With reference to our IDSA Annual Meeting with Yrgo in Sweden, we have given a presentation for the use of logbooks, and we have had a lot of feedback, so we have the basic idea that it is good to share this within IDSA news.

The Diver Without a Record

Picture this: a seasoned commercial diver with years of experience but no consistent dive log. On paper, they're skilled. In reality, when a major offshore opportunity arose, they couldn't prove their credentials. No log meant no job. Later, when an incident occurred on a different project, the absence of documentation delayed the investigation and raised unnecessary doubts.

The takeaway is harsh but clear: experience means little without documentation.

The Prepared Professional

Now imagine another diver. Every dive logged. Every task noted—welding, inspections, non-destructive testing—signed off by supervisors, with equipment details included.

When opportunity knocked, this diver's logbook spoke louder than words. Clients saw proof of skills, safety officers had an instant audit trail, and onboarding was fast-tracked. For this diver, the logbook wasn't just a diary; it was a résumé that sealed the deal.

Safety, Compliance & Protection

Logbooks aren't just about bragging rights, they're about safety.

- They track dive exposure, reducing risks of decompression illness and fatigue.
- They provide critical data during medical emergencies or incident investigations.
- They are often required by industry regulators like IMCA and ADCI.
- They offer legal protection, ensuring compliance in audits or disputes.

Simply put: your logbook protects not only you, but your entire team.

Your Career Insurance Policy

In commercial diving, proof is everything. Without a logbook, your experience is invisible. With one, you gain:

- Verified credentials for contracts.
- Credibility during promotions or qualification reviews.
- Essential documentation for disputes or insurance claims.
- A trusted resource for supervisors and safety officers.

The industry rule is simple:
No log = No proof.

Building the Habit of a Pro

Maintaining a professional logbook isn't complicated. The golden rules:

- Log **every dive**—date, depth, duration, task, and conditions.
- Always secure a supervisor's signature.
- Note incidents, unusual conditions, or equipment issues.
- Choose paper or digital—but stay consistent.

As the International Diving Schools Association reminds us:

"Logbooks don't just record your past – they protect your future."

Final Word

In the depths of the ocean, every detail matters. A diver's logbook isn't just paperwork, its safety equipment, career currency, and legal armour rolled into one. The next time you surface, don't just hang up your helmet, open your logbook.

Because in commercial diving, it really is logged or lost.

■ **IDSA Logbooks are available at www.idsaworldwide.org**

EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOL:

EXPANDING LEADERSHIP FROM EGYPT TO JORDAN

The Egyptian International Diving School is recognized as one of the most prestigious training institutions in Egypt and the Arab world, having built its distinguished reputation on the solid military expertise of its founders and its long-standing commitment to professional standards.

This year, the school was honored to be selected by the Aqaba Development Corporation to conduct the first specialized course in underwater welding and cutting in the city of Aqaba, following an in-depth study of the Arab market in this field.

Preparations began early with site visits to equip both the theoretical and practical training facilities, alongside the inspection the procurement of the latest equipment to ensure a comprehensive program that meets the highest international standards.

The school also seized this opportunity to promote the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) program and emphasize the importance of Arab divers obtaining international accreditation to enhance their career prospects in the global market.

THE PROGRAM CONCLUDED WITH A PRESTIGIOUS GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE JORDANIAN NAVAL BASE

The program concluded with a prestigious graduation ceremony at the Jordanian Naval Base where the school was recognized for this outstanding achievement, marking a significant milestone in advancing professional commercial diving education in Jordan and across the Arab region. The course also received extensive media coverage, with Jordanian Television highlighting its success and importance as a pioneering step in the industry.

It is also noteworthy that the Egyptian International Diving School successfully underwent three international audits this year in the fields of training and quality, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to applying the highest standards of safety, excellence and professional education.

IDSA ANNUAL MEETING 2025

SPECIAL SOCIAL PROGRAM IN SWEDEN

By Mona Shobair, regional sales manager at Middle East for Commercial Diving

The IDSA Annual Meeting 2025, hosted by Yrgo Academy in Sweden, featured a remarkable social program that significantly enriched the overall experience for attendees. A highlight of the program was a visit to the Maritime Museum and Aquarium in the city of Gothenburg.

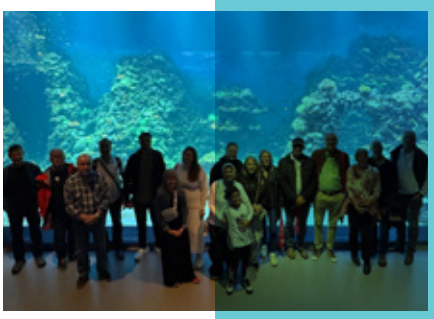
The museum houses an impressive underground aquarium with the world's oceans at its center. During the tour, our guide, Mr. Jens Ulvas, shared insights into the challenges faced during the construction of the aquarium and the time it took to transform it into the stunning facility it is today. At the heart of the Aquarium Hall, the ocean takes center stage, with its diverse organisms and environments showcased in dynamic and engaging ways.

A special emphasis is placed on coral reefs, many of which are currently endangered. The corals on display start small but are expected to grow noticeably within a year, allowing visitors to witness their development over time. Mr. Ulvas also explained the crucial role divers play in maintaining the aquarium and supporting marine biologists with their ongoing research.

Attendees were fortunate to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour, offering a closer look at the work of marine scientists. One particularly fascinating aspect was the museum's natural filtration system, which garnered much admiration.

In addition to the aquarium, the museum features a variety of engaging exhibitions, including Fashion of the Sea, Sea of Stories, Ocean Planet, and Vessels in Focus. A standout attraction was the sailing simulator, which offers a realistic experience of sailing different vessels in various locations. So lifelike is the simulation that some guests nearly experienced seasickness!

Overall, the visit proved both educational and entertaining, providing guests with valuable knowledge and memorable experiences.



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THE IDSA ANNUAL MEETING 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

By Mona Shobair, regional sales manager at Middle East for Commercial Diving

The IDSA Annual Meeting 2025 flourished along the scenic shores of the North Sea in the vibrant city of Gothenburg, Sweden, graciously hosted by the YRGO Academy. This year's gathering brought together IDSA members from across the globe, uniting professionals, educators,

and industry leaders to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and celebrate advancements in the world of diving. The meeting opened with a warm meet-and-greet session, where participants enjoyed light conversations and introductions in a relaxed atmosphere before moving into the formal agenda. This created an excellent opportunity for members—both long-standing and new—to connect and build relationships within the diving community.

The meeting was officially opened by Dan Hedberg from YRGO, who welcomed all attendees. Joining online was Executive Director, William Brown, adding to the international spirit of the event. Leo Lagard, IDSA Chairman, delivered a comprehensive report on IDSA's progress over the past year, highlighting the organization's steady growth and strengthening influence in the diving industry. Board member Lars William presented on the subject of "Report of Incidents." He introduced the idea of establishing a regular reporting system, complete with a hyperlink to a standardized form that would be circulated to members on a recurring basis. This initiative aims to ensure that members remain consistently informed and updated.

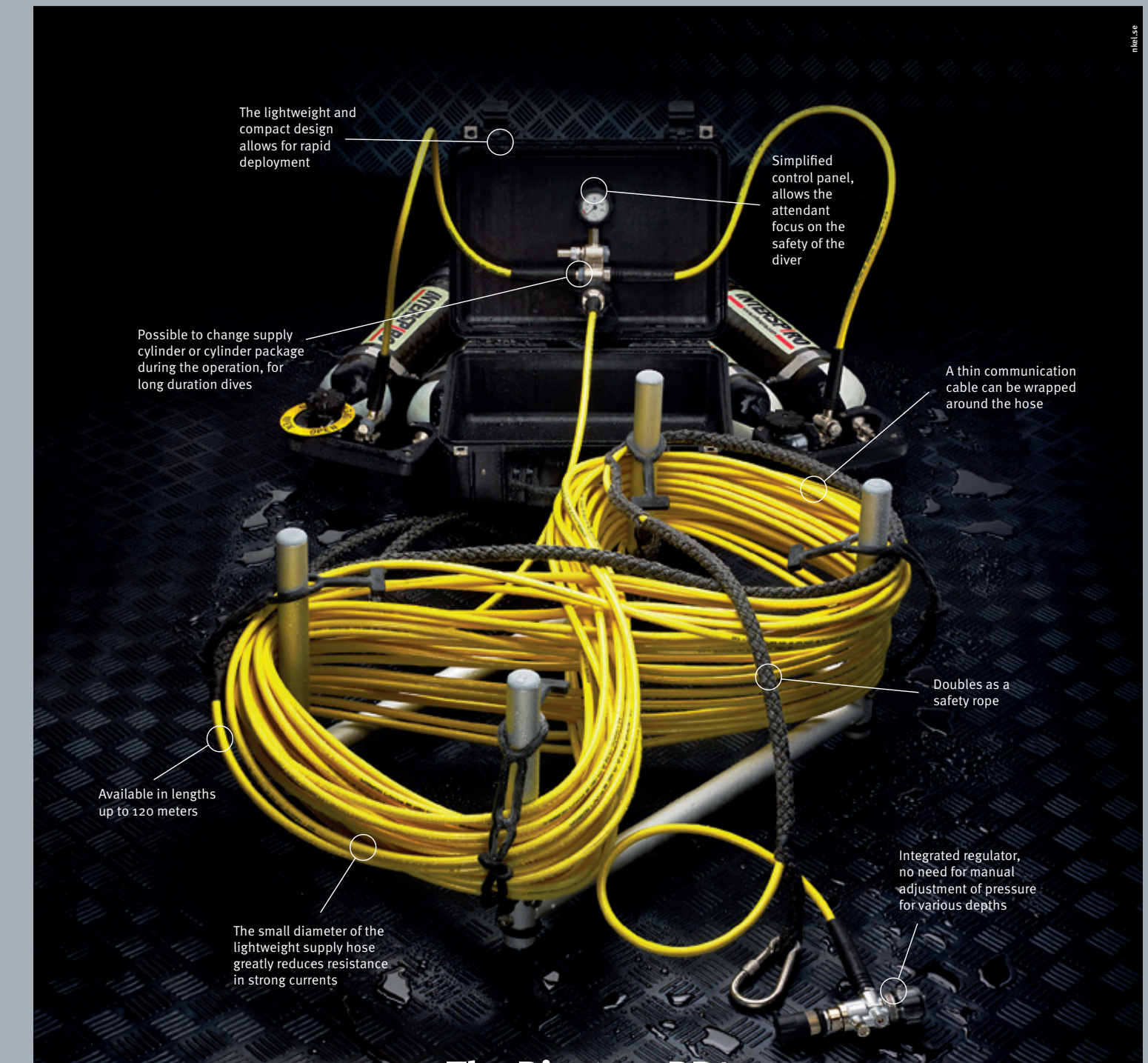
Board member Hossam Elmasry gave a presentation, "Annual Report: Why? What is the Advantage?" He emphasized the Board's commitment to enhancing communication with members and increasing the exchange of valuable information. Board member Robbert de Bie delivered two key presentations, both of which will be shared with members for internal use. He underlined the importance of issuing IDSA Qualification Cards, reinforcing their role in maintaining professional standards and recognition within the diving community.

The Technical Committee, also announced ongoing work to revise the layout of the IDSA Standards and Procedures, with the goal of making them clearer, more user-friendly, and easier to apply in practice. A highlight of the meeting was the guest presentation by Edvin Tousi of Era Marine, Sweden, who shared expert insights on safe diving practices, sparking valuable discussions among members. The program concluded the following day with

a school visit, offering attendees a firsthand look at educational practices in action.

One of the most memorable moments was the heartfelt farewell to Carin Bot, a devoted member of IDSA, who is retiring this year. In recognition of her remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication, the Board presented her with the prestigious Alan Bax Award. While the community will deeply miss her presence, members joined in celebrating her legacy and wishing her more cherished time with family in this new chapter of life.

As always, the IDSA Annual Meeting provided a platform for open dialogue, idea-sharing, and the exchange of innovative techniques. Beyond formal discussions, it served as a reminder of the strength and unity within the international diving community—bound together by a shared passion for safety, education, and excellence. The meeting wrapped up with closing remarks from Chairman Leo Lagard, who extended his heartfelt thanks to all members for their active participation and continued support.



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GREAT MANOEUVRES AT CEDIFOP

The decree issued by the Regional Labour Department was completed on 21 March in record time

PORT OF PALERMO, great manoeuvres at Cedifop: concluded and already Held the final examinations of the course for 'Technical Diving Operator' have been completed and already held. An operational meeting was also held on the training body's premises to organise a blood drive on the initiative of the Italian Guardia Agroforestale Italiana, called 'Save a life', in collaboration with the Advs of Palermo

PALERMO (31 March 2025) - Big manoeuvres at the Sammuzzo quay inside the port of Palermo where, last week, the Centro Studi Cedifop, professional training centre for industrial diving, had its students take the final exams of the self-financed 500-hour cou se for the level of OTS (Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo - Technical Diving Operator).

Concluded last 21 March, this training course provides for the issuance of a certificate of professional qualification valid pursuant to and for the purposes of Framework Law no. 845/78, Regional Law no. 29/16 and Provincial Decree no. 6/18 classified under no. 6216 (diver) of the current codebook.

Just a few days earlier, the Sicilian Region's Department of Employment had drawn up the decree for the conduct of the final examinations, thus giving trainees the opportunity to enrol at a harbour mas ter's office or to continue training with the next level of InshoreDiver/ Diving Welders, which is scheduled to begin on 1 April.

It should be noted that, for the trainees who have already taken part in the Inshore CI course, there are already several underwater work companies that have contacted Cedifop for possible recruitment. From 8 July 2020 to date, in fact, the organisation has already received more than 400 requests from operators in the sector, a number that is more than double the number of trainees who have completed the training courses.

Last Friday, moreover, Cedifop took part in a meeting with representatives of the Italian Agroforestry Guard and its partner Advs of Palermo (Association of Voluntary Blood Donors) to plan a blood collection day called 'Save a Life', an initiative that will soon be held on the training body's premises.

THE FINAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE COURSE FOR 'TECHNICAL DIVING OPERATOR' HAVE BEEN COMPLETED

In the meantime, the Diver Medic - First Aid course has begun, which is compulsory (per Law 07/2016 'Discipline of training contents for the exercise of industrial diving activities') in order to move up to Offshore levels for the Top Up level, which is equivalent to IDSA (International Diving Schools Association) level 3, a course 'recommended' by IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association).

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO FINALLY COMPLETE THEIR STUDIES

This course is carried out in accordance with the methodology of the ISO/IEC 17024 standard, with UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024 certification from Cepas/Bureau Veritas, the Institute for the Certification of Competencies and Training. Both the 'DiverMedic' and Diver Welders' certifications see Bureau Veritas involved in issuing these certifications through the Cedifop Study Centre, thanks to a collaboration that has been going on for years.

Finally, the OTS course, which was implemented with public funding and has been awaiting examinations since November last year, is also nearing completion. The Department of Training, following Regional Law 07/2016, announced on 24 March that responsibility for the Cedifop's final examinations passes to Service VI of the Department of Labour.

Thus, thanks to the reorganisation of the regional departments (provided for by Presidential Decree No. 9 of 5 April 2022), the Department of Employment will soon be able to prepare the decree appointing the exam board, thanks to which the students, who have been waiting for several months, will finally be able to complete their training and obtain the qualification of Technical Diving Operator.

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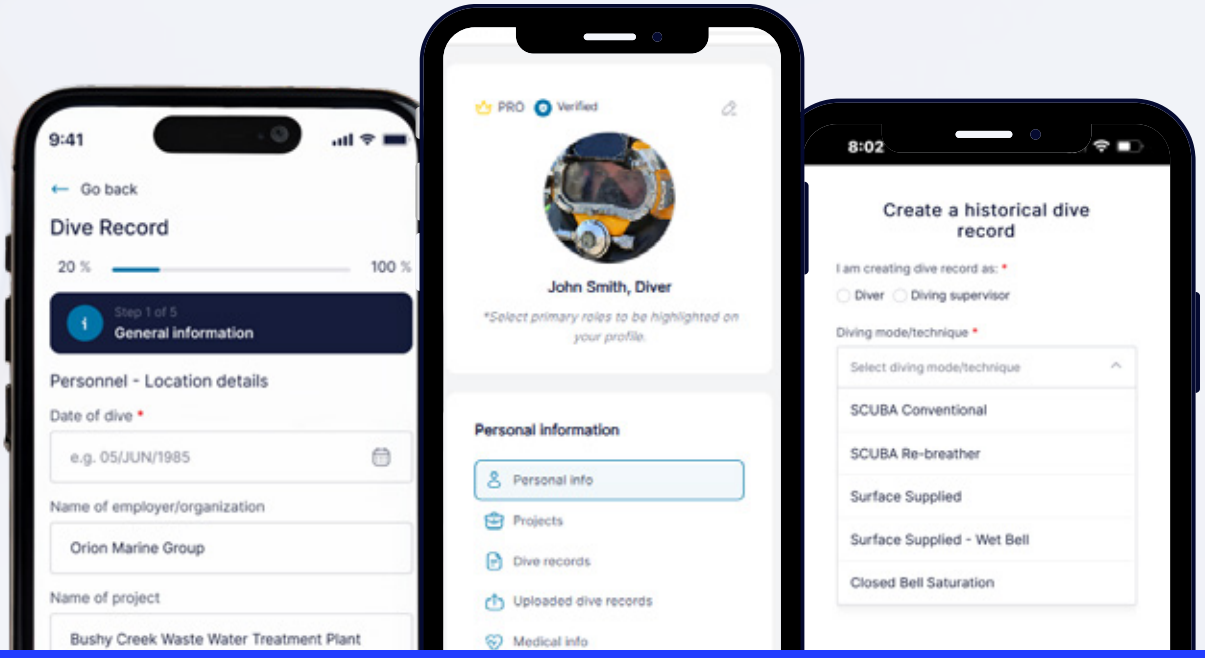

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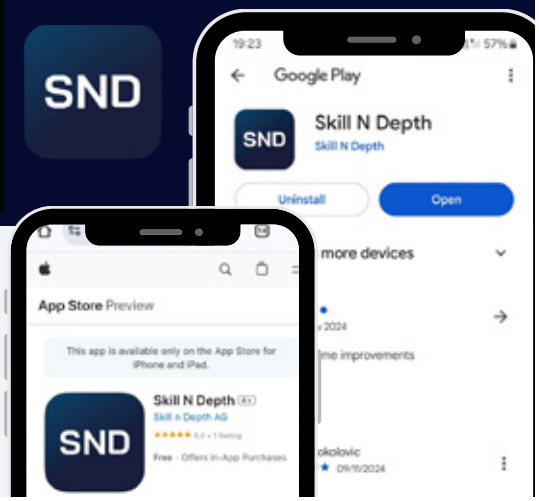

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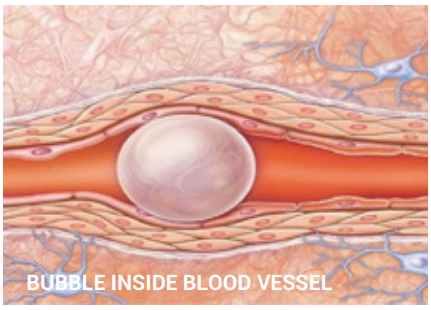
INSPIRING PEOPLE

MEDICAL ISSUE FOR SAFE DIVING

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

THE BENDS

When a diver goes underwater wearing breathing equipment, he starts to breathe air at higher pressure than on the surface. When this happens, the nitrogen in the air starts to dissolve in the body tissues.



BUBBLE INSIDE BLOOD VESSEL

As the diver returns to the surface this extra nitrogen must escape. If a diver undergoes 'decompression' or safety stops, the nitrogen will leave the body safely. But If he returns to the surface too quickly the nitrogen will form bubbles in his tissues. These bubbles cause the Bends.

The Bends is the popular name for Decompression Sickness. It occurs when divers return to the surface too quickly, nitrogen bubbles start to appear in the blood stream and/ or other tissue like nervous tissues.

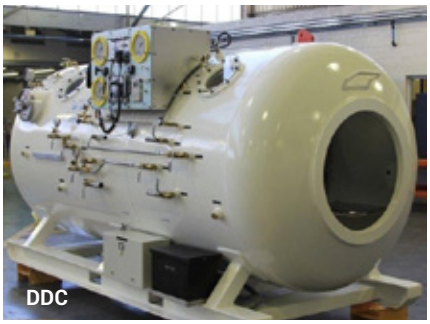
These bubbles can appear in various places around the body. Sometimes in the skin or joints they cause little more than pain, this is called type I DCS. Sometimes in the nervous or blood systems they can cause paralysis and death; this is called type II DCS.

The amount of dissolved gas is affected by time and depth & repetitive diving. In addition, some tissue holds the nitrogen for long time like adipose (fatty tissues) others are not. Other factors also affect DCS incidents like age, fitness, emotional stress, load of work, activity after the dive & weather temperature.

Many signs & symptoms may appear like unusual fatigue, skin itch showing a blotchy rash, pain in joints and / or muscles, dizziness, vertigo, ringing in the ears, numbness, tingling and paralysis & difficulty urinating or incontinence.

A CASE OF DCS

Once diagnosed, the diver should immediately transfer to the recompression chamber, during the transfer give oxygen and fluids, preform neurological examination & monitor the vital signs.

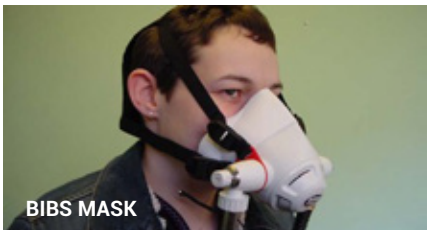


DDC

Basis of treatment are:

- Recompression has a direct effect in reducing the bubble size and is done in the DDC and this happened according to the medical assessment done by the medic & under the instruction of the diving doctor according to standards.
- Oxygen which has direct effect on increasing the off gassing of nitrogen & reduces tissue swelling & increases O2 levels in hypoxic tissues. It is given during transportation & in chamber via BIBS.
- Supportive therapy aims to keep the diver hydrated using water, check for other injuries.

Immobilize; by using splints and bandaging like rigid splints; boards, folded newspapers or magazines or



BIBS MASK

soft splints; folded blankets or towels, pillows, wetsuits or anatomic like splinting to an adjacent finger, or splinting an injured leg to the other leg.

Cold; Use available cold objects available.Cold the affected area every 20 mins for first 48 hours. Cold helps in reduction the circlation which will decrease the edema (will decrease the pain) & affect the nerve endings will decrease the pain.

Elevation; helps in reduction of the circlation which will decrease the edema (will decrease the pain).

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LAUNCH OF LUXUS COMPACT IP CAMERA

Ready to follow in the footsteps of the all-Sicilian law

We are thrilled to launch the LUXUS Compact IP camera, our latest innovation in underwater imaging technology. Small, robust, and easy to integrate, it is designed to meet the diverse needs of professionals across various industries.

The LUXUS Compact IP Camera introduces IP capabilities, enabling direct network connection for remote viewing and management. Its compact design is perfect for space-constrained applications, and its flexibility makes it ideal for a broad range of users, including divers, civil engineers, and ROV and mounted template operators.

The camera is powered by a 12-24 VDC supply and con¬sumes only 3.5W, making it energy-efficient for prolonged use.

Compared to previous models in the LUXUS range, the new Compact IP camera stands out with its smaller size and IP feature, offering enhanced integration capabilities and improved performance. The camera features a 1/2.8" Progressive Scan SONY STARVIS CMOS sensor, providing a resolution of 1920x1080 at 25fps (2MP).

The standard Subconn® Micro titanium connector ensures compatibility with existing systems.

The LUXUS Compact IP camera offers a horizontal angle of view of 95.0° in air and 72.0° in water, with a focus length of >0.5m (F2.0). It supports multiple control options, including ONVIF (S), and features fully automatic or manual gain and exposure settings. The camera's minimum illumination is 0.05 Lux, ensuring high-quality imaging even in low-light conditions. The housing is sandblasted titanium for enhanced durability and corrosion resistance, consistent with the other cameras in the LUXUS Compact range.

The camera housing is made from sandblasted and polished titanium and has a depth rating of 4,000 metres.

Features and benefits

- **Lightweight**
- **Compact**
- **4,000 m depth rating**

Applications

- **General underwater inspection**
- **Diving applications**
- **ROV systems**
- **Trencher systems**
- **Crawler systems**
- **Tow and drop camera systems**
- **Benthic sledge systems**
- **Underwater observatory systems**
- **Winch and deck monitoring**
- **IP capabilities**

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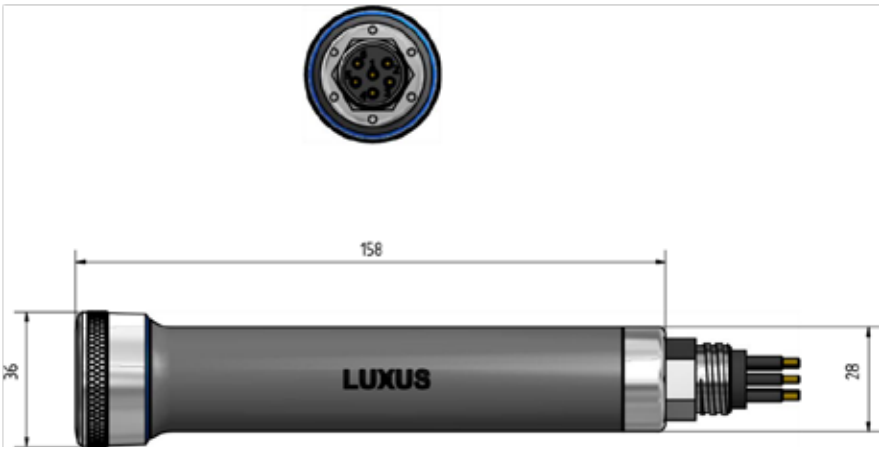
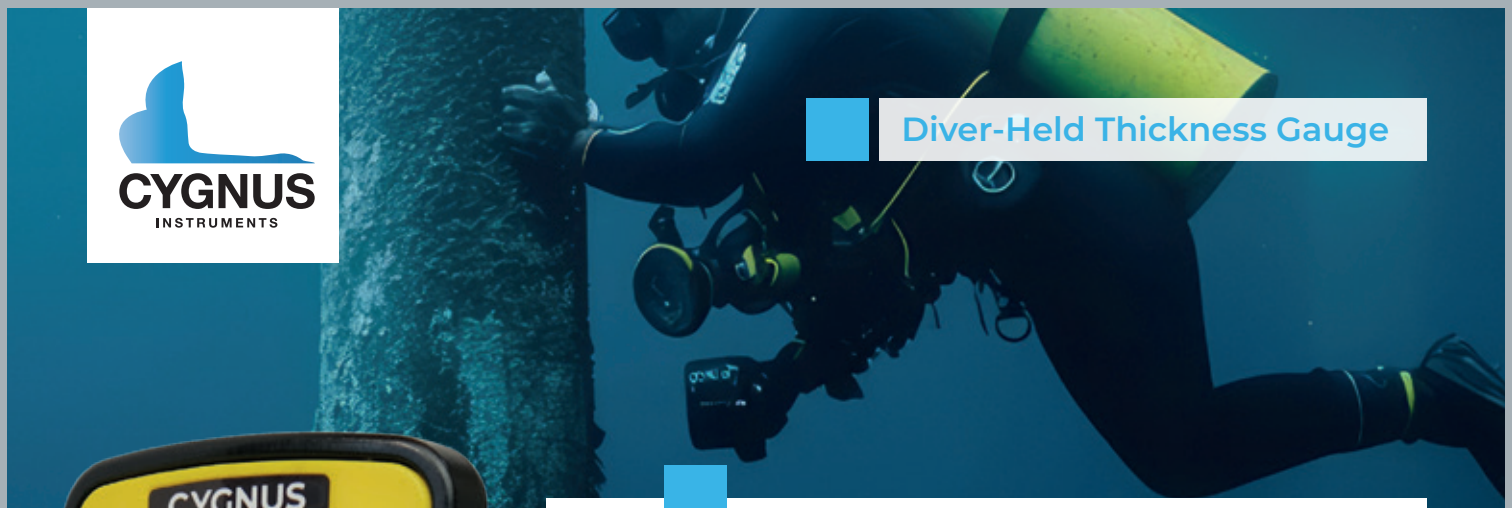


CYGNUS
INSTRUMENTS

Diver-Held Thickness Gauge



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COMMERCIAL DIVING SAFETY AWARENESS: BEYOND THE DIVE

TRAINING FOR SAFER DIVING OPERATIONS

Commercial diving is a high-risk profession that demands rigorous safety protocols, specialised skills, and continuous training. In recent years, despite advancements in diving technology and procedures, accidents still occur due to various reasons including, human error, equipment failure, or inadequate preparation. Recognising the need for enhanced safety awareness, KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd recently launched a new E-Learning course: Commercial Diving Safety Awareness: Beyond the Dive – Training for Safer Diving Operations.

This course is designed for Project Managers, Site Supervisors, Engineers and Technical Coordinators, Safety Officers and Designated Person Ashore (DPA) Representatives, anyone overseeing or supporting diving-related work with a need of essential knowledge to mitigate risks, comply with industry standards, and foster a culture of safety in commercial diving operations.

Why Safety Awareness Matters in Commercial Diving

Commercial divers work in challenging environments - underwater construction, offshore oil and gas, renewable energy, salvage operations, and marine inspections both inshore and offshore environments - where understanding and managing hazards such as decompression sickness and diving related injuries, equipment malfunctions, environmental conditions, pressure differentials, SIMOPS that are a key requirement for a safe diving operations are often overlooked or not understood.

Understanding such key requirements include:

- Understanding key safety framework of a Diving Safety Management System (DSMS)
- Core roles in a commercial diving team
- Knowledge of basic diving physics and physiology
- Recognising common diving illnesses and response strategies
- Understanding surface-supplied versus saturation diving
- How a hyperbaric evacuation system (HES) works
- Learn how diving systems are audited (IMCA DESIGN, DSMS)
- Identify risk controls for SIMOPS, lifting and ROV operations
- Role of training, drills and communication in safety culture

Without proper training, non-diving personnel and support teams may overlook critical safety measures, increasing the likelihood of accidents. KBA Training Centre's new E-Learning course focuses on preventive measures, emergency response, and industry best practices. The course is structured to provide:

1. Comprehensive Safety Protocols

- Understanding international diving regulations (IMCA, IOGP)
- Pre-dive safety checks and risk assessments
- Proper use of dive tables and decompression procedures

2. Equipment Safety & Maintenance

- Inspection and maintenance of diving gear
- Recognise signs of equipment failure
- Emergency breathing systems and backup procedures

3. Emergency Preparedness & Response

- First aid for diving-related injuries
- Rescue techniques for distressed divers
- Managing underwater emergencies (entrapment, gas supply failure)
- Emergency Response Planning and requirements

4. Human Factors & Team Coordination

- Communication protocols between divers and surface teams
- Stress and fatigue management
- Role of dive supervisors in ensuring operational safety

5. Environmental & Operational Hazards

- Dealing with strong currents, poor visibility, and cold water
- Handling hazardous materials underwater
- Safe practices in confined and overhead environments
- A full understanding of subsea hazards, such as underwater lift bags, underwater cutting, DELTA P

Benefits of E-Learning

- Flexible Learning: Accessible anytime, anywhere, allowing you to train without disrupting work schedules.
- Interactive Modules: Engaging content with real-life case studies and simulations.
- Certification: E-Certificate awarded by KBA Training Centre

Conclusion

Safety in commercial diving is not just about individual skills and knowledge - it's about planning, preparation, awareness, and teamwork. KBA Training Centre's E-Learning course, Commercial Diving Safety Awareness: Beyond the Dive, provides the essential knowledge to reduce risks and ensure safer diving operations.

Whether you are new to the industry, or a seasoned professional involved with offshore or diving-related support work, this course is a critical step

to ensuring a safer diving operations work environment.

No dive gear required. Just curiosity, attention to detail, and a willingness to learn how diving operations work, and why safety is non-negotiable at every depth.

CONTRIBUTED BY KBA TRAINING MARKETING@KBATRAINING.ORG

COURSE INFORMATION: HTTPS://KBATRAINING.ORG/COMMERCIAL-DIVING-SAFETY-AWARENESS-BEYOND-THE-DIVE-TRAINING-FOR-SAFER-DIVING-OPERATIONS/

About KBA Training Centre Pte Ltd

Established in 2006, KBAT has been in the forefront in providing training for the offshore, inland/inshore and the health and safety sector. KBA Training is the premier provider for International and National accredited training (classroom and E-Learning) and is positioned to offer integrated specialist solution for consultancy and training to the onshore, wind / renewable energy and offshore industry. Website: www.kbatraining.org

ALL-STAINLESS STEEL COMMERCIAL DIVING HELMET

THE NEW STANDARD

In 2007, Kirby Morgan® introduced the first modular all-stainless steel commercial diving helmet, featuring a stainless-steel side block and regulator pod system. That pioneering approach, with a focus on modularity, compatibility, and long-term serviceability, set the stage for four dedicated diving systems and counting, and 18 years later, we have the KM 77 (2007), KM 37SS (2009), KM 97 (2014), and the KM Diamond (2020).

All of these systems share the same shell design and material: high-grade, corrosion-resistant 316L stainless steel. What also sets this shell apart from our traditional models is that the large "bottom ring" is not a separate piece, but is an integral part of the overall shell. The stainless steel shells do not require separate weights mounted to them, and there are no threaded inserts used to secure the face port screws to the shell. The result: No need for specialized maintenance and repairs to the face port, shell, and Bottom Ring.

Precision fit

The 316L stainless steel helmet shells are spot checked with X-rays before they go through a machining process that adheres to exacting tolerance settings on all threaded and mated parts. This guarantees a precise fit of all assemblies when attached to the shell.

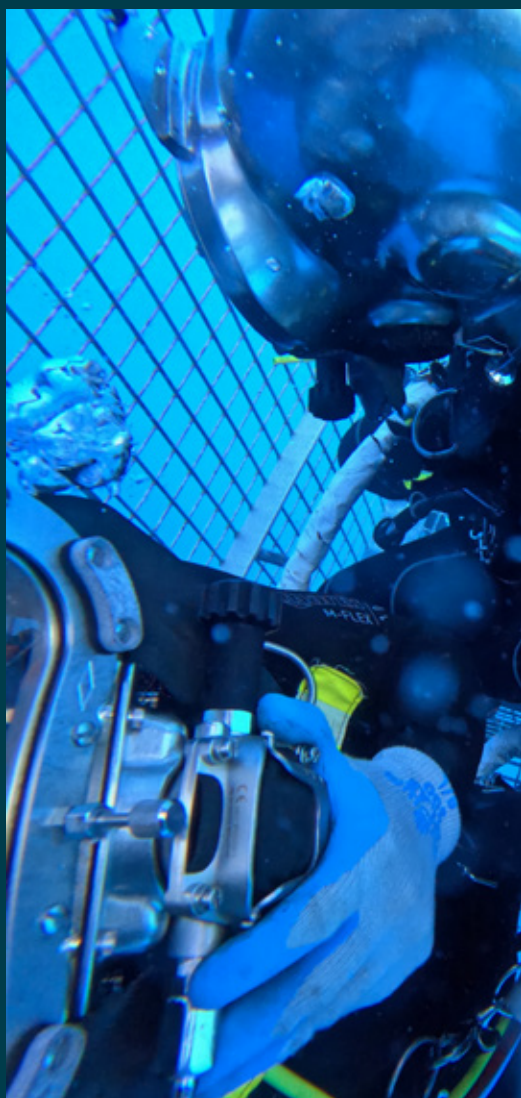
Our flagship stainless steel model, the KM 97, weighs in at 31.09 pounds/14.12 kg and features the 455 Balanced Regulator. The 455 is

an all stainless steel regulator with superior breathing performance and is compatible with all KMDSI helmets and BandMasks® models. While air flow results and delivery values score extremely well in laboratory testing, design engineers made it their goal to ensure that the 455 Balanced Regulator would also meet the strenuous demands while in the field, where divers face the true tests of endurance. The exceptional performance and reliability of this regulator are a result of using the latest state-of-the-art design and testing equipment available. Using only the highest quality materials and stringent assembly processes, coupled with 60 years of design experience, assures it is the best it can be.

Embodiment of ruggedness

The regulator's body and metal components are all made from the highest quality stainless steel, which embodies the ruggedness and durability of its complete design. Separate from the impressive superior breathing characteristics and resulting longevity of the regulator is its serviceability.

The regulator can remain in place on the helmet and be adjusted by a technician without the need to hook up a gas supply to the side block. The true advantage of this is that



the technician can make the necessary adjustments by removing the Bent Tube Adaptor on the inlet side of the 455 Balanced regulator, then simply use a 2nd stage low-pressure supply hose off of a standard SCUBA bailout 1st stage to test their adjustments.

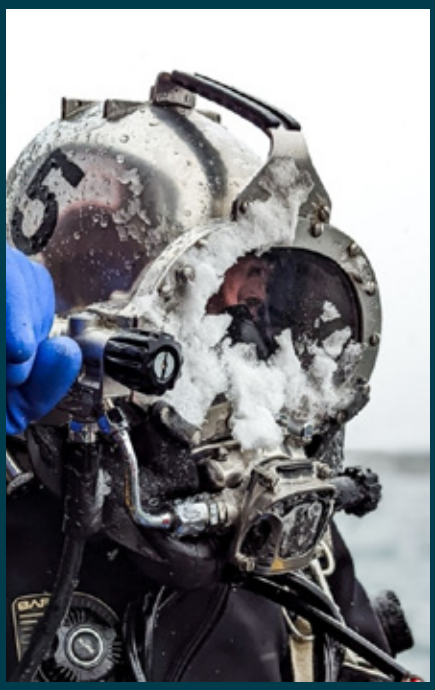
This saves time, especially if complete disassembly and reassembly are required, as the unit can be adjusted, tested, and readjusted without securing the bent tube to the side block. An added design feature that aids in the servicing of the regulator is that the entire "working mechanism" (main tube assembly) can be removed while the regulator is still secured to the helmet.

This main assembly is fully functional and can be tested with a regulated air source outside of the regulator body. This allows the technician to inspect, clean, service, and reassemble all of the essential parts of the regulator in a controlled manner while significantly increasing the probabilities of correct installation.

Key features of the stainless steel product line include:

- No defining scratch, gouge, or dent tolerance for refinishing or service of the helmet shells.
- Stainless Steel side blocks, which have fewer removable parts, make them more modular, adding to their durability.
- Multiple unique mounting points that are part of the shell; not attachments.
- Modular quick change-out communication system for both bare wire posts & waterproof connections.
- Elimination of threaded inserts for holding the port retainer to the helmet shell.
- The Helmet Bottom Ring is an integral part of the overall shell.

Whether for shallow, deep, clean, or dirty conditions and whether using breathing air or mixed gas, Kirby Morgan® stainless steel helmets are praised by commercial divers around the world.



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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.

01

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

Since 1994, I have been actively involved in diving, beginning with recreational SCUBA in Greece and progressing to become a certified instructor with PADI, SSI, CMAS, and TDI in 1997.

My professional career in commercial diving started shortly after, with projects including mooring inspections and installations, small vessel maintenance, underwater video graphy, and seabed and harbor surveys.

Following two years of practical training with a commercial diving team and examinations at the Hellenic Port Authority, I was officially

SINCE 1994, I HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DIVING

DANKZIJ DOORZETTINGS-VERMOGEN EN TOEWIJDING WERD HECODIA IN 2017 VOLWAARDIG LID VAN DE IDSA

licensed as a Professional Diver in accordance with Greek law.

Who did you learn the most from? 02

Over the years, I collaborated with aquaculture companies, carrying out inspections of fish cages, as well as with marine construction firms specializing in port infrastructure, ship repairs, and vessel inspections. These experiences led to the establishment of my own professional diving company.

What are your drives and ambitions? 03

Recognizing that Greece lacked a dedicated school for professional diving, and that training relied heavily on outdated practices passed down informally, I sought to bridge this gap. My vision was to introduce internationally recognized standards of safety, education, and professional practice to the Greek commercial diving sector.

In 2024, I founded the Hellenic Commercial Diving Academy (HeCoDiA) with the mission of delivering high-level education and hands-on training to future commercial divers. The Academy's teaching team is composed of experienced professionals committed to instilling both technical expertise and a strong safety culture.

Through perseverance and dedication, HeCoDiA became in 2017 a full member of the International Diving Schools Association (I.D.S.A.), allowing us to provide internationally accredited training programs and to extend our expertise not only within Greece but also across the Balkans.

What is your life motto? 04

At HeCoDiA, we firmly believe that:
Half-knowledge endangers lives. True knowledge empowers professionals.

SAB – DIVING
COMMERCIAL DIVING SCHOOL BELGIUM

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Everything we do today is history tomorrow.

From Snorkels to Superlites, the Historical Diving Society is dedicated to recording our diving heritage for future generations.

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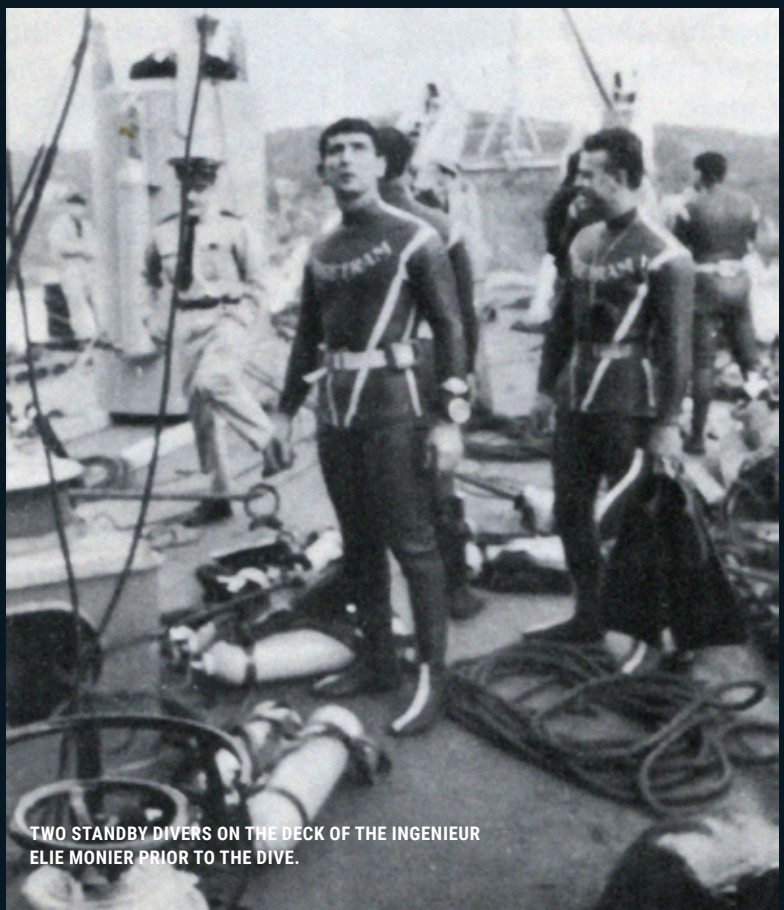
SOGETRAM'S DEEP DIVE

BY PETER DICK, HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY

By the early 1960s, the race to safely establish 'saturation diving' where divers lived and worked under pressure for a period of time was very much to the fore, typified perhaps by Robert Sténuit's 24 hour stay at 200ft as part of Ed Link's 'Man in the Sea' project in 1962. However, the future face of deep commercial diving in particular was not only to embrace 'saturation' techniques which offered longer times at greater depths, but initially time saving 'bounce diving' where the diver went to depth for a minimal time to complete a job of work, then carried out the appropriate decompression in a diving bell and/or chamber, depending the technique used. Sadly, early bounce diving is perhaps typified by the ill-fated 1000ft trial dive by Hannes Keller and Peter Small, also in 1962.



TWO STANDBY DIVERS ON THE DECK OF THE INGENIEUR ELIE MONIER PRIOR TO THE DIVE.

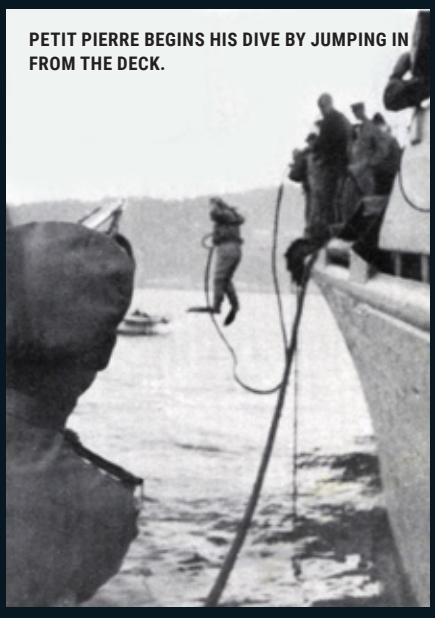
PIERRE GRAVES (PETIT PIERRE), FULLY KITTED IN A BRIGHT YELLOW CONSTANT VOLUME SUIT WAITING FOR THE WORD 'GO'.

It is always good to have a second opinion on complex subjects such as this, so John Bevan was approached for his views, as he had been at the centre of scientific experimentation into deep diving during this interesting period in time just before diving began to go deeper for longer. He commented that...

"The deep diving industry spent quite a few years bounce diving with heliox and diving bells before saturation diving became commercialised. The North Sea was the principal arena where it all played out. From the late sixties up until the mid-seventies they were mainly bounce diving, including surface decompression techniques. Then saturation diving was phased in. There were one or two isolated but notable, commercial, saturation diving projects in the USA in the very early days and of course the pioneering the Sealab series of experiments were serious pioneers of saturation diving. The Cousteau living experiments were not considered serious scientific experiments. We do not know of one scientific paper that was published following the Cousteau projects, but they were very entertaining."

It is not often recognized, but an early deep bounce dive was carried out in 1963 to a depth 100m/~325ft by the French commercial diving company Sogetram, founded in 1952 by André Galerne, who talked to us about his life at one of our conferences. Certainly not theatre, the one-off dive was, of course, intended to demonstrate a capability to prospective employers, of being able to go to great depth (in 1960s terms) and carry out a job of work. It was reported on for Diver magazine by our 1950s diving friend Tony Sugden, who at the time of the dive had left his job as a pottery teacher to join Sogetram. He eventually became one of their operations managers in West Africa.

WITH THANKS TO JOHN BEVAN CO-FOUNDER OF THE HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY

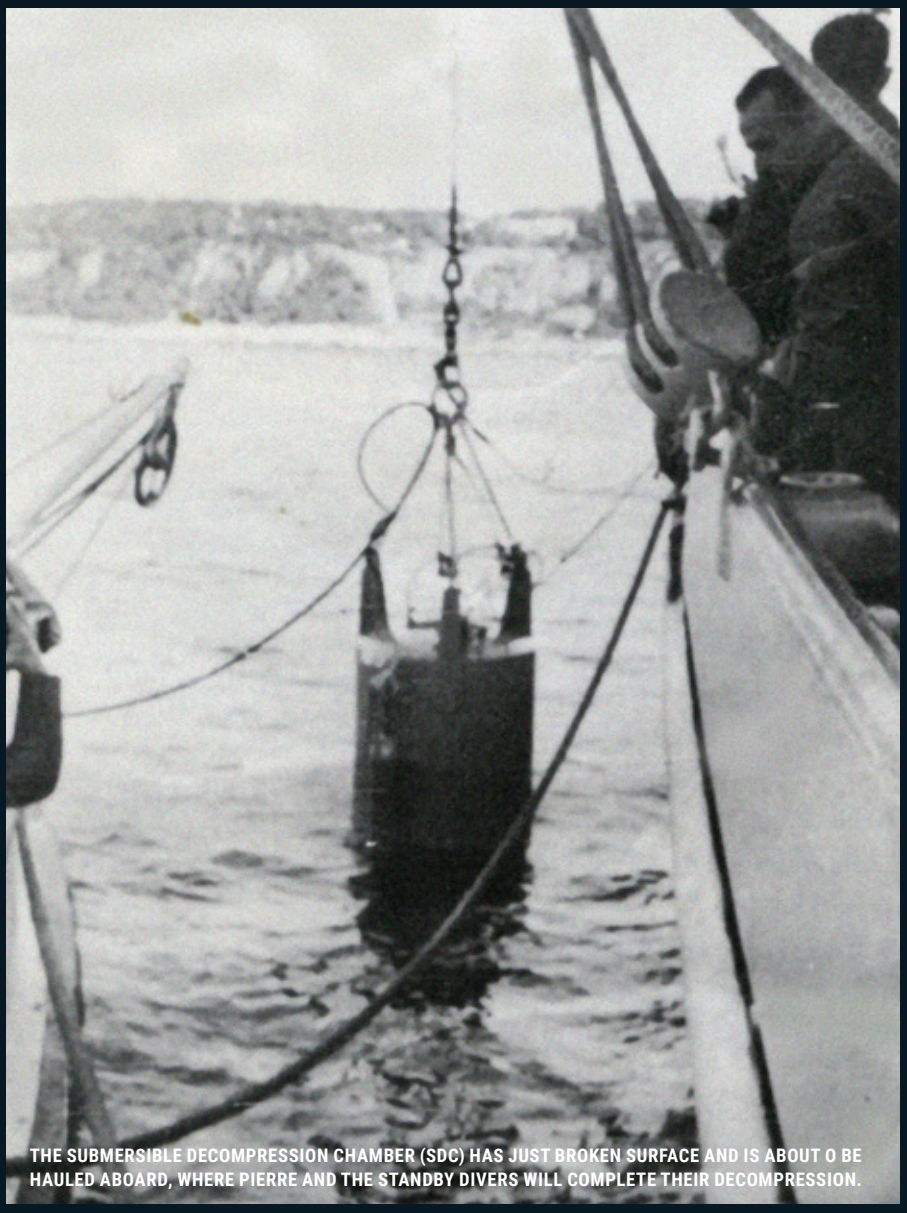


PETIT PIERRE BEGINS HIS DIVE BY JUMPING IN FROM THE DECK.

At six o'clock on the morning of Friday the 22nd of November, 1963, two ships left the harbour of Nice, France. They were the Fourmi, a French naval mooring ship carrying some 20 divers and diving specialists of 'Sogetram' and the Ingenieur Elie Monnier the diving ship of G.E.R.S. (Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherches Sousmarine), which had aboard the French underwater television team besides its usual diving crew.

By seven o'clock both ships were moored on pre-arranged buoys just outside the bay of Ville-franche and a sinker put down onto a bottom of mud 103 metres below. The Siebe Gorman submersible decompression chamber (S.D.C.) was checked by G.E.R.S. personnel. Pierre Graves, better known as Petit Pierre, and the nine safety divers dressed themselves and the 150 metres of airline, pressure gauge line, heated suit and telephone cables were carefully arranged on the deck.

Before nine o'clock (zero hour for the trial), a passenger ship, the Gabbare had arrived carrying oil technicians and other people invited to be present. The S.D.C. was lowered empty to 65 metres and a G.E.R.S. diver went down to see that all was well. Already in the water was the underwater television team, and the closed circuit television camera had been lowered to within a few metres of the bottom.



THE SUBMERSIBLE DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER (SDC) HAS JUST BROKEN SURFACE AND IS ABOUT O BE HAULED ABOARD, WHERE PIERRE AND THE STANDBY DIVERS WILL COMPLETE THEIR DECOMPRESSION.

At the stroke of nine Petit Pierre, dressed in a bright yellow constant volume suit, and equipped with an airline, jumped from the deck of the Fourmi. Safety diver No. 1 entered the water more gently as he was wearing a twin cylinder aqualung.

The descent to 65 metres was very rapid and the two Sogetram divers were accompanied by a photographer and the television camera and lighting men.

At this depth, Petit Pierre made a quick trial entry into the S.D.C. and swam down leaving his air-breathing companions. He appeared on the television screens a minute later, waving handfuls of mud.

Meanwhile the safety diver had passed his airline through an open metal eye fixed on the side of the S.D.C. and had entered the chamber to contact the ship by telephone.

Aboard the Fourmi, Dr. Pierre Cabarrou, who had joined Sogetram after leaving the French Navy, and Roger Armela, the firm's technical director, were controlling the gas mixtures and were, of course, in constant contact with Petit Pierre by telephone and television. The telephone conversations and television picture were relayed to the guests aboard the Gabarre.

Fourteen minutes after zero the second safety diver swam down to replace No. 1 in the S.D.C. Diver No.1, having completed his 15 minutes at 65 metres, went up to his next decompression stop. All decompression for safety divers was done at 7 metres on pure oxygen by means of four weighted surface demand valves hung at this depth and connected to a battery of large oxygen cylinders aboard the Fourmi.

Diver No.1 changed mouthpieces and settled down to do his 32 minutes. Down at 65 metres the safety divers replaced each other every 15 minutes until the hour was nearly up. Then the S.D.C. was brought up complete with diver No.4 to 55 metres for the first decompression stop.

AFTER COMPLETING HIS DECOMPRESSION, PIERRE EMERGES TO FACE THE PHOTOGRAPHERS.

Petit Pierre, having finished his hour at 103 metres, swam up into the S.D.C. His decompression stops in the sea were follows.

55 m	**10 mins.**
46 m	**5 mins.**
40 m	**5 mins.**
36 m	**8 mins.**
32 m	**8 mins.**
28 m	**10 mins.**
24 m	**12 mins.**
20 m	**17 mins.**
16 m	**17 mins.**
12 m	**17 mins.**

During this time a safety diver was always with him.

On arriving at 9 metres, diver No. 8 was replaced by No. 9, who had no breathing set. He free-dived down to the S.D.C., entered, raising the ladder and closing the lower hatch behind him, after taking off the diver's hood and sending up his airline.

The chamber was then lifted on to the deck under pressure and the following decompression was done:

9 m	**30 mins.**
6 m	**35 mins.**
3 m	**50 mins.**

Petit Pierre emerged from the upper hatch of the S.D.C. looking well and cheerful. He had remained perfectly lucid, warm and comfortable throughout the whole dive. There were no after effects.

AS REPORTED BY TONY SUGDEN.

Note:

LEARNING FROM FRANZ ROTHBRUST, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE HDS GERMANY, THAT ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS, HEINZ-DIETER SIEFFERT, HAD WORKED FOR SOGETRAM IN THE 1960S, I CONTACTED HIM TO ASK IF HE HAD KNOWN MY OLD FRIEND TONY SUGDEN, WHO HAD WORKED FOR SOGETRAM IN WEST AFRICA. ALAS, THE ANSWER WAS NO, AS HE HAD WORKED FOR THE GERMAN BRANCH RUN BY PAUL GANGLOFF. HOWEVER, HE DID ADD TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF DEEP TRIALS IN THAT PERIOD BY INFORMING US THAT SOGETRAM CARRIED THEM OUT AT VILLEFRANCE (FRANCE) AND BAD GODESBERG (GERMANY). THESE WERE TRIAL/EXPERIMENTAL DIVES ABOUT WHICH LITTLE INFORMATION HAS EVER BEEN IN GENERAL CIRCULATION, SO WE ARE CHASING THINGS TO SEE IF WE CAN GET ANOTHER ARTICLE FOR A FUTURE ISSUE. PD

THE DIVE OVER, ASSISTANTS SWARM AROUND THE CHAMBER.

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DZP DIVING, aimed at professional divers, maintaining and repairing professional diving equipment for professional divers worldwide. As the market leader in Europe, we offer a complete and certified range of diving equipment, from diving masks and diving helmets to breathing systems and accessories.

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WWW.DZP.GROUP

MINA GHOBRIAL: FROM STUDENT TO TRAINER AND BEYOND

MY COM-MERCIAL DIVING JOURNEY

In 2015, I took my first steps into the world of commercial diving at the Egyptian International Diving School. There, I trained on a variety of systems —SCUBA and surface-supplied diving— up to 30 meters.

This was one of the most exciting periods of my life: I was learning a completely new profession, building friendships, and discovering the discipline and resilience required to work underwater.

Before joining the school, I had spent six years as a watchmaker. Many of my clients were divers who spoke highly of the Egyptian International Diving School and encouraged me to enroll. Their stories inspired me to make the leap and it changed my life forever.

From Student to Trainer

After completing my initial training, I was honored to be invited to join the school's staff as an assistant instructor for IDSA courses. This opportunity allowed me to immediately put my new skills into practice, not just as a diver but also as a mentor to others taking their first steps into the industry.

As time went on, I progressed into the role of Practical Training course Manager, overseeing hands-on training and guiding students through the technical and safety aspects of diving. Teaching was a constant reminder of my own beginnings—it kept me humble and motivated to push myself further.

During this phase, I pursued additional professional certifications, including: Chamber Operator, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), Underwater Welding.

At the same time, through the school's parent company INW, I gained offshore field experience. This combination of classroom instruction and real-world projects helped me enrich my teaching with practical insights, ensuring that students understood the realities of commercial diving beyond the training yard.

Expanding Horizons

With a solid foundation built at the Egyptian International Diving School, I knew it was time to challenge myself further. I traveled to South Africa to complete my Level 3 Commercial Diving certification at Sea Dog Diving School (RPL Course). After certification, I began working on offshore projects in Egypt, and soon after, I expanded internationally.

International Experience

My career has taken me to projects across the globe, where I worked

with multinational teams and gained invaluable cross-cultural experience. Some of the key locations include: Abu Dhabi, UAE, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Sudan .

Each project was unique, whether it involved inspection, welding, or team leadership—and each taught me lessons I carry into every new role.

Current Role

Today, I work as a freelance Team Leader, responsible for planning and executing safe and efficient diving operations. My daily routine often includes: Early morning dive station setup

RESPECT THE SEA, INVEST IN CONTINUOUS LEARNING, AND SPECIALIZE IN HIGH-DEMAND SKILLS

Pre-dive safety checks and documentation, Safety briefings (toolbox talks) and Leading and supervising diving operations

This role allows me to combine the technical knowledge I gained as a student, the mentoring skills I developed as a trainer, and the leadership experience from years offshore.

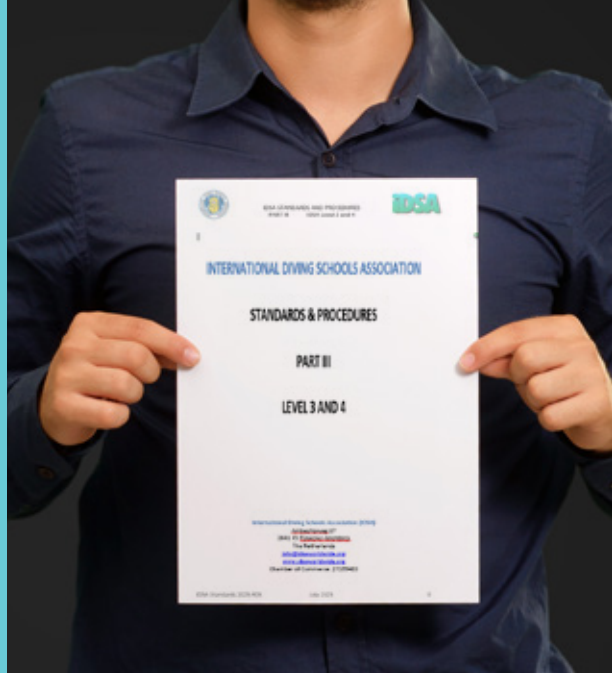
Final Words:

My Advice to new divers are to respect the sea, invest in continuous learning, ad specialize in high-demand skills like welding and NDT.

"Every diver starts as a student, but leadership comes from sharing knowledge and respecting the depths."

Technical Committee Update:

STANDARDS PROGRESS AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS



The IDSA Technical Committee—comprising Johnny Jensen, Hossam Elmasry, Dan Hedberg, and Robbert de Bie (Chairman)—is pleased to announce a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to enhance safety, consistency, and professionalism across the diving industry.

After months of dedicated collaboration, we have successfully completed **Parts I, II, and III of the IDSA Standards**. These documents underwent thorough review and discussion by all Full Members and were officially approved during the latest Annual Meeting. As of July 2025, these standards are now in effect and serve as the foundation for improved operational alignment across member organizations.

HOSSAM

But our work doesn't stop here. We are now actively developing:

- **Part IV – Supervisor Training**
- **Part VI – Dive Medical Assistance**

These new sections are being crafted with the same rigor and collaborative spirit that guided our


JOHNNY

previous work. We encourage all members and stakeholders to share their comments, questions, and suggestions. Your input is essential to ensure the standards remain practical, effective, and forward-looking. If you would like to contribute or provide feedback, please don't hesitate to contact the Technical Committee directly.

Together, we continue to build a safer and more unified diving industry.
Safe Diving,

Robbert de Bie
Chairman, Technical Committee

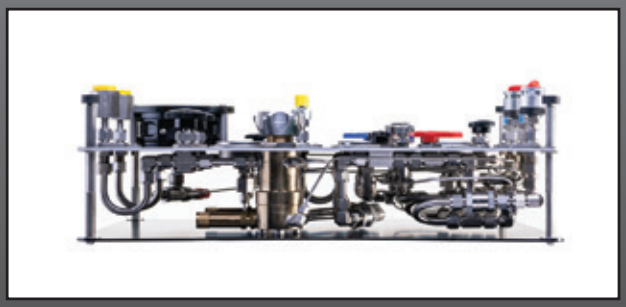

ROBBERT

DZP GROUP

HK-P

Fully CE15333-1:2008 certified diving system for 2 divers, developed by DZP GROUP

The HK-P Model 2 Diving Panel has a flow rate per diver of 900 ltr./ minute and is available in 200 and 300 bar versions. All components are standardized and available internationally. The Exclusive Walther Prätz quick connectors are specially designed and certified forunderwater use. HK-P Model 2 is mounted in a durable Pelicase 1600 and can be carried by one person.
The pressure regulators are frost resistant and have been successfully tested at -20°C air temperature and +4°C water temperature at 50m dive depth. The panel allows diving with air, oxygen and Nitrox. The required adapters, as well as gas analysis are optionally available.



A complete system consists of:

- 1 x panel (HK-P, HKP-2T or DAR1210)
- 2 x Kirby Morgan helmet
  (SL27, KM37 or KM37SS - with 350 superflow, balanced 455, M48 MOD1 Surface, BM18)
- 1 x video system (Axsub Axview2-P)
- 2 x camera (AxSEE30)
- 2 x light (AxLIGHT35)
- 1 x Combox with black box recording (AxTALK)
  - 2 x HP hose optional up to 30m length
  - 2 x LP-hose for oxygen optional up to 30m length
- 2 x Harness (Aquavest, MK5,...)
- 3 x Umbilical configured up to 120m
- 2 x 7ltr. 300bar Bailout kit with Quick Disconnect incl. 1st stage, LP hose & pressure gauge
- 2 x High Flow Oxygen Reducer (Frost resistant)
- 12 x 3kg lead

Already sold to several governmental entities.

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 Rezik Abdelaziz who is commercial diver and Technical expert manager at Nitrox SARL MA.

01

How did you get involved with the professional diving world?

I think my career path has been typical of many commercial divers. I started out in recreational diving as a diver and then I continued until I reached the instructor level.

Gradually, I began taking on small unpaid tasks, helping friends who had dropped their phones, watches, glasses, neck chains or rings in the harbour.

These experiences exposed me to "search and recovery dives", which are very different from dives in the sea, where the water is clear and visibility is excellent. Diving in harbours is different, and I often had to deal with debris-strewn seabeds, black mud and very limited visibility, which was almost non-existent most of the time. This helped me develop my technical skills and particular vigilance.

Over time, ideas and plans began to take shape in my mind; why not switch to commercial diving? In my country, Algeria, there were no commercial diving schools, so I had to train overseas.

That is how I joined a specialised government training centre in the USA in 2006, where I learned the basics of the profession, such as saturation diving, salvage, hyperbaric diving, underwater cutting and welding, and many other essential technical skills.

These training courses allowed me to make the leap from recreational diving to the demanding world of professional diving.

WORK HARD, AND IF YOU FAIL, GET BACK UP AND TRY AGAIN UNTIL YOU SUCCEED!

Who did you learn the most from? 02

Excellent question. In this highly technical job, I believe that after my instructors and the training I received, I learned most from my mistakes and the need to keep learning continues. I have never stopped progressing and seeing what others do better than me. Learning from a mistake means gaining experience, especially if that mistake is not repeated. The best way to learn is by doing and redoing the job by yourself, in complete safety, by practising and doing the job as professionally as possible.

What are your drives and ambitions? 03

My partner El Aoud Abderazzak and I, as already discussed at the IDSA annual meeting in Göteborg, aim to regulate commercial diving here in Morocco with the local authorities who support us and agree with this principle. To date, major port construction companies such as Somagec and Landarif are up to date with IDSA standards, and others will surely follow once clear legislation or regulations in this field will be applied. The second is to raise awareness among company managers to provide training for their divers and, as already discussed, to make IDSA training widespread in Africa and Arab countries.

I am motivated by the fact that IDSA has excellent assets to promote in Africa and the Arab countries, because the standards and training programmes are very well harmonised between practice and theory, which can reach a large and diverse population entering the world of commercial diving and leaving with solid skills for the world of work.

What annoys you the most? 04

Over the last 10 years, the commercial diving industry has been severely damaged. We are witnessing recreational divers being employed on construction underwater projects without training, experience or skills. I have seen open water divers working on new harbour construction in various countries around the world that I have visited. We are also witnessing accidents, some of them lethal, due to a lack of awareness and professionalism on the part of certain companies, which is a negative mark on the history of our profession.

This kind of practice causes huge losses to our industry. We have recently seen the closing of the most prestigious commercial diving school in the world, the INPP, partly because demand for training has fallen. I wonder who will be next if we do not combat this scourge with firm and clear international legislation.

What is your life motto? 05

My motto in life is very simple: work hard, and if you fail, get back up and try again until you succeed. Never stop learning and never say that you know everything about what you are doing or know, because in our job, it is the sea that assesses us every day. If you don't come back from a dive one day, or if you have a fatal accident, it means you have failed the most important exams of your professional life. As I always say, dive like a responsible dad.

The IDSA QCard:

A SYMBOL OF EXCELLENCE BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Robbert de Bie

Setting the Standard in Commercial Diving

In the demanding world of commercial diving, where precision and safety are non-negotiable, one small card carries immense significance—the **IDSA QCard**. More than a credential, it is a symbol of a diver's competence, training, and readiness to meet international standards.

What Is the QCard?

Issued by Full Members of the **International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)**, the QCard is awarded to divers who successfully complete rigorous training and examinations. It is a globally recognized certification that reflects the diver's qualifications and professionalism.

Each QCard clearly states the specific training levels and qualifications achieved, offering transparency and immediate verification for employers and industry stakeholders. This clarity builds trust and ensures that hiring decisions are based on verified skills.

Global Recognition Through Consistency

To strengthen the QCard's global credibility, IDSA requires all Full Members to issue it to qualified divers. This ensures consistency across borders and reinforces the card's value as a universal standard.

Every Full Member authorized to issue the QCard has been audited and approved by the **IDSA Audit Committee**, guaranteeing compliance with IDSA's rigorous standards.

A Statement to the Industry

By promoting and upholding the value of the QCard, IDSA sends a clear message to the global diving community:

IDSA training meets the highest standards, and our divers carry credentials that are both valid and verifiable.

All QCards are authentic and traceable, with verification available through the official IDSA website. This ensures that every diver's credentials are not only recognized but also trusted.

Why It Matters

In an industry where lives depend on expertise and reliability, the QCard is more than a certification—it's a safeguard. It reinforces professionalism, enhances safety, and elevates the standards of commercial diving worldwide.

About IDSA

The **International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)** was formed in 1982 to develop common international diving standards. It is the only independent global organization for schools that train professional divers and related personnel. IDSA is committed to supporting all sectors of diving—**offshore, inshore, and inland**—with a focus on safety, quality, and global recognition.

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
Interdive Services	United Kingdom	Specialist Diving Training

Associate Members	Country
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
Jacks Dive Chest CC	South Africa
PROfessional Diving Service	Switzerland
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
Drafinsub Underwater Technology Srl.	Italy

Affiliate and Industrial Members	Country
Eprons LTD	Latvia
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
SmartDives LCC	United Arab Emirates
Kirby Morgen Dive Systems Inc.	USA

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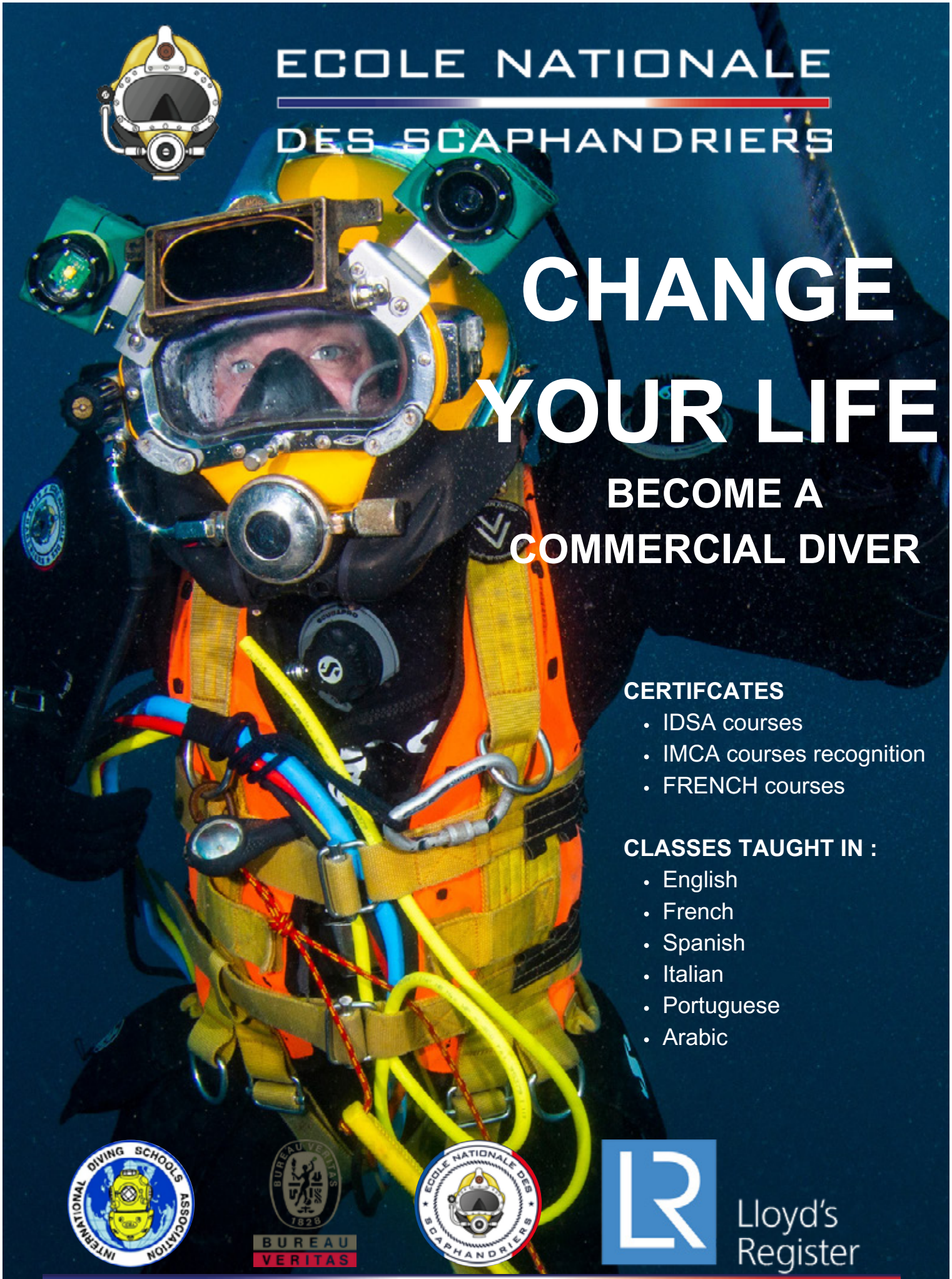

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INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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Lloyd's Register

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