

sea WORK 2011 INTERNATIONAL



Seawork was once more a great venue for meeting new people, seeing some old friends, making some new friends, talking to a variety of prospective new members, and discussing some of the relevant issues with existing members and others. The absence of HDS to add some variety to the dive tank activities was sadly missed, the Standard dress is always very photogenic and generally attracts some interest.

The diving activity in the Searchwise provided dive tank initially looked like it was going to be pretty Spartan, but with Paul Malpass, and sometimes his trusty dive team, all very kindly provided courtesy of Edwards Diving Services, it was clear that this was not going to be a slow or boring three days of diving activity. C-Technics kindly stepped in at the last minute, when a camera was needed to relay the dive tank to the large screen inside the show, and provided a system that proved to be most effective, so a big thanks to Andy and Mark from C-Technics.



Images from activities in the divetank.....



The activity in the dive tank may have started slowly, the weather was not at its best on some days hindering visitors wishing to watch the activities, but that did not stop Paul and the team 'acquiring' some tools and equipment from exhibitors at the show, and before you know it, in addition to helmet testing, there was NDT works underway, tiling, tool testing, scraping and lift bag demonstrations to show people what divers actually do whilst underwater. An excellent effort by all involved, and one that gets the creative juices going for something even more challenging next year.

This year the main focus for helmet testing was concentrated on the Beat Engel DSL B-2 Helmet. Over the three days the helmet was used in the dive tank several times and trialed by three of the four man team. None of divers



The Beat Engel Helmet.....

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involved had used the helmet previously so had no pre-conceived thoughts on its use. Reports of excellent visibility were reported, of particular note was the clarity of the communications. One reported something digging into the back of the head when leaning forward, but this was improved by adjusting the neck dam to improve the fit.

Of the tools tested, the Waveblade proved to be an interesting item. At first glance it appears to be a very well packaged tool, primarily aimed more at the leisure market that being suited to scraping barnacles, paint or just about anything needing to be removed by divers in or out of the water, albeit that this unit is limited to a maximum depth of 3-4m. Initially the team thought it would not be a 'diver proof' tool and handled it very delicately, but after a short test in the tank that view quickly changed, it was in fact far more robust than it first appeared to be, and despite much trying there appeared to be no loss of power to the scrape action, irrespective of the pressure being applied by the diver or resistance of the item being scraped.

Clearly it was impractical to test the Waveblade on heavy marine growth in the tank, the resultant contaminants would hinder future use of the tank, but the impression of the divers who used the unit, considered that it would be a useful tool for preparing localized areas of the surface of a sheet pile wall prior to taking UT readings for example. The current depth restriction is a bit limiting, but as this is a first generation tool, improvements in performance can be expected when the next generation of tools is developed.

 Innotec underwater adhesives were again a very popular item. Tests in previous years have proved how good the bond is between surfaces 'glued' underwater, with efforts to destruct previously assembled proving to be far harder than expected. The focus this year was on underwater tiling. The team wanted to tile the inside of the tank, but Howard of Searchwise, the dive tank owners, was not convinced, so that did not happen. Subsequent efforts to add tiles to create a mosaic were completed, and whilst attempts to remove them were not pursued, the usability of some Innotec products underwater was well proven once more.

As the show drew to a close, Beat Engel presented a complimentary helmet to Alastair



reflected user comments.

Seawork is always a good social gathering, and next year is already looking to be even better. It will be a little earlier in 2012, the dates have already been confirmed as 22 - 24th May.

The search for the contractor to supply the team has started already, so if you would like to get involved and gain some marketing profile in the lead up to the show, now is the time to put your name forward.

OCEANOLOGY INTERNATIONAL 2012 THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

With eight months before Oceanology International 2012 opens (13-15 March, ExCeL, London) the building bricks are all in place for this UK based, global forum where industry, academia and government share knowledge and connect with the marine technology and ocean science community with the aim of improving their strategies for measuring, exploiting, protecting and operating in the world's oceans.

"Space has been booked and reserved by exhibitors from all over the world; the conference committee chairmen are in place for the key industry sectors - oil and gas, offshore renewable energy; and marine security - and for the technology topics - navigation and positioning, ocean observation, and survey; and a programme of associated events and features is rapidly taking shape," explains Exhibition Manager, James Coleman from Reed Exhibitions' Energy & Marine Group. "This year's exhibition will be larger than ever; and we have an exciting range of new pavilions highlighting some of the different aspects of Oceanology International whose exhibitors serve the interests of over a dozen different industry sectors."

These new pavilions include the RenewableUK pavilion highlighting exhibitors who have a particular focus on the offshore renewable sector; the Marine Security pavilion run in partnership with SMI - this pavilion will also host SMI and AMSI's stand.

The ADC UK Dive pavilion provides opportunities to companies involved in commercial diving Inland and Inshore with an information point, hosted by ADC, to help visitors quickly and easily identify suppliers in this sector.

The MTS US pavilion - Oceanology International's first-ever US pavilion highlighting companies from the USA who have not previously participated in the biennial event; and the First

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