

International Diving Schools Association

IDSA NEWS

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International Diving Schools Association

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IDSA ANNUAL MEETING : BERGEN - 12 to 14 September 05

26 delegates and observers, representing 16 of the world's major Commercial Diving Schools, from 13 countries, assembled at the School of the Diver Education, University College of Bergen, Norway from the 12th to the 14th September 2005 for the 23rd Annual meeting of the Association.



Left:: Delegates outside the excellent facilities of the Bergen University College Diving Department

A major point of discussion was the talks with IMCA, concerning a joint approach to International Diver Certification. These talks were suspended in June 2005, by mutual agreement. However, the Association is continuing to work towards mutual and internationally acceptable Standards and Procedures and maintains firm links both with IMCA and ADCI, with the intention of continuing the search for a formula which is acceptable to all concerned.

A proposal that Schools awarding National Qualifications, listed in the IDSA Table of Equivalence, should be accepted as Full Members without a further IDSA audit (and thus able to issue IDSA Certificates) was not accepted. Members felt that, at the present time, variation between National Standards can lead to inconsistency in Diver qualifications which was not in the best interests of Divers or Employers.

The IDSA audit programme of member schools will therefore continue with the purpose of confirming that the IDSA Standards are being taught in full. Schools wishing to become - or remain - Full Members will be required to submit to an Initial audit and to subsequent audits every 3 to 5 years. Audits will be carried out by 2 auditors, who will be drawn from responsible members of the Industry, who have been proposed by the Schools and approved by the IDSA Executive Board.. The difficulties of translation will be kept firmly in mind and, whenever possible, at least one auditor will be able to speak the language of the school.

Right : A formal session in progress



Other decisions relating to audit were that :-

- In future, all Full Members will issue IDSA Qualification Cards
- The possibility of the IDSA audit being combined with that carried out in tandem with a National Audit would be explored.
- All remote diving sites should be visited during initial audit; in case of difficulty, the situation would be referred to the Executive Board
- Guidance will be included in the IDSA Operational and Administrative Procedures for the assessment of divers who graduated from non IDSA Schools or who have no formal certification, and wish to obtain an IDSA Diver Qualification Card.
- An Advisory Board, drawn from experienced and respected members of Industry, will be created.

In addition ;-

- Proposed amendments to the IDSA Diver Training Standards were discussed and agreed. The amendments have now been included in Revision 3 of the Standards dated 2 November 1005, which may be downloaded from the Association's Website www.idsaworldwide.org.

Currently the Standards allow a student who does not complete the necessary bottom time at school before graduation, to be issued with a Qualification card after he has completed it at work. It is of note that this practice would be allowed to continue for a further 3 years only, after which all bottom time will have to be completed at school. This decision will be implemented in 2008 without further debate.

- Major amendments to the Association's Operational and Administrative Procedures were also discussed in detail and a Draft of Revision 3 will shortly be circulated to members for comment.
- The publication of Guidance Standards for Supervisor, and for Diver Medic, already compiled, and the possibility of including standards for Wet welding; Scientific Diver; & others, in the future.
- The maintenance of links with related organisations e.g. the European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC), the International Diving Regulators Forum (IDRF), the Society for Underwater Technology (SUT), and others.
- A Working Party headed by John Rabone (Interdive) was formed to keep the Diver Training Standards under review, and to consider the introduction of mixed gas training into the Training Modules. The current Standards are as shown below ;-

The DIVER TRAINING STANDARDS - Definitions

IDSA STANDARD	MADE UP of MODULES	DETAIL	Note 1
IDSA Level 1 (SCUBA Diver)	A + B	Competent to dive safely using open circuit self-contained air breathing equipment. Has a working knowledge of the following tasks :- , Elementary rigging, the Use of Lifting Bags, Diver Search Techniques, the Use of Hand Tools and Visual Inspection - see Note 2	30m
IDSA Level 2 (Restricted Surface Supply Diver)	A + B + C	Competent to dive safely both inland & inshore using open circuit self-contained air breathing equipment and surface orientated air diving equipment. Has a working knowledge of the Level 1 tasks plus Chamber Operations, the use of Power Tools, thermal Arc Cutting equipment, Air Lifts and Jetting equipment, simple Underwater Construction tasks - see Note 2. The principles of the following subjects are also taught, but in-water experience is not mandatory ;- Bolt Guns, Explosives, Wet Welding, Diving in Polluted Waters	30m
IDSA Level 2A (Restricted Surface Supply Diver without SCUBA)	A + C	Competent to dive safely both inland and inshore using surface orientated air diving equipment. Has a working knowledge of the tasks listed in Levels 1 & 2	30m
IDSA Level 3 (Surface Supply Diver)	A + B+ C + D	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. Able to use a hot-water suit. Has a working knowledge of the work tasks listed in Levels 1 & 2.	50m
IDSA Level 3A (Surface Supply Diver without SCUBA)	A + C + D	Competent to dive inland, inshore & offshore using, surface orientated air diving equipment, and from an open bell. Able to use a hot-water suit. Has a working knowledge of the work tasks listed in Levels 1 & 2.	50m
IDSA Level 4 (Closed Bell/Mixed Gas Diver)	A + B+ C + D+E Or A + C + D + E	Competent to take part in closed bell operations, acting as Bellman and Diver, using the appropriate breathing gas mixture	100m

NOTES to the IDSA Diver Training Definitions :-

1. DEPTH LIMITS The depths shown in the right hand column of the tables above are those which a diver is competent to achieve on successful completion of training. He/she may go deeper with further experience and/or training as assessed by a Diving Contractor and allowed by National Legislation.

2. TASK TRAINING : The Task training will provide the trainee with a general appreciation of the techniques and problems involved in carrying out the specified underwater work. For the diver to be considered a competent worker it will generally be necessary for **further specialist training to be undertaken**, especially for cutting, welding, explosives, NDT and offshore air diving.

THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

will be held at the Moody Gardens Resort
(www.moodygardenshotel.com)

Galveston Island, Texas
(which is about 51 miles/82 kilometres from Houston)

From Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 October 2006

NEWS from MEMBERS

THE FARENJAS DIVING SCHOOL, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN:

On the 19 of October 2005 the Diving school at the training field of the Rescue Service Agency in Gothenburg's Educational Department, "Färjenäs", was opened by the Chief Fire Officer Åke Jacobsson.

Building the Diving School began in September 2004 and it is now ready for its first educational assignment. This assignment is given by the Education Administration in Gothenburg, which is responsible for the first two-year education course for construction divers in Sweden. The quality of the education is ensured by the Swedish Armed Forces and it will follow the standards, modules and requirements of IDSA.

The Diving School is located by Göta Älv in the Centre of Gothenburg on the Swedish West Coast. The school can manage twelve diving students and has four diving instructors as well as a service organisation of four people.



Dan Hedberg

The ASSOCIATION of DIVING CONTRACTORS (UK) - ADC (UK)

What We Do

The Association of Diving Contractors (ADC) was set up as a separate organisation in January 1995 to represent those diving contractors who work inland and inshore in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Prior to that date the organisation had existed as the inland / inshore section of the Association of Offshore Diving Contractors (AODC). ADC liaises on behalf of its members with the Health and Safety Executive and other organisations who recognise ADC as speaking on behalf of the majority of companies involved in this industry.

The stated objectives of the Association are:

- To cultivate and promote the art and science of commercial diving within the context of its members;
- To establish uniform safe standards and encourage industry wide observation of them;
- To encourage the enactment and enforcement of appropriate laws for the protection and regulation of the business of commercial diving;
- To monitor and advise members of current and proposed UK and relevant EC legislation and to issue general information notes connected with the industry;
- To do all such other things as seem to the Membership or Management Committee of ADC to be in their interests.

The Association's Newsletter is available from the IDSA Administrator on request.

Roger O'Kane

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY - UK

The University of Plymouth's Diving & Marine Centre at Coxside, Plymouth is situated on the historic waterfront near to the Barbican and Mayflower Steps, and is approximately 20 minutes walk from our main Campus in the city centre. The Centre has been involved with a wide variety of water based activities since the 1960's when it was part of the Plymouth College of Further Education.



In 1993 the Centre was recognized as a Professional SCUBA Diver Training School by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and as a recreational centre by the British Sub Aqua Club. Approximately 6,000 SCUBA dives are completed by staff and students at the centre every year. Since 1993, the 2,000+ divers that we have trained have completed a total of 40,000+ dives (Date: July 2003).

Courses are split into two stages. In Stage one the Centre offers training that provides a solid foundation for anyone wishing to work in a marine or coastal environment such as marine radio, survival at sea, professional boat handling and the management and treatment of casualties.

Stage two sees you taking your degree underwater, with each course tailored to suit your particular module whilst at the same time allowing you to gain the HSE Professional Scuba Diver qualification, experience in team management, leadership and diving at work legislation - all invaluable industry skills helping to keep you safe and increase your employment potential when you graduate.

In stage three, degree projects and research work can be supported by the expertise at the Centre in the form of diving supervisors, professionally skippered vessels from our fleet ranging from 15 to 38 feet, fabrication of equipment, underwater video, equipment maintenance, and expert local knowledge. Safety of our students whilst training is paramount. For this reason, all equipment is provided by the University, and is maintained to a high standard by our team of specialist technicians. We aim to make student training comfortable, enjoyable, and safe

Stuart Jaques

INTERNATIONAL DIVING INSTITUTE- USA



International Diving Institute (IDI) is a state licensed commercial diving school offering classroom instruction, in-water training and certification for Air/Mixed Gas Surface Supplied Diver. IDI's facility is designed as a safe, yet realistic, open water work-site environment located on the old navy base in Charleston, South Carolina. IDI has on-site access to numerous foreign, domestic, and naval vessels for training purposes. IDI's students not only gain technical skills, but also develop the professional qualities that will make them attractive to future employers.

Today's diving industry calls for life-long training. Many people change careers two or three times in a lifetime. Commercial diving can provide a career with endless growth potential while engaging in a vast array of opportunities. In just a few months you can be on your way to this highly respected career. Whether you plan to do underwater burning and welding or non-destructive testing, we can offer you the appropriate courses through IDI's top quality commercial diving school. This is accomplished through IDI's open water and hands-on commercial divers training which covers all levels of learning.



Michael Heilscher

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Left :
A diver from the newly joined Affiliate
Member 'Diving Station Czech Republic

A FULLY WATERPROOF AUTO-DARKENING WELDING LENS/FILTER

Another Worlds First for Speciality Welds Ltd; a fully waterproof 'auto-darkening' welding lens/filter available for underwater wet welding. This filter, which will fit into a standard Kirby Morgan welding assembly provides a very convenient welding or cutting accessory, as there is no need to continually lift the assembly up and down, as the diver can see through the filter, thereby, saving time (depending upon water conditions). The diver can also see for easy and accurate re-striking, making for improvements in weld quality and performance, as well as offering a real benefit as a training aid.

The filter is powered by the arc, no batteries, knobs or switches needed and comes with a 2 year no quibble guarantee. The filter is selected to operate at #10, which will typically cover most underwater welding and cutting operations and has a background filter strength set at #3.

Once tried, you'll never return to glass filters again, that's a promise. For more details visit our website at www.specialwelds.com or contact our sales team on +44 1274 879867 or email us at sales@specialwelds.com



MATCHES THE UNDERWATER PROFESSIONAL TO THE JOB REQUIREMENT.



UnderwaterJOBS.com is a job posting and resume matching website specifically for Underwater Professionals who make their living by working under a waterline - ANYWHERE. It is for employers, divers, ROV personnel, supervisors, engineers, managers - and people with long sticks! ANYWHERE!

UnderwaterJOBS.com was designed and developed to help all Underwater Professionals, who work in related professions, search for new jobs and to aid those looking to begin their careers in this exciting field. UWJobs is especially beneficial for students who have graduated from courses at Colleges, Universities and Career Colleges specializing in subsurface work.

On graduation, students should immediately register their skills-sets and resume to be considered by employers who are looking for personnel. Schools can direct those employers looking for personnel to UnderwaterJOBS.com to find the graduates who are now in the workforce. Let the database do the work for you.

When a job is posted on the website that meets - or requires - certain skills, the database is automatically scanned and professionals who match the requirement and have that skill set are emailed a notice immediately that the job exists. Conversely, when an underwater professional submits his resume, employers are notified immediately that this particular individual meets their requirements. It is FAST.

What makes this site different ?

Getting good personnel when you need them - or finding the next job that could use the underwater professional's skills - has always been a problem in the Underwater Industry. The nature of the business is that it is transient and fast moving; the skill-sets need for a particular project is always changing. For an employer, the problem is how to get the word out for the skill-set that is needed; for the underwater professional it is the problem of letting an employer know about their skill set.

Many current websites offer Companies a platform to post their available Employment Opportunities. These websites are great avenues to explore when searching for available positions throughout the World - but the range of job opportunities posted on these websites has become so fragmented that it is extremely difficult to find the true Underwater Industry related job postings. These sites also display job listings that are outdated and no longer available, but which remain posted. This practice gives their visitors a false account of available jobs posted on these sites. What good is a job if it is already gone? What good is a job seeker if they have decided to drop out of the industry? Listings on Underwater JOBS are updated continuously - and job seekers have to update or keep their resumes current in order for them to remain on the system. This always insures that jobs and personnel are current.

UnderwaterJOBS.com it is about employment of Underwater Professionals - both for those that have the jobs and for those that have the skills to do them. It is about "Professionals helping Professionals". It allows these Professionals to post and search for Underwater Industry related jobs around the world. Our goal is to build the largest database of Underwater Professionals, both providing and seeking professionals across the World.

Registration for both employers and employees is FREE for the basic package. Extra features such as featured jobs or job seekers, bold listings, advanced email notification, etc. are available at reasonable rates. Upgrades can be purchased online.

See the website (<http://www.underwaterJOBS.com>) for more details.

Doug Elsey

The INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (IDSA)

LIST of MEMBERS

FULL MEMBERS

Nautilus Dive Company	Austria
SYNTRA	Belgium
CFPME	Belgium
Seneca College	Canada
Royal Danish Navy Diving School	Denmark
Innofocus	Finland
INPP	France
Netherlands Diving Centre	Holland
HydroCAT	Italy
Norsk Yrkesdykkerskole	Norway
Bergen University College	Norway
West Coast Commercial Diving School	South Africa
College of Oceaneering	USA
Divers Institute of Technology Inc	USA
The Ocean Corporation	USA
Santa Barbara City College	USA
Divers Academy International	USA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Divers University	Brazil
Institute of Oceanology : Commercial Diving School	Bulgaria
DMT Training Group	Canada
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt
International Academy for Diving Technology (IADT)	Egypt
Darya Koosh Marine Co	Iran
Pacific Diving Academy	Korea
Korean DTS	Korea
Baltic Diving Centre Explorer	Poland
Fire Department Diving School	Sweden
Swedish Armed Forces	Sweden
Bogazici Underwater Research Centre	Turkey
SMIT Terminals	South Africa
Interdive Services Ltd	UK
DDRC Pro-Services Ltd	UK
International Diving Institute	USA

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Diving Contractors	Canada
Czech Diving Station	Czech Republic
Nautiek	Holland
Centro Studi C.E.DI FO.P	Italy
C.S.M. - Cooperativa Servizi Marini (S.c.r.l.)	Italy
C.N.S. - Cooperativa Nazionale Sommozzatori	Italy
National Academy for SCUBA Educators (NASE)	Italy
Palumbarus Diving Works	Italy
Rana Diving & Marine Contractor S.R.L.	Italy
Fraser Diving Ltd	Singapore
Sumergia s.a.	Spain
Association of Diving Contractors (UK)	UK
Hydroweld	UK
Professional Divers Association (UK)	UK
Speciality Welds	UK
The Welding Institute North	UK