SUPPORT FROM SVITZER SALVAGE
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Progress in the Middle East
TASK TRAINING & ASSESSMENT
THE UK INSHORE SUPERVISORS SCHEME
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ANNUAL MEETING 2011
KARLSKRONA (SWEDEN)
6th to 8th September 2011
Hosted by the Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medical Centre (DNC)

ABOUT OUR HOSTS
DNC is the major Training Centre for the training of divers and supervisors in the Swedish Armed Forces, Coast Guard and Rescue divers. Education for divers is certified up to IDSA level 3. The training also includes chamber operators and free ascent training for divers and submariners. The “Free ascent/submarine escape-training” is carried out in a 21m deep pool/tank with two escape chambers for submarine lockout at the bottom.

The Centre was rebuilt in 2008, and re-opened in May 2009, work will be ongoing until it is fully operational in 2012.

There are two training pools, one outside, 25m in diameter and 6m deep which is used for basic scuba training, for welding/cutting and tool handling for the divers. The other 12m in diameter and 6m deep which is used for all types of work where good control of the divers is needed. In this pool all kinds of training tasks are possible, for example: car wrecks, exercise mines and so on. It is also suitable for ROVs. It is also possible to control ‘daylight’, which allows “night dives” to be carried our during normal work hours.

ABOUT the CITY
Established in 1680, Karlskrona is an exceptionally well preserved example of a European planned naval base, and although its design has been influenced by similar undertakings it has in turn acted as a model for comparable installations. Naval bases played an important part during the centuries when the strength of a nation’s navy was a decisive factor in European power politics and of those that remain from this period Karlskrona is the most complete and well preserved.

ABOUT the CONFERENCE
Accommodation
The Conference Hotel is the Scandic Hotel in Karlskrona
Tel : +46(0)455 372 000
E Mail: karlskrona@scandichotels.com
www.scandichotels.com
Special Room Rate (including Breakfast): Single room: 900 Skr per room per night Double room: 1000 Skr per room per night

Attendance
The meeting will be open to members and non-members, the fee which will cover attendance, transport, refreshment, lunches, and the Association dinner—will be €230 for members and €260 for non members/Observers. Full details of travel, and all other relevant matters are available from the Administrator at info@idsaworldwide.org
ABOUT IDSA

The Association is concerned with all divers - offshore, inshore and inland and has established International Diver Training Standards based on the consensus view of its many members. The Standards provide both a yardstick for those responsible for either administering existing National Standards or creating new ones and a guide for clients, diving contractors and divers themselves. It is considered that the introduction of these internationally agreed diver training standards will have the effect of improving safety, providing contractors with a direct input into the Diver Training Syllabus, enabling contractors to bid across national borders on a more level playing field, improving diver quality and providing divers with greater job opportunities.

Some governments have and will, set their own national diver training requirements. The IDSA programme provides a means of equating national standards by maintaining a table of equivalence.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

MONDAY 5 September
1830 to 2000
Registration and welcome drinks in the Conference Hotel – Scandic Hotel.

TUESDAY 6 September
0915
Welcome by Commander Magnus Claesson
Commanding Officer of the Diving and Naval Medicine Centre (DNC)

0930
Meeting session 1

1230 to 1400
Lunch at the Conference Centre

1400 to 1700
Meeting Session 2

1845
Bus to The Naval Base Officers Wardroom

1900
Aperitifs, and then the Association Dinner

About 2200
Bus back to the Conference Hotel

WEDNESDAY 7 September
0900 to 1200
Meeting Session 3

1200
Group Photograph

1215 to 1315
Lunch at the Conference Centre

1315
Bus to Submarine Escape Training Tank
- Free ascent training

1415
Bus to DNC- Presentation and tour of DNC

1530
Presentations from Diving equipment manufacturers & Suppliers sponsoring the Conference
Cassaras AB, Sweden
Poseidon – Sweden
Hytech – The Netherlands
Si Tech – Sweden
Interspiro – Sweden
Trelleborg - Sweden

1630
A Buffet will be available during which delegates will have the opportunity to visit dry and in-water demonstrations by the Sponsors

1730
Guided bus tour of Karlskrona City

1830
Back at the Scandic Conference Hotel

THURSDAY 8 September
0900 to 1200
Meeting Session 4

1200 to 1300
Lunch

1300
Bus from Conference Centre to the Central Station then to Ronneby Airport

Note: The outline programme above is subject to such changes as are necessary for the smooth running of the programme.
Again I would like to welcome new Members (listed on page 11) to the Association each new member moves us closer to our goal of the International Standardisation of Diver Training Standards.

Owning or running a Diving School has never been a shortcut to wealth, whatever some students may think! These last few years have been particularly difficult as potential students have found it harder than usual to fund their courses, and schools have found investors – whether government, industry, individuals and banks looking for short-term returns – unwilling or unable to support developments for the future.

Yet this is a crucial time for diving schools if they are to be in a position to meet future demands and challenges. So far, leadership in this field has come from Europe and North America but as with so much else, the balance is changing and employment and the training of skilled staff are moving increasingly towards Asia and the Indian sub-continent. Whilst such developments provide new challenges they also offer new opportunities for those with initiative and the courage to tackle alternatives to traditional ways of thinking.

IDSA is in a fortunate position to meet such challenges since it is the only truly international group concerned with diver training. Others may claim to be international but in reality all they are doing is trying to export their own national (or regional) standards overseas, failing to recognise that today this is an inappropriate expression of ‘colonial’ attitudes. Emerging markets require partnership, not patronage.

From its very inception, IDSA has functioned as a democratic group, encouraging participation of all members and of those with a professional interest in diver training. It has already attracted interest and support from the so-called ‘emerging’ nations who look for practical help and co-operation in the development of their own standards. We are in an ideal position to share our expertise and experience by helping others to develop their own training schemes appropriate to local needs whilst meeting acceptable international standards, encouraging safe practice, and enhancing the opportunities for their qualified divers to compete for work across the world. At the present time, only IDSA is in a position to offer a truly international qualification and I would encourage all our members to build on their contacts and encourage schools across the world to join us in our endeavours.

In the past quarter of a century we have made enormous progress whilst many others have been constrained by clinging on to their historical roots. As the ‘new boys on the block’ we should take advantage of our lack of inhibitions and see the future challenges as opportunities for progress in new partnerships rather than undesirable changes in the status quo.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Leo Lagarde

IDSA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The IDSA Executive Board met at NYD Oslo on 5/6 May, the Administrator was unable to attend in person, but joined the meeting via SKYPE. Among the items discussed were:

- The need to review the Table of Equivalence (Page 73 of the OAP)
- Liaison with the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) concerning its adoption of the IDSA Standards
- The responsibility for the issue of Qualification Cards when one school hires equipment or other facilities from another.
- The revision of the OAP and DTS – it is planned to circulate draft documents ahead of the Annual Meeting in Karlskrona.
- The Guidance Handbook – again it is hoped to circulate a draft before Karlskrona.

At the last meeting in Rotterdam it was agreed to leave the decision on the implementation of the new Membership structure to the Board. This was also discussed and it was unanimously agreed that any change in the Membership structure at this stage of IDSA’s development would be disruptive and serve no useful purpose, therefore further discussion should be deferred until the Annual Meeting 2012.
The following mail has been received from Jan Koelewijin the Dive Manager Operations of SVITZER

SVITZER provides safety and support at sea, from harbor towage to wreck removals in crowded shipping lanes, from emergency response in rough weather conditions to support services at petrochemical and LNG terminals, from firefighting to sea towage across the oceans of the world.

SVITZER Salvage, the salvage division of SVITZER, has a dedicated team of salvage experts who put their experience to use in salvage operations, from saving sinking ships and refloating grounded vessels to preventing ships from foundering. For many salvage operations success depends on the work performed by divers. Their activities range from a straightforward ship inspection to the complex task of preparing a patch for a breached hull, usually under challenging conditions and always pressed for time.

The salvage division is an area of work most relevant to diving operations. SVITZER Salvage operates its own dive teams, based in various locations world wide. In some cases they are assisted by contracted diving companies or free-lance divers. When working with divers of different nationalities, each with their own certificates of competence, ensuring a common standard of work is a difficult task for the SVITZER Salvage diving department. Currently a lot of knowledge of foreign dive training and certification schemes and the local regulations of individual countries is required to assess the qualifications of divers.

The efforts of IDSA to come to a worldwide common standard for professional diving certificates will have a significant impact on the qualifications of divers. That “a diver will be able to show his IDSA Diver Qualification Card (IDQC) in any country, and that the government, client, contractor concerned will accept it” will make it easier to check a diver’s competences and help select properly qualified training institutes. It is believed that this development will contribute to the continuous improvement of the safety of diving operations.

SVITZER Salvage supports the philosophy of the IDSA organization and hopes that IDSA Diver Qualification Card will be recognized internationally as the standard certificate. Therefore SVITZER salvage will add the IDSA standard in the SVITZER Diving Manual as a preferred standard for SVITZER Salvage divers.

IDSA NORDIC MEETING

NYD – the Norwegian School of Commercial Diving, situated in Oslo, hosted the IDSA Nordic Meeting which took place on 19-20 May 2011. Present at the meeting were Kalle Virtanen (from Luksia Finland), Jan Schultz and Jimmy Holk from the Royal Danish Navy Diving School, Lalle Petersson and Niclas Brännström from the Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medicine Centre. Leo Lagarde was present on behalf of the IDSA board.

The schools presented their status reports and discussed matters of common interest, e.g. requirements for decompression chambers and standard tools and tasks for student training at IDSA Level 2 and 3. The school representatives agreed that it is important that the students are trained in the use of various types of power tools, such as hydraulic, electric and pneumatic driven tools and that they also are trained in sufficient real work tasks during the course.

Kalle Virtanen, (Luksia Finland) gave an interesting presentation about training of scientific divers in Finland, the Light Diver Exam for inspection and scientific diving, the latter divided into archeological scientific diver and natural sciences scientific diver.

There were also guest speakers at the meeting, Kåre Segadal from NUI (Norwegian Underwater Intervention), Bergen, Commented on the status of the CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) on standardisation of diving equipment.

Tor Fjelldal from the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority described the regulation of inshore diving in Norway. Nine inspectors at the Bergen office are responsible nationwide for inshore diving. It is estimated that fish farm diving represents 60% of the inshore diving in Norway, this number is subject to change due to new cleaning equipment for the fish farming industry. Mr Fjelldal considered that it was important for the Labour Inspection Authority to be in close contact with the diving schools and be updated on their work.

Bjarne Sandvik from the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway (PSA) talked about the regulation of petroleum related commercial diving in Norway. Three people at the authority are involved in the diving sector out of a total number of staff of 163 persons.

continued on page 6....
Rune Kvalvik, SubSea7, gave a presentation of his work as a diver offshore. He also gave advice to the schools concerning matters to include in training such as safe use of lifting bags and hydraulic bolt tensioning equipment.

Nils Johan Tuft, managing director and majority shareholder of the Norwegian company ODP Solutions and member of NBU (the Norwegian Inshore Underwater Contractors Association) talked about the inshore diving in Norway from a contractor’s point of view. He also suggested that the schools’ training programmes should include concrete and piping.

Stein Olberg of Technip introduced a rebreather prototype. He emphasized the importance of diving equipment’s function to take care of the diver without the diver having to focus too much on the well functioning of the equipment. This equipment is at present being tested at NYD.

The next IDSA Nordic meeting will take place in Finland and will be hosted by Luksia.

Åshild Maria Eftevåg, NYD

A New Chairman for the Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC)

Since 1974 Peter van der Kruit has been involved in diving activities at the Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group of the Royal Netherlands Navy. First as a student, later to progress to Command of the Royal Netherlands Navy Diving School.

In subsequent years, he was commissioned as the Commander of the Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal School. In more recent years he has worked as an Associate Professor in International Law and as a Senior Researcher Fellow at various universities at the Netherlands and the United States.

At the moment, he is involved in several organizations as a consultant and/or Deputy Chairman, including a Board of Trustees for 35 primary schools and the Committee of Financial Audit at Den Helder, in the Netherlands. During the familiarization with the Board Members of the NDC, Peter van der Kruit passed on that he is still very interested in the training of new divers.

Van der Kruit is not an outsider to the present diving officers and diving instructors of the Defense Diving School. On a regular basis, he visits the Defense Diving School at Den Helder to monitor the latest developments in training new divers.

Last year, Cees Barten, the former Chairman of the NDC since 2003, decided to stop some of his activities. The official handover of the Chairmanship took place at February 16, 2011 by signing the Chamber of Commerce papers.

The next IDSA Nordic meeting will take place in Finland and will be hosted by Luksia.

The “Nederlandse Vereniging van Beroepsduikers” (NVB)
The Dutch Association of Commercial Divers

Established in 2007) the Association is located in the Netherlands representing more than 200 self-employed professionals from the diving and ROV sector. The NVB is a registered non-profit association run entirely by and for its members.

The NVB aims are:
- Promoting a safe working environment both offshore and inshore.
- Promotion and lobby in the interests of the members in respect to prospective customers and national administrative bodies; and
- Co-operation with similar international professional associations.

By working together with other persons and organisations, the NVB also helps members advance their professional skills and career development.

In addition, we offer members a comprehensive range of services and provide regular notes on industry related issues and regulatory developments through our website.

At present, NVB board members actively participate and have a strong say in various industry and administrative consultative bodies in relation to: Quality, Health & Safety, Legislation, Training & environmental issues.
The Regional Centre (RCUD, Montenegro) is the only civilian institution in Europe that deals with training of divers in underwater de-mining and the removal of unexploded ordnances. The Centre is a co-ordinating and managing body that unites all the actions of organizational, technical, and professional implementation of humanitarian underwater de-mining activities, monitoring, and supervising, to protect people and property from underwater unexploded ordnances.

The Center is funded from Montenegro’s state budget donations and our own revenues. The Center is in Montenegro, in the town of Bijela, on the Adriatic coast at the of Bay of Kotor. In an area of 10 thousand square meters, the Center has a building of 2,800 m² with accommodation capacity of 50 rooms, plus another building of 250 m² for the administration and the classroom, and a technical block of 200 sqm.

The Center has a permanent staff of nine professional anti-mine divers and eleven logistic staff. Between 2002 and 2010 the Center trained 48 professional divers and 12 supervisors for underwater de-mining activities, monitoring, and supervising, to protect people and property from underwater unexploded ordnances.

This year, on the 26th of February the film ‘Mine Hunters’ opened in Rome, made by Italians Marina Cappabianca and Pippo Cappellano. It is based on the work of underwater de-miners from the Center Bijela. This film has been broadcast on Italian national television and millions of viewers will watch it on prime-time TV programs around the world. The film was made over six successive years and is a great story about divers who often risk their life working with underwater mines with the aim of making open water clean and safe. On the promotion of the film in Rome, Veselin Mijajlovic was awarded first prize ‘For the current humanitarian work’ by the AQ - International Association Pelagos.

A large quantity of unexploded ordnance, which has remained since the First World War and subsequent wars, is located in coastal areas, rivers and lakes. These devices are of serious threat to fishermen, boaters, divers and others.

Recognizing the need for an institution which would co-ordinate activities related to the removal of explosive
devices in the coastal areas of the Adriatic sea, the rivers and lakes of Southeast Europe, the Government of Montenegro supported by SEEMACC (South - Eastern Europe Mine Action Co-ordination Council) and the U.S. Government, established the Regional Center for the training of divers in underwater de-mining.

Need for its establishment stemmed from the fact that in South-Eastern Europe there was no institution of this kind which would be responsible for activities of humanitarian underwater de-mining and at the same time would be a co-ordinator of staff training for solving complex problems of the clearing of unexploded ordnance underwater.

The priority tasks of the Regional Center for Underwater De-mining are the removal of unexploded ordnance, which are underwater, qualifying and training divers in underwater de-mining, determination of plans for underwater research and for the protection of the population from underwater unexploded ordnances. Plus with a view to their mutual engagement in humanitarian underwater de-mining, the participation in the operative part of the study, the mapping of underwater mine fields, the co-ordination of all interested institutions and individuals in Southeastern Europe and beyond.

The Center co-operates with state institutions of concerned countries, with NGOs and international institutions in efficient ensuring of the safe use of water resources.

Members of the Civil Service Protection and Rescue as well as members of the military and police units from countries that want to solve the problem of water contaminated with explosives, can obtain training at the Center.

Training is performed according to Standard operating procedures for underwater de-mining that were adopted in 2004 by all of SEEMACC members and these are currently the only standards that are used around the world.

Only those divers who are recommended, in writing, by the ministry of the army or the police of a state that there is a need for such staff, can attend the training.

To attend the training for underwater de-mining, which lasts four weeks, divers must have already completed training in dealing with explosives on the land, have obtained a certificate that they have at least 300 hours of diving issued by state institutions, and have a medical certificate, in the past six months, and have undergone psychophysical testing.

Divers trained in underwater de-mining and explosives clearance are taught:

- The behaviour of explosives and pyrotechnic mixtures
- The necessary protective measures needed for the safe handling of ordnance and explosives.
- The principles of operation of fuses and other initiating devices.
- The methods & equipment used to detect and locate explosives.
- The safe transport of unexploded ordnance from the seabed to land and its controlled disposal.
- Countermining
- The use and principles of underwater communication equipment.
- Rescue at sea
- Diving First-aid
A SHORT HISTORY OF UNDERWATER MINES

Underwater mines are explosive devices that are designed to damage or sink a boat, submarine and other assets or prevent their use.

Underwater mines appeared in the West in the XVI century. However, their use in the war at sea is related to the American Revolution during which one American wooden submarine laid primitive mines around British ships anchored in the port of New York.

Wide spread use of underwater mines started in the First World War when British and later the American troops laid ten of thousands of mines in against German ships and U-boats, while the Germans laid mines around British shores. Mines caused the loss of 586 Allied ships plus 150 Germans ships and 40 U-boats.

In the Second World War between 600 000 and 1,000,000 underwater mines were laid, which took a toll of 650 Allied ships and 1,100 of the Axis powers.

In wars after the Second World War, a large number of underwater mines were also laid. For example, during the Iraq-Iranian conflict in 1980-88, both sides intensively engaged in laying mines in the Persian gulf and Iraq later continued with the laying of mines in certain parts of the Gulf. During the Tanker War (1987), American frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts was almost sunk after it was hit by underwater mine manufactured in Russia. The damage caused on that occasion was estimated at $96 million, each mine cost $1,500. In the same waters, the Navy amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli was damaged by an Iraqi contact mine as well as a smaller American ship and the overall damage was about $110 million. The testimonies of witnesses and the fact that after the Second World War underwater mines damaged 14 ships of the American Navy testifies to the efficacy of underwater mines, while attacks from the air only damaged four ships.

After the Second World War underwater mines and other explosive devices were used or threatened to be used in a whole range of scenarios which illustrates their potential use by terrorists. The crisis called the “Patriotic Diver” from January 1980 indicated that terrorist threat from underwater mines can have dramatic impact on merchant marine activities. An unidentified person nicknamed “Patriotic Diver” phoned the police to inform them that he had planted mines in the Sacramento river (USA). As a result of this threat the traffic was halted immediately and Minesweepers searched the river for four days. The costs were evaluated at several hundred thousand US dollars.

Since 1970, the Tamil Tigers have used underwater mines against government and merchant shipping. Also, underwater mines were used in Nicaragua (two ships sunk in 1984), and Argentine used them in Falklands war, too.

The crisis known as the “Mines in August” from summer 1984 illustrates best how easily mines can be used for terrorist actions at sea. From 19 July to 13 September twenty-three ships reported damage inflicted by the explosion of underwater mines in the Red Sea and Suez Channel. The situation caused quick international action to clear the region of mines. The collaborative action involved: Egypt, France, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Soviet Union and the United States of America. Later, it was proved that the crisis was caused by the Libyans, who had hired a merchant ship, the Ferry Ghatt, from which the mines were launched.

Today, in the regions of the Mediterranean and Middle East there are a large quantity of underwater mines and other unexploded devices, including ammunition, grenades, air-bombs etc. After a major war the main marine routes are cleared. Unfortunately, due to the widespread use of underwater mines and other unexploded devices the main sea routes are usually cleared, while vast coastal areas are ignored, these unexploded devices pose a serious threat to vessels, fishermen, divers and tourists.

“Fishers make the most powerful and ruggedly constructed underwater metal detectors you can own”

Fishers Pulse 6X and 8X detectors detect all metals, on land and underwater. Their Diver Mag 1 is a super sensitive detector for iron/steel targets and works equally well above and below water. All are built for commercial operations and have both audio and visual readouts. Interchangeable coils are available for the Pulse 6X and 8X.
It has been a long struggle but we are at last starting to see the fruits of our labours! Interdive Middle East, situated 70 kms east of Dubai, has opened in the UAE. The first training courses (whilst we are still organising buildings and equipment!) were run in January and comprised Diving System Technician courses. One of our UK instructors (a Senior Offshore Technician) flew out to run the first courses which were attended by candidates mainly from the Middle East but also as far away as South Africa. The courses were held in our new, purpose built, air conditioned lecture rooms and were well received including practical training using the latest diving helmets, panels, umbilicals, comms unit, compressors etc as found on most worksites these days.

Since then things are moving faster with the construction of a huge workshop/store (multi-purpose building), two fantastic training tanks for Wet Welding and NDT training & examinations, and a brand new SCUBA replacement inboard diesel driven RIB.

We are currently tendering for several high powered training contracts from various government & large companies and a submission for IDSA Level 1, 2 & 3 training has been submitted. An audit will be carried out when the first Diver Training course gets underway.

The location is ideal as is the weather! We have access to a new local marina for shallow familiarisation training and open water for deeper training. Currently students are fed & watered at a nearby 5 star hotel through an excellent contract negotiated by our UAE Managing Director Ebrahim Khani, but plans have been drawn up to construct buildings on the school site which will include accommodation for 40 students, kitchen, dining room, TV lounge, keep fit room, admin office, accounts office, instructors offices, dedicated lecture rooms (1 installed), toilet & shower block (installed), workshop/stores (installed), training tanks (installed), fire control room, first aid/doctors room and maybe even a helipad one day!

If you have any requirements for quality training at a fair price in the Middle East, just contact us on carol@interdive.me or ebrahim@interdive.me or through our UK office on admin@interdive.co.uk – you will not be disappointed!

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Associate:**
- Groupe de Recherche Archeologique Sous Marine (GRASM) - France
- Adarsh Institute of Maritime Studies - India
- IDEA Kuwait, Marine Contracting Foundation - Kuwait

**Affiliate:**
- Arena Sub Srl - Italy
- NOS Operatori Sommozzatore Societa Cooperativa - Italy
- Eprons Ltd - Latvia
Following direct UK diving industry feedback, subsea training facility the Underwater Centre in Fort William, Scotland, has developed a ‘New Construction Career’ commercial diving course, focusing on the key skills specifically requested by members of the Association of Diving Contractors (ADC) for new recruits.

Skills such as subsea tools and technique training including welding, burning and rigging have been incorporated into the commercial diving course to ensure students are confident and proficient in performing such tasks underwater. With more than 70% of employers surveyed by Subsea UK and HIE identifying ‘unfamiliarity with mechanical work’ as a key skills gap among new divers, the new course is on track to address this issue.

In addition to this, the market research has also led to boat handling and Kirby Morgan hat operating being added to the 11-week New Construction Career Package.

Steve Ham, general manager at the Underwater Centre, says: “Being in the position of the leading training facility for commercial diving, we’re continually striving to refine the courses we offer to directly mirror industry needs and expectations. Through our commitment to offering the most relevant and valuable training for commercial divers, employers can be confident that the Underwater Centre graduates will competently work to a high standard from their very first day of employment.”

The Underwater Centre is located on the shores of Loch Linnhe which, in parts, is deeper than the North Sea. It is at the base of Ben Nevis so its sheltered location means dives can take place all year round, regardless of the weather.

The Centre leases the seabed around its pier complex, enabling the training facility to construct a subsea work area - including a simulated well jacket, a section of pipeline and a welding station - so students can learn ‘on the job’, working in industry relevant conditions.

“The fact students are able to undertake their training in an environment that so closely reflects reality, strengthens their skills and confidence gained from our courses. The unique facilities, expert staff and natural environment - coupled with our commitment to continually evolving our courses offer to reflect industry needs - consolidates our global reputation as a subsea training provider,” says Ham.

The Underwater Centre,
Marine Walk, Carmichael Way,
Fort William PH33 6FF, Scotland
tel. +44 (0)1397 703 786;
email: info@theunderwater-centre.co.uk
web: uww.theunderwater-centre.co.uk

*Survey source: Market Study Commercial Diver and ROV Pilot/Technician Future Training Requirements. Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Subsea UK
Chief instructor Thierry Vanden Eynde of the Belgian Diving School CFPME, developed the following diving conditions at the training centre of Gochenée in the Ardennes to emphasize the stress holding capacities of divers during an exercise. Three pipes are positioned under water one by one by the candidates during a practical training session. Supports are drilled into the walls and the flanges bolted together. Further reinforcements were welded on the pipes and a gate fitted to the entrance according to measurements taken by the divers.

A pipe of 80cm diameter is fixed to the walls at a depth of 13 m. and rests on a slightly sloping ridge of 0.50 m. wide. The 3 pipes total a length of 9 m. After entering the pipe and at 6 m. horizontal distance, the diameter reduces from 80cm to 60cm for the last 3m. At the entrance of the pipe there is a grill or a gate, which the diver has to raise before entering the pipe and lower after leaving with a handpull. The grill is secured in either position by a bolt and a chain.

Description of the exercise. The diver swims/crawls in nil visibility to the end of the pipe where he finds a ships bell hanging from above. Actioning the bell with water or expired air inside will alter the sound, but is in both cases clearly to be heard via the comms. The diver then crawls back to the exit, lowers the gate and secures the locks. Every movement of the diver below is registered and monitored from the surface. The timing is logged. Depending on the headgear there is a camera attached though with the current visibility it doesn’t need to be used while inside the pipe.

A safety diver is positioned at the entrance and guides the umbilical during the movements of the diver inside the tube. EDITORS NOTE: Diver stress is well recognised but it is often difficult to teach students how to deal with it safely during training. This exercise is designed to face up to the training problem, and we would be very interested to hear how other schools deal with it.
The UK Association of Diving Contractors introduced a qualification for Inshore Supervisors in 2000. It has been running successfully ever since and has recently been updated: among other things, making use of the Web to conduct examinations. Below is a description of the updated scheme, by the Secretary Roger O’Kane.

The update of the Supervisors Manual has been carried out in conjunction with the review of the ADC Supervisors Scheme, which came into effect on the 1 January this year. The updated scheme now makes the certificate valid for a maximum of five years, subject to a requirement that all existing certificated supervisors carry out at least one annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) session via the ADC website to retain the ADC certificate and complete an online validation assessment every fifth year. Failure to complete the annual CPD requirement over two consecutive years will result in the immediate withdrawal of the supervisor name and number from the list of valid certificates, and details will be circulated to all ADC members and be highlighted on the website.

The first CPD session is now available on the website in the new Supervisors area. A second CPD session will be added in July this year and will include a ‘questions and answers’ element. Each time a supervisor logs onto the website, and then accesses, views or downloads the CPD material, an attendance record will be added to candidate’s name. Although we might not be able to confirm that the content of the CPD session has been read and/or understood by the individual, we will be able to show that the person has been provided with up-to-date information aimed at keeping them apprised of matters that may have relevance to all diving supervisors.

**ACCESS**

To gain the required access codes to enter the new Supervisors area of the website, existing certificated supervisors should email the ADC secretary confirming the following details: (1) their name; (2) their certificate number; (3) the date of issue (shown on the card); and (4) a valid email address.

The username element of the access codes will be the email address provided by the supervisor. The password will be a randomly selected combination of numbers and letters issued from the ADC database. Both will be given in a pdf document in response to the email, along with some additional information on the CPD requirements.

It is important to note that email addresses must contain the name of the candidate in addition to the service provider’s details (for example, daniel.boot@yahoo.com or s.medcroft@ukmail.co.uk). Non-specific, nameless email addresses (for example, deepseadiver@hotmail.com or fredthe-valiant@virginmail.net) will not be acceptable. With such a wide variance of names and email service providers, it is important for simplified administration purposes that we are able to easily identify the named supervisor.

The initial issue of the required access details for the website will be free to all certificated supervisors. All new certificated supervisors will be issued the access codes at the time of the certificate issue, in hard copy and via email. Any subsequent request to confirm codes that have been lost or misplaced will attract an administration charge, to be paid to ADC in advance of the codes being confirmed.

**ALERT**

It will not be the responsibility of the ADC members or the secretary to advise or alert certificated supervisors of the need to complete the annual CPD session. Whilst contractors will have an ongoing responsibility to ensure that the supervisors they appoint have the suitable competences, there are a significant number of freelance supervisors out there who will need to keep up-to-date with a whole series of important matters. The annual CPD may not provide all the answers but it will seek to help by highlighting hot topics and any changes in legislation that could affect diving operations or site working.

Roger O’Kane ADC Secretary
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When OGP (Oil & Gas Producers) formally (2004) created their DOSsC (Diving Operations Safety Subcommittee) one of its first actions was to create a system for reporting and recording diving incidents, casualties, near misses and a means of sharing this information with all members of OGP. DOSsC, in order to create a common pool of knowledge in order to prevent similar events in the future. It was an important action which has built up a huge file of reports which can be referred to when a contract is awarded to a diving contractor and he is asked for the details of his past activities, safety standards and operating procedures. Before that, many of the underwater accidents and casualties went unnoticed by most of the members of the diving community and remained known only to the diving contractor and the client, whilst other associate companies of OGP had no news and no information. The new reporting procedure required all the information - location, date, diving contractor, support vessel, water depth, type of equipment, type of activity, tools being used, environmental conditions, etc regarding an event to be logged and made available to all the members of the DOSsC.

This process should lead “lessons being learned”, but quite often, unfortunately, it has been discovered that the same type of accident occurs again and again, inspite of what could have been learned.

An example of this is being given by the number of casualties (39 over the past 25 years) occurring during underwater oxy – arc cutting because of the explosion caused by oxygen pockets. Another example is given by Delta P (difference in pressure) where the number of casualties has reached the scaring figure of 32 over the past 25 years. Two cases of casualties for Delta P occurred this year (Belgium and Italy) at a depth of some ten feet during maintenance of water intakes for electrical power plants. It is relevant that ADC International, some years ago issued two documents, now on CD, dedicated to “the hazards of underwater burning” and “the hazards of diving in Delta P work environment”. They are an excellent teaching support for the schools.

Another area of concern is the case of a helmet being pulled off the head of the diver or being released because of damage or lack of appropriate maintenance of the locking mechanism. Such an accident occurred recently (26th October 2005) on a BP project involving a KB 17 helmet and several similar cases have been recorded during the last two decades. If we step back into diving history we can find on a French newspaper (i.e. “Le Petit Journal” 20th May 1906) a front cover and an article dedicated to a similar accident which occurred to a diver working in the harbour of Simonstown (South Africa). His Siebe Gorman helmet came off because of a substantial lack of maintenance and the diver drowned. One century later we have forgotten the case. At this point it is quite questionable whether we can keep talking about the “lessen learned” concept perhaps it is more accurate to say “they will never learn”. Work pressure, tight work schedule, daily costs, contractual commitments, lack of appropriate competence and experience, inadequate equipment, scanty topside assistance and support, unpractical surface support vessel, are the main and most common factors contributing to many incidents and casualties. Following the action of OGP DOSsC a similar action is being taken by IDSA, because of the importance of including ‘lessons learned’ in the teaching syllabus. Even though an accident or a near miss is reported it can all too easily be forgotten because of the working pressures on both client and contractor. Co-operation between schools and Industry is vital, but a ‘sanitized version of the OGP DOSsC would enable IDSA to amend its standards and make a direct contribution to the safety of the Industry.

Giulio Melegari
Happy Birthday, three years old already!
The Mediterranean Center for Professional Divers (Centre Méditerranéen de Plongée Professionnelle - CMPP) celebrates its third birthday today.

Before 2008, Africa boasted only a single school for divers, situated in South Africa, and that only for English speakers. Since then, thanks to an initiative of the Moroccan authorities, CMPP now gives the opportunity for all French and Arabic speaking Africans to benefit from quality professional diving training given in their own language on their own continent. This provides an attractive alternative to long and expensive trips to France or to English speaking countries.

CMPP is one of only three francophone diving schools in the world, the others being in Canada and France.

CMPP has been placed under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Sea Fishing. The government approached Eric Molla, a professional diver and founder of the largest diving company in North Africa (ULIS) and asked him to organize all the infrastructure and logistics of the centre. Eric Molla has managed the center since its creation. It has an infrastructure as comprehensive as the major European schools with headquarters beside the Atlantic Ocean, in Casablanca, the economic capital of the country. The training center is located on the Mediterranean coast, at Al Hacima, just next to the Moroccan Navy’s school for combat swimmers. It is of spacious and modern design, making it an excellent environment in which to learn and develop professional diving skills.

With a 22 meter boat, a chamber for medical treatment and training, a diving bell along with all the usual diving equipment, CMPP has all the tools to hand that are necessary for pupils to familiarize themselves with working practices used by the different branches of the profession: aquaculture, marine civil engineering, industrial diving, off-shore oil production and so on.

The many classrooms include a mechanical workshop and a welding and cutting laboratory, with a welding pool completing the equipment at the disposal of the trainees for developing their multidisciplinary skills, a necessity in the profession of commercial diving.

For the comfort of students, the school also includes accommodation and a restaurant within the teaching complex.
A recent course

A 25 meter swimming pool and a fully equipped physical training room are available for the students within the center.

Finally, the training center has full use of the medical facilities and recompression chamber of the Royal Navy's school for Combat Swimmers. Only two minutes from CMPP, the hospital and treatment center there allows students to benefit from a asset unique in terms of the security it offers.

The courses are given by instructors with more than 20 years of experience as commercial divers and heads of operations. Previously employed by companies such as Comex, Doris and Sogetram, they have practiced their profession in all the seas of the world. Their broad technical knowledge and their teaching skills, together with a comprehensive training program ensures both effectiveness and success.

The proximity of accessible diving sites less than 10 minutes away means that the time spent training can be optimized. This also means that there is very little delay in reaching the Royal Navy's decompression chamber, should it be required.

An important part of CMPP is a development council presided over by the Head of the Marine Training Division which gives its advice on all questions concerning hyperbaric activities and is under the authority of the responsible Ministries, especially those of Employment and Professional Training, of Health, of Youth and of Sports and Industry.

CMPP has been given the role of expert in its field by the government. It is available to give advice to the Ministries of Industry, of Commerce and for New Technologies, together with the directorates for standardization and for the Promotion of Quality which set standards and regulations for sub-aquatic activities in Morocco.

With more than 1500 divers harvesting algae on the Atlantic coast, numerous port and industrial sites and sporting and tourist clubs spread over its territory, diving is growing fast in Morocco. However this activity is not without its risks if it is practiced without respect for elementary safety rules. In order that our country has the standards necessary to support these developments, the Moroccan Industrial Standards Organization (Service de la Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine - SNIMA), part of the Ministry of Industry, has formed a technical committee to put in place specialized standards for diving.

To carry out its work, SNIMA is advised by experts from the Centre Méditerranéen de Plongée Professionnelle (CMPP). The center, renowned for setting the standard throughout the country on hyperbaric matters, puts its experience and knowledge at the organization’s disposition in order that they may achieve their stated aims and give our country a comprehensive set of standards. At the heart of this technical committee for setting standards, CMPP has displayed exceptional skills and reactivity. One can only be grateful and praise their representatives, and thank them for their advice and cooperation.

CMPP also has a presence throughout the African continent and beyond, acting as expert consultant to numerous companies involved in marine civil engineering and offshore oil extraction, especially in The Ivory Coast, in Ghana, in Guinea, on Madagascar, in Mauritania, and Oman.

Finally, as the last stage in its international recognition, since January 2011 CMPP has been a full member of the International Diving School Association (IDSA). At the end of 2010 it successfully passed an audit which allowed it to award IDSA Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver) certificates. This shows that holders are “competent to dive inland, inshore and offshore using open circuit, self-contained air breathing equipment, surface orientated air diving equipment, and from an open bell”.

Employers are obviously satisfied with CMPP students, since its formation, CMPP has given 18 courses and issued certificates to over 120 divers. 95% of them have been hired by the end of their instruction, some of them even being recruited whilst they were still training at Al Hacima. This success shows no signs of diminishing, as the government is considering giving CMPP the task of training and regulating more than 1500 divers for private and state positions.

The centre has been promoted by word of mouth as more and more companies in other countries send their nationals to Morocco to be trained. CMPP regularly welcomes trainees from the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tunisia, Algeria, Madagascar and elsewhere.

Quite a set of achievements after only three years of existence!

Jérôme VINCENT
CEDIFOP’s commercial diver training activities continue and it has just (June 2011) completed an OTS (Operatori Tecnico Subacquei) course as provided by regulation PROF 2011 for commercial diving training in Sicily: a new Diver Medic course approved by IMCA has also started. After that 2 more projects are planned, the first is a course which will train divers who are already OTS certified and with a previous training in line with CEDIFOP standards, to the IDSA standard for Scuba and Surface Supply level 2. After that (July/August) the first course for TOP UP has been planned, already authorized by the Regional Education and Training Department of the Sicilian Government, in strict compliance with international standards, and as provided by the letter reference number 681/CABINET of 16/march/2011. In this letter Mr Nino Emanuele, the Chief of Cabinet for the Education and Training Department, of the Sicilian Region specifies that, with the publication of PROF 2011 he becomes the “competent authority” in matters of Professional Training in all Sicilian territory as provided by the Italian legislation. This legislation states that OTS training for both at basic and specialized levels must adhere to the Directive 2006/36/CE, and observe the standards and training contents of I.D.S.A. and H.S.E. committee Deliberation n. 350 dated 04/10/2010.

The Sicilian Region has authorized these standards as the only ones to be followed in the territory of the Sicilian Region, and that to issue professional certificates, training activities must be subordinate to control by the Work Department of the Province and must end with a Final Exam in the presence of an Examination Committee.

CEDIFOP, working with the Sicilian Regional Government has been instrumental in achieving this level of control – a first in Italy where until now, legislation for Commercial Diving at a national level is missing. There are several dozen schools in Italy training commercial divers without the requirement to follow a consistent national standard.

The European Union has general regulations for commercial diving activities. Commercial diving needs a regulation which is valid in all territories, as it is necessary for a commercial diver to work in all foreign countries; most Italian divers currently start their career in local area registered in a Master Book of Divers kept by the local Port Authority, but many of these divers go to work offshore.

We must consider that job opportunities for commercial divers occur worldwide so, there is a need to provide internationally recognised training courses. But not only is there a need for courses to be recognised internationally, they also need to be recognised nationally, and there are still a number of countries where this is not the case – Italy being one of them. The only diver recognised by law in Italy is one who is registered in the Master Book of a Port Authority. This authority is only concerned with harbour work, but there is a great deal of diving work outside harbour limits, where there are no regulations to protect divers or control diving activities.

Such regulations are vital for the safety of divers and the efficiency of diving work, many fatal accidents have occurred in diving operations as a result of inadequate training. A. Di Biagio emphasized the need for National regulations and training in his speech to the Chamber of Deputies, on 28 April 2011.

That is the reason why the Sicilian Region is adopting a series of initiatives to promote international standards in diver training, as an example to the rest of Italy and to other countries which do not have national regulations or standards.
To be honest I don’t think so. Why? It was produced, as a one off, in 2010 and is the brain-child of Jan Chr. Warloe in Norway. Jan has been in diving since the 1970’s and his favorite equipment was the old standard helmet. As you all surely know it is still in use in Norway. The equipment is in Norwegian diver’s mind the best for heavy construction work on the seabed.

For years Jan has been looking into ways of improving the helmet and building it in a material other than copper, stainless steel, brass or fiberglass. He wanted to modernize it and to be able to mount lights and video camera on it. He has just patented (early March 2011) the solution, in his mind, to the ever returning question: “what about reserve air or a bailout-bottle”? His solution is not yet built into the helmet.

Jan worked as an offshore diver mainly in the North Sea in the 1970’s and is one of the approximately 100 divers from this early period who has had long term health effects from this diving. After a long struggle most of them received a financial compensation from the Norwegian Parliament in the region of up to £200 000. Jan spent all this money in developing his helmet. The metal parts of the corset, the side and front windows he purchases from Desco in the US and will be recognized as Mark V parts. The metal plates on each side of the helmet are for mounting brackets for headlights and CCTV camera so that you don’t have to have securing nuts and bolts through the casing of the helmet. The helmet and the rest of the corset is cast in 8 millimeter polyurethane. This of course gives an insulation against the cold water. It also absorbs some of the “metal” noise from the air inlet and from noisy tools used by the diver. And it is strong. Parts can be easily changed without special tools or soldering.

Jan hopes that his new helmet will revitalize the standard helmet and together with his reserve air supply will bring it back into use in other countries.

The name of the helmet: Hammerhead.

Bjorn Kahrs
DIVER MEDIC TECHNICIAN
(D.M.T.) Course
at London Diving Chamber

As of June 2011 LDC Training, the training arm of London Diving Chamber has been approved to run the IMCA Diver Medic Technician course. Conveniently located in central London with quick rail links from Heathrow, Gatwick, Stanstead and Luton airports, it is the only facility in the southeast of the UK to offer the DMT.

Where is the course held:
The course is being taught in a hospital environment at London Diving Chamber’s St. Johns Wood hyperbaric facility, one of the busiest in the world and renowned for its diving medicine expertise.

Instructing on the course will be LDCT’s staff, all of whom are commercial divers, intensive care nurses or doctors with a wealth of experience in all areas of diving and battlefield medicine.

What does the course include?
The course includes an HSE First Aid at Work, Oxygen Administration and AED Operators qualification. Our trainers are diving and medical professionals with first hand experience of managing diving and medical emergencies. The course materials are high quality and the equipment and facilities are state of the art.

LDCT strives to offer additional practical experience in the hyperbaric field, ranging from routine patient care through to handling the critically-ill ventilated patient in a hyperbaric environment. Clinical ‘moulage’ simulations will be conducted in a real hyperbaric environment.

The IMCA Approved Diver Medic Technician Course provides divers with the skills, knowledge and confidence to administer basic and advanced Life Support techniques effectively and safely. Attendees will be taught how to assess casualties promptly and provide resuscitative measures with up to date emergency equipment. This course will provide the attendees with IMCA approved DMT certification that is recognised internationally by the commercial diving industry.

Subjects to be covered include:
Advanced airway management & oxygen administration.
Respiratory & cardiac arrest & Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
Wound management & haemorrhage control.
Caring for casualties on site and during transportation.
Diving incident management.
Chest decompression & catheterisation.
Venous access, intravenous infusion.
Care and treatment of the patient in the hyperbaric environment.
Use of medical equipment in remote sites.

Duration & Cost:
2 Weeks (Full DMT Course) 60 Contact Hours - £750
1 Week (DMT Refresher Course) 30 Contact Hours - £400

How to Book a place:
To book a place or find out more go to:
www.ldctraining.co.uk
Or contact us at:
info@LDC-training.co.uk
Phone: +44 (0)20-7806-4021
London Diving Chamber
Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth
London, NW8 9NH
At the end of 2010 Dr Stracimir and his son Dr Gojko Gosovic published in English translated book **COMMERCIAL AND NAVAL DEEP DIVING MANUAL**, in which the fundamentals of Deep Diving Technique and Medicine are described.

The content of the book directs itself on modern deep diving with a Deep Diving System (DDS) at a depth of over 50 meter (165 feet). During deep diving, divers utilize two-or three-component oxygen depleted gas mixtures. In relation to depth, diving between 60 and 200 meter is considered as a standard deep dive; dives over 200 meter are categorized as dives at exceptional depth. Deep diving can be divided into short-term (bounce) diving and saturation diving.

The hardbound book contains 485 pages (dimensions 25 x 18 cm / 10”x 7,5”) and describes in a very comprehensive way the techniques, the operational and medical aspects of modern deep diving and is provided with many drawings, pictures tables and schemes.

The book is comprised of three parts. The first part deals with the general principals of contemporary deep diving, related to both bounce as well as deep diving. The second part systemically examines the technique and technology of bounce diving; the third part is dedicated to saturation diving.

The intention of the authors is to bring deep diving closer to its readership, primarily to the present and future generation of deep divers. In their approach, the authors placed key emphasis on the acquisition of general and specific knowledge in the fields of medicine, deep diving techniques, the application of safety measures, the provision of specific and general medical aid and the mandatory application of diving discipline, without which safe and efficient diving is impossible.

The attitudes, expressed in this book are based on concrete research and recommendations issued by authorized national and international institutions, like the US Navy, the Russian Federation Navy, the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) and the Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC). References to and quotes of relevant and IMCA publications form an integrated part of the extensive information in this book.

The book (ISBN Number 978-953-7354-09-1) can be ordered at:

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The Netherlands

Tel. +31(0)70 511 47 40
Fax +31(0)70 517 83 96

**www.nautiekdiving.nl**
**e-mail: nautiekvof@planet.nl**

The price is €82,50 (excl. V.A.T. and -postage by registered mail)
Book 1
Part 1 - IDSA Module A
Introduction to commercial diving and the IDSA standards: - Diving history - Diving Diseases - Seamanship for divers - Diving hazards - Diver Rescue - Decompression Chambers - Diving legalisation and safety - Underwater communication
Part 2 - IDSA Module B
Part 3 - IDSA Module C
Surface supplied equipment procedures

Book 2
Contains an overview of Underwater tasks & tools, and then in pictorial form shows a description and photographs illustrating the operational and safety requirements of the work activities required by the IDSA syllabus: Rigging – Search – Visual Inspection – the use of lifting bags, hand and power tools – Air lifts & jetting equipment – Underwater welding & cutting,

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- SYNTRA, Belgium
- Royal Danish Navy Diving School, Denmark
- Luksia Sukellusala, Finland
- YAK Diving Academy, India
- CEDIFOP, Italy
- Hydrolab-Hydrocat, Morocco
- Centre Méditerranéen de Plongée Professionnelle (CMPP), France
- Netherlands Diving Centre (NDC), Netherlands
- Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Norway
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- Farjenas Diving School, Sweden
- Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medicine Centre, Sweden
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- Svensk Sjöentreprenad, Sweden

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- Groupe de Recherche Archeologique Sous Marine (GRASM), France
- Institut National de Plongée Professionnelle (INPP), France
- Diver Ltd, Hungary
- Adarsh Institute of Maritime Studies, India
- Marine Centre, Mumbai, India
- Darya Koosh Marine Co, Iran
- Israeli Professional Diving Academy, Israel
- Marine Consulting Srl, Italy
- Sub Sea Services SNC, Italy
- IDEA Contracting, Kuwait
- Regional Centre for Underwater De-mining (RCUD), Montenegro
- Podvodrechstroy Diving School, Russia
- Forespro, Spain
- Oceanos Escuela de Buceo, Spain
- Professional SL, US
- Diving Diseases Research Centre (DDRC), UK
- London Diving Chamber, UK
- Divers Institute of Technology (DIT), USA
- International Diving Institute, USA
- Santa Barbara City College, USA

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- NAVFCO Military Diving School, France
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- Searchwise Ltd, UK
- Minnesota Commercial Diver Training Centre, USA

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- Dutch Association of Commercial Divers (NVB), Netherlands
- Association of Diving Contractors (ADC UK), UK
- Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI), USA
- Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE), USA