

# International Diving Schools Association

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# IDSA NEWS

*Edition 11 : January 2008*

**International Diving Schools Association**

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## ANNUAL MEETING 2008

will be held in PHILADELPHIA

Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 September 2008

Hosted by **DIVERS ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL**

The meeting is open to all members, and to Observers/Guests by Invitation only

For further information contact the Administrator at [info@idsaworldwide.com](mailto:info@idsaworldwide.com)

### FROM the CHAIRMAN:

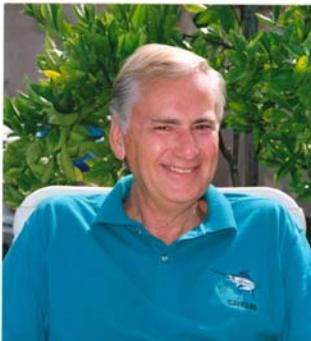
IDSA is now 26 years old and we might say that there is a great past ahead of us. The increasing number of memberships and the growing number of schools joining the Association are a confirmation of the need for a worldwide community of divers trained and certified to a common level of competence.

The Diving industry is facing a shortage of qualified, competent and reliable diving and supervising personnel, caused by an increase in activity in almost all Offshore areas, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. This high demand for divers offshore has seduced many divers from the Inland/Inshore areas, and in turn created a shortage in these areas. As an unprecedented number of DSV's are under construction or projected it seems likely that this shortage is likely to continue over the next few years over the whole Industry.

IDSA provides a training scheme which is increasingly, albeit slowly, introducing consistent standards of training internationally. Competence and safety are the two pillars of the Programme, and it is vital that Commercial Training Schools do not do not give way to the current high demand and allow either to be diluted. It is in this area that the unity of the schools and the dialogue between them will go a considerable way to guarding against a lessening of Standards. This is particularly important as there are indications that the number of incidents/accidents in the Industry is showing an upward trend.

Schools must continue to pursue the aim of making training as realistic as possible – every dive must be part of a coherent programme designed to meet the requirements of the relevant IDSA Level. It should be remembered that the standards are minimum standards, and wherever possible they should be exceeded. Wherever possible, links should be created with contractors, so that the educational process continues after graduation.

Recent times have seen an expansion of the specialist tasks required of divers which require dedicated



Jim Joiner

training and high competence. The traditional figure of the diver as the jack of all trades and master of none has faded away, but has not been replaced yet by a modern equivalent. Several schools are pursuing the need for further specialist training over and above the IDSA Standards, and the need to consider the further development of the IDSA Syllabus will be a matter for discussion at the next annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Co-founders: 1982

Alan Bax



## IDSa BOARD MEETING, BRUSSELS, November 2007

Among the many things discussed were:

- Plans for the next Annual meeting, including preliminary ideas for the Agenda
- Links with the various Magazines to be increased, and adverts offered in the next Newsletter.
- The layout, content and distribution of the next Newsletter.
- The attendance of members at the IMCA Seminar in Paris.
- Attendance at the first Adriatic Diving Conference in Croatia.
- The possibility of taking up reciprocal membership with other organisations – particularly ACDE.



The Board Meeting.  
Left to right: Dag Wroldsen, Julio Melegari,  
Alan Bax, Mark van der Esch

## We welcome new Associate Members :-

Goran Ergovic from the Croatian Commercial Diving School  
Bresler de Beer from the Namibia Commercial Diving School

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## IDSa ANNUAL MEETING HELD in HELSINKI, 10 to 12 SEPTEMBER 2007

Some of the more important decisions made at the recent Annual Meeting of the Association in Helsinki, were:-

- A new section is to be put into the Website in which members will be able to list the date and duration of their future courses.
- If training falls short of the relevant subjects in Module D. Schools may request the issue Level 3 or level 3A Qualification cards endorsed
  - Not Wet Bell
  - Not Hot Water Suit
- Students from an IDSA Full Member School who do not receive a Qualification card on graduation may request one direct from the Secretariat. A card will then be issued after verification with the School.



Members visit the host school, Innofocus

- To find a way of putting together “Lessons learned” from accidents and incidents in the Industry, so that they can be shared by schools and considered for inclusion into the training syllabus.
- A Sub Committee was formed to continue the work on the Guidance Handbook for Specialist Diver Training Courses and to draft a proposal for the issue of IDSA Scientific Diver Qualification Cards. The Sub-Committee consists of :-
  - Lars Petersson – Swedish Armed Forces Diving School – **Chairman**
  - Mark van der Esch – Belgium
  - Jouni Leinikki – Finland
  - Julio Melegari – Italy
  - Alan Bax – **Secretary**
- The publication of an IDSA Glossary of Diving terms in the most commonly used languages was considered further and all members will soon receive a request for information.
- Information on the Assessment methods used by schools will be collected and presented for discussion at the next meeting.

# SCHOOL PROFILES

## 1. NYD, Oslo

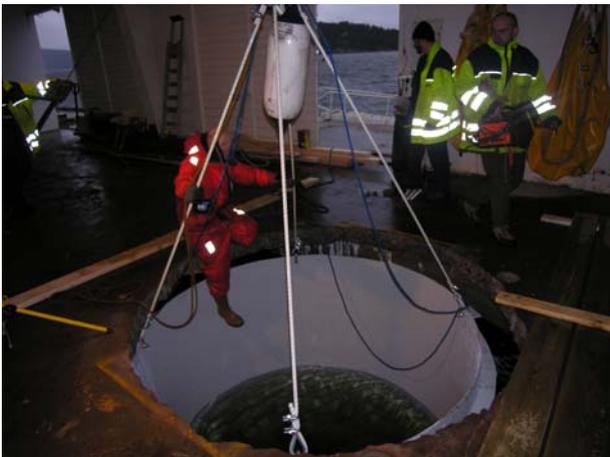
### **NEW THINKING & NEW DEVELOPMENT AT THE NORWEGIAN COMMERCIAL DIVING SCHOOL (NYD) IN OSLO**

#### **The industry's future needs for offshore divers.**

During the IMCA conference in Paris in November 2007, it was reported that 25 new DSVs will be built. The industry requested help from the diving schools to train the necessary number of divers to man these vessels. NYD (Norwegian School of Commercial Diving) in Oslo has taken this challenge seriously. The schools need to cooperate and think outside the box, and investments in modern and cost efficient training facilities and equipment are required. Old-fashioned training methods with diving from barges and vessels require far too many personnel, and are time-consuming and expensive. The solution of the future is land-based simulator facilities where it is possible to provide efficient high quality training and check-out both of individual divers and complete dive teams at low operating costs. By increasing efficiency in this way, we would also benefit from reducing the length of the courses.

#### **NYD's new training facilities.**

NYD has thus, with due support from its partners in the sub sea industry, projected and started the construction of a brand new and modern installation for training of industrial divers and diving personnel. The diving system consists of a Comex saturation chamber, TUP and closed bell. Also wet bell, compressors, gas quads, hot water machines, handling equipment are to be installed. All mounted indoor in renovated buildings on the school's quay. The two bells will be launched directly into the sea



from the "classroom" via two moon pools. In addition, it will be possible to dive from the quayside via large sliding doors in the buildings. There are also plans for a closed bell no. 2 which can be connected to the same chamber complex and launched directly from the quay down to 100 meters depth.



The Norwegian weather conditions are harsh and cold. Therefore, the school has installed a climate friendly heat exchanger facility which ensures a stable indoor temperature all year round supported by water from the fjord. This is one of several important measures implemented to reduce operational and maintenance costs and to increase efficiency and competitiveness. New and modern wardrobe facilities including showers and drying rooms for equipment were completed in 2007. Two new mobile air diving stations in 20 feet containers are also just completed. When the full project is ready in 2008, the school will have increased its training capacity, quality and efficiency considerably. Surface supply diving down to 50 metres depth, surface decompression, diving with standard gear and some of the work tasks will still be performed directly from mobile container-based diving stations at the quayside. The same applies to the SCUBA training of scientific divers, divers from the Norwegian Society for Sea Rescue, and rescue divers from the fire and rescue services.

The upgrading of buildings and equipment and the fantastic location with depths from 10 to 120 metres right outside the classroom in the seaward approach to the Norwegian capital, Oslo, has made NYD one of the world's leading diving schools. However, it is not enough to flash fancy equipment, facilities and location to meet the needs of the diving industry or to satisfy the current requirements of efficient, effective and high quality training. It is also necessary to establish a well-fused and qualified team of instructors, technicians and administrative personnel who believe in what they are doing, have the ability to think in a constructive and innovative way and work hard to reach the targets set by the school. NYD has such a team, and it represents the school's most important resource.

### **New elements in NYD's basic diving course**

In 2008, NYD has decided to implement bell diving operations as an element in its basic course. This is one of the most radical measures made since the mandatory training of divers was introduced in



Norway in the 80s. The aim is to prepare and motivate the school's students for a career as offshore divers. In addition to training in the traditional diving methods, NYD's students will also be trained in other diving methods during their basic course such as TUP diving. In NYD's opinion it is safer to use closed bell for transporting the divers under pressure from working depth to the chamber as an alternative to traditional surface decompression in surface supplied air diving. The students should learn how to work together in teams and operate simple closed bell diving systems already from the beginning of their careers as professional industrial divers. The artificial distinction between inshore and offshore diving will be erased, while bell diving as an intervention method should be demystified and generalized.

### **The cooperation NYD Oslo – INPP Marseille**

In 2004, NYD in Oslo and INPP in Marseille signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement. One of the cooperation areas is training of saturation divers. Since 2005, more than 30 Scandinavians have been trained in Marseille. In 2007 alone, 15 Norwegian divers were awarded the IMCA recognised SGM saturation diver certificate as a direct result of this agreement. Students who complete NYD's basic course in 16 weeks may after 1 year of work practice

as industrial divers top off their education with the INPP saturation course. The course includes DMT, and lasts for 4-5 weeks. To train a saturation diver from scratch in the NYD/INPP system will thus take 17 months. The advantage of this system is the flexibility, and the fact that it is possible to combine training and practice. For one year, the candidate may work as an inshore or offshore surface air diver, obtain useful experience and earn good money. It is also of great value to the Norwegian students in Marseille that they learn how to work in international teams. During a period of 35 years, INPP has trained some 2000 saturation divers and carried out around 200 courses. In 2007, INPP trained about 100 bell divers.

### **The competence and training standards.**

NYD's training is based on the industrial NORSOK U-100 standard, the European Diving Technology Committee's (EDTC) Personnel Competence Standard, and the International Diving Schools Association's (IDSA) Training Standard. NYD has been approved by Norwegian authorities, who also support its operations financially. The diving certificates are issued to the school's graduates by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD), the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority and IDSA. Through bilateral agreements between the British HSE and the Norwegian NPD, there is now mutual acceptance of the respective countries' diver training. This means that students trained at NYD are recognised by HSE, other countries authorities and international organisations such as IMCA, and fully accepted internationally.

### **NYD inviting the industry.**

NYD has accomplished exactly what the industry's representatives at the IMCA conference in Paris asked for, and in record time. Now NYD is putting the ball back in their court and encouraging the sub sea contractors to make use of the offer,



and provide input and advice as to how the training can be improved further. In addition, NYD hopes to obtain widespread support for its new training system and encourages the companies to recruit and select the best candidates and offer them trainee positions. This will provide promising diving graduates with the necessary experience to make them the competent professionals that the diving industry wants. Going forward, the competition for personnel will be fierce. NYD and INPP promise to do their best to train the sufficient number of and suitable categories of divers in a timely way.

## 2. Divers Academy International

(Our host school for the 2008 IDSA Meeting)

### Explore the New Frontier at Divers Academy International!

The new frontier is under the waves! And commercial divers are the pioneers, exploring uncharted territory of new technology in an exciting career that combines travel, adventure and a rewarding salary.

It all starts at the Divers Academy International, a pioneer in its own right in the world of commercial diving. The school of choice for more than 30 years, the Divers Academy was one of the first to set the standards for commercial diving in the U.S. Today it is recognized as a leader in training candidates for this rewarding career.

At the Academy, graduates can explore the full variety of job opportunities for a commercial diver. Graduates can work inspecting bridges, dams, nuclear power plants, welding underwater oil rigs and pipe lines, performing ship salvage. They can work in hazardous waste and emergency response operations. And that's just a small sample. Divers Academy International provides the highest quality training for this career. The school trains to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for commercial diving. Its underwater welding programs meet American Welding Society standards, and its bridge inspection program was the first in the industry. The curriculum also features non-destructive testing and Remotely Operated Vehicles.

Best of all, students learn in a new state-of-the-art facility outside Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA. The campus features an 11,000 sq. ft. training center with an indoor hyperbaric chamber lab, a student media center, a fully-equipped dive shop, and locker rooms with shower facilities. Wireless Internet access is available throughout the building and classrooms feature computer equipment with PowerPoint presentation capability. There is also a diving barge complex, with a class II diving bell and 25 dive stations, located in the center of a 38-acre warm



spring-fed quarry which also houses the school's underwater training habitat. The 90-foot deep quarry offers 20 ft. visibility.

The Academy is one of the few diving schools that trains students five days a week, allowing them to complete the comprehensive program in just five months. There are also no extra, or hidden, charges for advanced classes or specific components of the program. Graduates will earn multiple high-level certifications that qualify them to advance in the industry.

The Divers Academy International works with each student from the very beginning to develop a career plan and goal for career job placement. The Academy prides itself on placing a high majority of its students, upon graduation, in high paying advanced positions within the Commercial diving industry.

Founded in 1977, the Divers Academy International is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT), the New Jersey Department Labor - Division of Workforce Development, The State Approval Agency for the training of Veterans (NJ) and the Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE). Student housing is offered off campus, and financial assistance is available to those who qualify.

For more information, visit [www.diversacademy.com](http://www.diversacademy.com)



### 3. National Polytechnic College of Science

#### **A New Name, New Programs, and a New Facility**



Kevin Casey, President

The last six years has brought remarkable changes to the well-renowned commercial diving school once known as the College of Oceaneering. And 2007 was no exception!

#### A New Name.

The College has been long recognized as a premier institution in preparing individuals commercial diving. It has taken an active role in supporting the

industry, including its positive role with the Associate Association of Commercial Diving Educators (ACDE) to formalize its training standards with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI ACDE-01-1998).

Founded in 1967 at the Port of Los Angeles as the Commercial Diving Center, the College was purchased by Oceaneering International in 1973 and renamed the College of Oceaneering. In 2002, the College was converted to a non-profit organization and became a member of the National University System.

Also in 2002, the College opened its second campus in San Diego, California.

Since that time, the College has grown its programs to meet the needs of its students and employers, and in the fall of 2007, changed its name to **National Polytechnic College of Science**.

#### New Programmes

Recognizing the value of the skills acquired at the College, National Polytechnic saw a growing demand of companies aggressively recruiting the College's commercial diving graduates for topside careers. In 2005, this became the launching point of the

College's new Associate of Science degree program in Hyperbaric Medical Technology. And again in

2006 when the College expanded its homeland security courses (originally designed for military divers), to an Associates of Science degree in Homeland Security, which is offered entirely online. In 2007, the College also began offering nondestructive testing and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B) certificate programs and an online A.S. in Construction Management. Future plans include programs ranging in marine technology (ROVs) to allied health (Paramedic).

#### A New Facility.

Over the summer, the College opened its new facility at its San Diego campus. Designed to improve its commercial diving program as well as its new and future programs, the new facilities include an updated nondestructive testing lab, a hyperbaric chamber classroom, and a medical lab, equipped with new crises manikins to enhance the student learning experience.

In addition to student lounges with wireless internet connections, students may also use the state-of-the-art computer lab outfitted with more than 40 computers. Each classroom also has been enhanced with ceiling-mounted projector systems tied to faculty computer stations with audio and video



The Medical Classroom

capabilities.

To learn more about National Polytechnic College of Science, please visit [www.natpoly.edu](http://www.natpoly.edu)

We encourage you to visit often to learn more on how the College is changing to meet your needs.

## 4. Swedish Armed forces Diving School

Swedish Armed Forces has the task to issue certificates to commercial divers in Sweden according to national regulations. Since the number of trained helmet divers has been decreasing for a number of years a question about the balance between assets and demands showed up in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Swedish Armed Forces Diving and Naval Medicine Centre (DNC) was founded out of different components from the Armed Forces in year 2001. At DNC approximately 45 divers are trained yearly, and to constantly improve and get influences from others, there has been, since 2005, an informal exchange with Norsk Yrkesdykkerskole (NYD) in Oslo, Norway - a cooperation which we find very rewarding.

It all began as a visit in 2004 when two delegates went to see what a commercial training facility could look like. They were very happy about the professionalism and kindness among the staff at the school.

Plans were made to continue with some sort of exchange and after a few months it was all clear. The first group of 6 persons went to Norway in April 2005 and after 3 weeks they got back, with a lot of questions about our own resources and a lot of experiences of the issues.

In August 2006 and August 2007 part of the staff at DNC has returned to NYD to learn commercial diving skills; cutting, welding, miniblasting, drilling, air-lifting, salvaging, hi-jetting etc. Using hydraulic, pneumatic and hand held tools and machines, commonly used diving helmets; KMB17, 18b, 27, AH3, Smolski and Desco etc.

We also had the opportunity hear about some of the interesting WW2 history that occurred outside Dröback, where a visit at Oscars-Borg fortress was included.

NYD is a modern school founded at an old jetty and the first thing that strikes you is how smooth and adapted to current requirements this facility is. All of our attending personnel are of course trained divers with a great deal of experience from a military point of view, and therefore it's been easy for us to give a "shopping list" to NYD and we've been given what we ask for.

Hopes run high to continue doing this in the future. not only to strengthen the relations between our Nordic countries but also to gain IDSA and the international cooperation.



*Some of the divers at DNC, attending at NYD August 2007*

## 5. Croatian Commercial Diving School



The Croatian Diving University – CDU, (Croatian acronym: HRU) - was founded in 2004 in Split to meet the immediate need for professional training of divers in Croatia, in times when Croatia didn't have regular professional diving schools. The first educational programs for commercial divers were certified early in 2005 by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, which established the CDU as the first active educational institution specializing in training of professional divers inside the official educational system of the Republic of Croatia.

Basic CDU dive training courses are molded to be in line with the programs recommended by the IDSA: **Commercial Diver A Category** (by example of IDSA LEVEL 1) and **Commercial Diver B Category** (by example of IDSA Level 2).

Today there are 6 running programs all together for both basic qualification and advanced dive training, all of which are in line with the national legislation, while some of them are specific inasmuch as being designed to meet the specific commercial demands of diving tourism: **Dive Guide in diving tourism** and **Professional Diving Instructor**. The Programs aimed at diving instructors are programs of additional professional training designed for qualified **Dive Guides** as part of their advanced training. After completing this program, professional dive instructors can, depending on their personal goals and immediate market demands, continue acquiring those additional licences and standards from one of the active recreational dive associations (CMAS, PADI, SSI and others) which will best enable them to train tourists wishing to acquire one of the recreational dive qualification levels.

Since the first training course (at the beginning of 2006), more than 70 professional divers has successfully completed their training at the CDU, 10 of which also completed specialized advanced training programs during spring of 2007 through the courses of **COMMERCIAL DIVER B CATEGORY** (IDSA LEVEL 2). This year the CDU organized courses for **Dive Guides in diving tourism**.

More professional training programs, which will be submitted for certification early in 2008, are now in preparation stage.



With 10 successfully trained student classes behind them, the CDU registered its training system with the IDSA, and became an associate member (AS29).

This conformity is part of the process of meeting the requirements necessary for the CDU to become a full member of the IDSA, which will, in the end, allow the CDU to issue the IDSA certificates in addition to the official dive qualification certificates of the Republic of Croatia.

For more information on CDU courses and activities visit their web site [www.hru.hr](http://www.hru.hr)

**THE PROFESSIONAL DIVER'S HANDBOOK**  
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## NEWS from INDUSTRY

### Noordhoek Offshore B.V. - TUP Diving System®

Noordhoek is a Dutch subsea contractor providing a wide range of services including diving, ROV and survey services and has been participating in the majority of projects since the beginning of the oil and gas industry on the Dutch continental shelf. The company owns and operates a dynamically positioned class 2 diving support vessel which has an excellent track record operating in the North Sea and



has a second new built DSV on order, scheduled to be delivered end 2009. Besides its offshore activities, Noordhoek is also active as an underwater contractor in the coastal, harbour, and inland civil works. In 2004 Noordhoek has celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and introduced a unique and revolutionary new TUP Diving System® for its offshore activities. The system, designed and built in house in cooperation with subsidiary Seatec Underwater Systems B.V., was initially deployed in the second quarter of 2005 from the multipurpose diving support vessel Noordhoek Singapore and has been continuously operational since.

The first actual contract has been successfully executed on the Dutch continental shelf for an established operator. Instead of using a wet bell or submersible basket, the system consists of a closed bell similar to those that are being used for saturation diving. The main advantage of this system, compared to the former two methods, is that there is no surface decompression interval. This reduces the risk of decompression sickness significantly and the bottom time is substantially increased.

The TUP Diving System® consists of the following main components:

- Large 3 man dive bell
- Clump weight / stand-off frame
- Dedicated bell handling system
- Transfer chamber
- Triple lock decompression chamber
- Dive control station

Although there are some similarities with the mini bell air diving system that was designed in the early 80's there are significant differences between both systems.

For instance, the mini bell system allowed two divers to enter the water either sitting on the staging under the bell or in the bell with the door open, using the TUP Diving System®, three divers will be launched with the door closed until they reach the working depth. It's not until then that the bell will be pressurised according to the working depth, which has a positive effect on the bottom time.

Once the bell is at working depth two divers will go to the work site while the third diver, the so-called bell man, will remain in the bell and acts as a standby diver. When the divers have returned to the bell the door will be closed and the divers will be vented to the first decompression stop whilst returning to the surface. Then the bell will be locked on to the transfer chamber, chamber and bell pressure equalized, and the divers will enter the triple lock end chamber and start decompression.

The main benefits of this TUP Diving System® are:

- No surface decompression interval
- Substantial increase of safety factor
- Reduces risk of decompression sickness
- Significant increase in bottom time
- Back to back diving

TUP Diving System® can be seen as a more safer and comfortable method of air diving; as breathing gas a Trimix gas mixture is used, consisting of nitrogen, helium and oxygen. This gas mixture allows longer bottom times which, depending on water depth, can sometimes be up to triple the amount of time compared to using air as a breathing gas.

The TUP Diving System® exceeds current and anticipated offshore industry requirements; the system is rated for deployment up to 100 msw. The system has been built in accordance with Lloyd's Register rules and regulations for the construction and classification of submersible and underwater systems; it is in conformance with the IMCA guidelines and has furthermore been constructed to the highest international standards.

A patent has been awarded for the TUP Diving System® and due to its features and benefits the TUP Diving System® Noordhoek is able to deliver a safe, complete and very cost effective solution to its clients

## [ReefNet Inc: Automating Student Recordkeeping with Sensus Ultra](#)

Managing and monitoring the activities of many divers creates a number of logistical problems. When those divers are students, keeping accurate records of their diving operations is doubly important for evaluation purposes. Yet in most cases it is left to students to manually record the details of their day-to-day activities. The result may be an inconsistent, incomplete, and frequently inaccurate diving database. Often on paper.

At the most recent IDSA annual meeting in Helsinki, I introduced an alternative, electronic system that is well suited to the task of tracking multiple divers in both training and industrial settings.

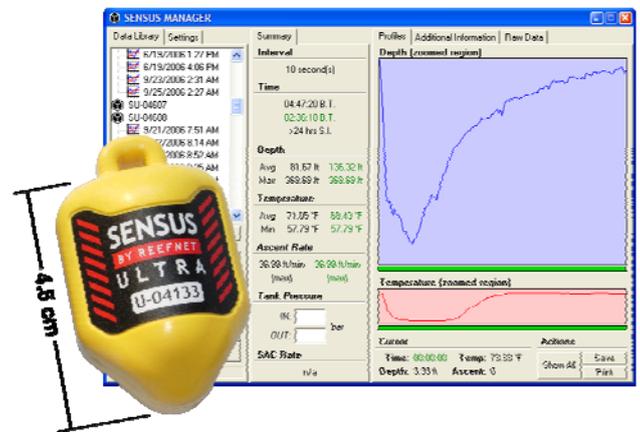
The core of the system is ReefNet's Sensus Ultra dive data recorder. This matchbox-size device is capable of recording up to 1500 hours of depth/temperature profiles with 1 cm depth resolution and 0.01 C temperature resolution. Furthermore, it is built to last for 8-10 years or 3000 bottom-time hours in the harshest of conditions. It requires no user maintenance, and transfers all of its data through simple external contacts.

Although its hardware specifications are noteworthy, it is Sensus Ultra's open architecture that makes it particularly well-suited to multi-diver tracking. Depending on the required level of customization and integration, one of three possible data handling options can be implemented.

The simplest option is to use ReefNet's free Sensus Manager software. This small, portable application runs on both Windows and Mac OS, allowing one to quickly view and archive profile data from a number of Sensus data recorders. It provides graphical views of both depth and temperature profiles, as well as a basic dive log summary and text entry fields for location, dive buddy, and other notes. In the absence of an established data handling protocol, Sensus Manager can act as the central diving database.

However, in many cases diving coordinators will need a more custom-tailored option which

integrates with an existing database. To satisfy these needs, Sensus Manager can export dive data to a standardized text file format. The comma-separated-value (CSV) format contains all dive profile data and may be massaged by a simple script (e.g. Excel macro, Visual Basic,) to match the user's existing storage format. It may also be "mined" to produce a number of useful statistics on per-diver, per-time, or per-recorder bases.



The third (and most powerful) data handling option is to bypass Sensus Manager entirely by creating a custom download application. This is possible because ReefNet freely distributes the communication protocol for its data recorders. By implementing it in a custom software program, it is possible to make a nearly single-click system that both downloads and merges dive data into an existing database. This option is best suited to large-scale operations, primarily due to the cost of software development.

Regardless of the data processing option, the Sensus Ultra system delivers an accurate, timely record of diver activity in an easily accessible data format.

For more information, visit [www.reefnet.ca](http://www.reefnet.ca) or contact Kris Wilk at [wilk@reefnet.ca](mailto:wilk@reefnet.ca)

To advertise in the IDSA Newsletter please contact the Administrator

# Underwater seminar

**Underwater Environment  
- from Bottom to Surface**  
22-23 May 2008  
Lysekil Sweden

**Theme of seminar:**

- Marine pollution control and Salvage of environmental hazardous objects
- Actual rules, Equipment and New diving Procedures (Shallow Saturation diving)
- Regulations for diving in accordance with national and international standards in countries around the Baltic Sea
- Divers Education in environmental issues

For more information check out [www.sitech.se](http://www.sitech.se) for news or mail [seminar@sitech.se](mailto:seminar@sitech.se). You also find information at Underwater intervention (New Orleans 29-31 January) at SI TECH:s booth 739. The seminar will be followed by Swedish Historical Society annual meeting, sport diving activities and Divers day May 24 -25

Please visit us at **Underwater Intervention** (New Orleans) or at [www.sitech.se](http://www.sitech.se) to see the future of diving equipment





Freeflow helmet – low noise, low vision distortion, big easily manoeuvred valves and much more ground-breaking features. This and much more news will be at **SITECH:s booth** at Underwater Intervention.

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## Career opportunity in Noomas

The Norwegian Aquaculture Industry has expanded enormously over the last years. As Norwegian leading supplier of Diving- and work boat services Noomas is currently investing more than 30 million NOK in new vessels, ROVs and other equipment. We do this in order to meet the demands on HES, loading capacities, and working environment on our vessels.

Noomas specialise in mooring systems for fish farms and marinas, and other in-shore diving and service tasks for the aquaculture, offshore and maritime industry, and the Noomas Companies are certified for deliverance of mooring systems according to NS/EN 9415, and for In-Water Surveys according to DNV, ABS and Germ. Lloyd regulations.

We are now seeking experienced divers as managers and crew on the vessels, with some of the following characteristics:

### Dive manager:

5 years experience as a diver, technical or mechanical knowledge, experienced boatman with navigation skills.

### Diver / Crew:

Dive certificate according to Norwegian class 1, mechanical knowledge or experience from similar work with moorings, ship cranes e.g.

We offer competitive conditions of employment, and rotation 1/1. Please contact us on the following address if you want further information:

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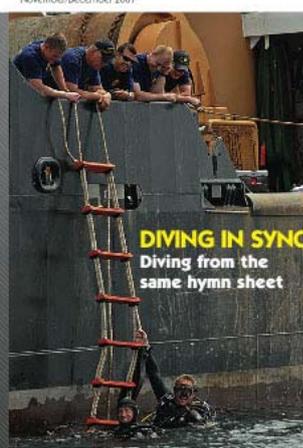
# UCi

The Magazine for Underwater Professionals  
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## underwater contractor

November/December 2007

**INTERNATIONAL**



**Buoyant AUV seabed on the up**

**DIVING IN SYNC**  
Diving from the same hymn sheet

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## *IMCA Annual meeting Paris 06/07-November*

The meeting was a great success in terms of the numbers attending and in terms of the interest of the different subjects addressed. The workshops on offshore diving subjects were followed with a particular interest.

From the start it was made clear that there would be a deficit in saturation divers around the world. 25 new diving support vessels (DSV's) are being built and these will need to be manned by approximately 300 sat divers. The question arising is that of the training of those new teams.

For the moment the companies undertake programmes to train their own teams on their own equipment and deep diving installations. A few companies are in the final process of developing new hyper technological equipment in order to improve the comfort and the safety of the divers (chips, sensors and fibre glass fabrics, black boxes – 36h – on repeaters). For example: new types of closed circuit deep diving breathing apparatus and new fibres for air hoses, making more space available in diving bells. Computerized control rooms closely linked to the control room of ROV operations, so there can be a better coordination between different and simultaneous types of intervention.

If each offshore company trains differently and on different types of equipment, there will at a given moment arise a problem of compatibility between training and equipments and diving procedures or methods. And somewhere down the line this will create an incompatibility between diving teams.

However, the actual training centres cannot afford to train so many numbers in so short a time, because of insufficient equipment and instructors. The technological gap between the old systems still in use and the cost-effectiveness of the new systems being presented on the market will not be bridged in such a short time.

DIVEX and TECHNIP gave highly interesting presentations of the most modern but still

experimental diving techniques now being studied. A few diving vessels would be equipped with this new type of equipment.

One workshop addressed the question of the 'DIVER COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT' as seen from the point of view of the employer or contractor. Entry Level Qualifications and competence tables were discussed as IMCA produces Competence Tables, or Diving Division Competence Tables and Currency of Competence. How are these assessed and notified? Logbooks, daily diving reports etc., or by the demonstration of a company approved on-the-job assessment. The scheme works for all different categories of divers according to valid HSE Part I and II or equivalent certificates.



*IDSA Full Member Schools were well represented!*

The last issue of the IDSA Newsletter was distributed to interested listeners. Copies of the S&P's and the O&P's were handed out to IMCA, TECHNIP, STATOIL and the Professional Divers Academy.

The presence of other training centres like The Underwater Centre (Fort William) and I.N.P.P. (Marseille) proves the interest shown by the diving training community to IMCA's overall industrial implication into safe diving and working procedures.

### ***An apology to IMCA***

Due to an Editorial misunderstanding the article in Newsletter 10, describing the Assessment of Experienced Divers in Serbia, stated that the Assessment was carried out in a formally parallel way for both IMCA and IDSA. This was not the case; it was carried out for IDSA only, and IMCA were not involved in any way.

The editors apologise to IMCA for this error

## EUROPEAN DIVING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting was held in Stavanger on October 9, 2007. It was well attended, and several IDSA members were present.

There were no new amendments proposed by the members to the GOAL SETTING PRINCIPLES for harmonized diving in Europe. (see doc. on website). A committee was appointed to collect all available national regulations throughout Europe in order to update the EDTC guidelines accordingly.

In 2009 a conference/workshop is projected probably in Luxemburg in 2008. One of the subjects would be the problem of harmonising qualifications in Europe.

## ADRIATIC CONFERENCE, VODICE CROATIA

The first International Diving Conference, under the label Improvement of safety and responsibility in diving was held in Vodice near Split (Croatia) on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> under the auspices of the Ministry of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of the Republic of Croatia and of the Croatian Divers Association. Sponsors and organisers have been ADRIA MARE (Maritime Training Centre) and the Open University 'LIBAR' of Šibenik.

Angela Krasić, Conference Manager from POU LIBAR, and Commanding Officer Nadan Petri, professor of occupational medicine from the Naval Medical Institute of the Croatian Navy, led the conference through the sequence of presentations smoothly & efficiently. Many diving related conferences had been held on both sides of the Adriatic, but this was the first one with Safety as its predominant theme.

Professional, scientific, and recreational diving were the areas of activity covered in the presentations by authors from different fields of academic and



The question was about the correct interpretation of the EU Directive 2005/36/EC and whether the EDTC should be accepted as expert group representing occupational diving under the terms of that directive. (Title: ***On the Recognition of Professional Qualifications***). It was brought forward by the excellent input from the Italian delegation.

At the meeting, the chairman Crawford Logan (Scotland) resigned and a new chairman Claus Mayer (Germany) was nominated.

The next EDTC meeting is to be held on 19 September, 2008 in Ravenna, Italy.

professional institutions and from several diving associations in Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina. Nadan Petri stressed that safety is vital to both professional & recreational diving. Safety enables progress in diving, with fewer accidents and less fatalities. Safety in diving has many aspects and most of them were addressed during the conference and on the preprint proceedings which were edited by Nadan Petri and distributed to the participants.

Contributions included important subjects as "Safety through training" (J.Rabone), "Safety procedures in Croatian scientific diving" (A. Soldo), "The International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)" (Alan Bax), "Diving in B&H – security and responsibility" (Z. Petrović), "ROV features and applications as a complementary tool for divers" (M. Stipanov), "SCUBA diving related health risks in childhood and adolescence" (H. Stipančević and N. Petri), "A safety factor in diving tourism – a selective type of tourism" (T. Luković and U. Munninger), "War debris and wrecks clearance projects on rivers" (A. Smojver), "Disabled divers equal with the others" (R. Hanić), "Safety of scientists – divers in the Republic of Croatia" (D. Petricioli, H. Čižmek and T. Bakran – Petricioli), "Lifting the sunken LPG tanker Brigitta Montanari" (F. Zeljak), "Selected medical – legal aspects of diving fatalities" (N. Petri and M.D. Gojanović).

The conference has reminded everybody that diving, diving medicine, and technology are developing rapidly and real success is reached only through efforts in implementing safety principles. The fact represents a challenge today and remains an obligation in the future.

## HSE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS OBTAINED IN SCHOOLS OUTSIDE UK

The UK is obliged by EU Directive 2005/36/EC (which came into force in UK law on 19 October 2007) to consider an EU migrant diver's request to work in British waters. **However, this does not lead to the issue of an HSE diving qualification**, but only to a letter stating that the person may work in the UK for a specified period. As far as HSE is concerned, this letter is not valid for diving outside the UK.

## SPECIALITY WELDS

Through accreditation by EAL (EMTA Awards) our underwater welding course will be a fully verified, certified course. This will make it the only verified training course by a leading engineering awarding body any where in the world. Combined with the 'self-teach' (under license) option to run the programme, it could be an attractive package for IDSA members to adopt. Full details will be given in the next edition of this Newsletter



### Books for Commercial Divers: available from BEST PUBLISHING

#### *Commercial Diver Training Manual: New and updated for 2007*

Written for commercial divers who plan to work offshore or as an inland diver

#### *NOAA Diving Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed*

The most comprehensive book on diving includes advanced applied diving technologies

#### *Solid Brass*

Stories of oil rig and construction diving: -a 'must read.'

#### *Underwater Construction Using Cofferdams*

A book to guide you through the marine cofferdam: design and construction process

#### *Riggers That Dive*

Colorful stories of commercial diving and rigging in all types of adverse conditions

#### *Shadow Divers A New York Times best seller*

This book captures the adventure of divers who risked everything to solve of the mysteries of a sunken submarine.

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## The INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (IDSA): LIST of MEMBERS

### FULL MEMBERS : DIVER TRAINING

Nautilus Dive Company	Austria
CFPME	Belgium
SYNTRA	Belgium
Royal Danish Navy Diving School	Denmark
Innofocus	Finland
INPP	France
HydroCAT	Italy
Netherlands Diving Centre	Netherlands
Norsk Yrkesdykkerskole	Norway
West Coast Commercial Diving School	South Africa
Farjenas Dykarskola	Sweden
Swedish Armed Forces	Sweden
Divers Academy International	USA
National Polytechnic College of Scienc	USA
Santa Barbara City College	USA
The Ocean Corporation	USA

### FULL MEMBERS : SPECIALIST TRAINING

Interdive Services Ltd	UK
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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Divers University	Brazil
Institute of Oceanology : Commercial Diving School	Bulgaria
Croatian Commercial Diving School	Croatian
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt
International Academy for Diving Technology (IADT)	Egypt
Darya Koosh Marine Co	Iran
Peter Vered	Israel
Centro Studi C.E.DI FO.P	Italy
Marine Consulting Srl	Italy
Caspian Dive School	Kazakhstan
Korean DTS	Korea
Namibia Commercial Diving School	Namibia
SMIT Terminals	South Africa
DDRC Pro-Services Ltd	UK
London Diving Chamber	UK
International Diving Institute	USA

### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Diving Contractors	Canada
Maritim	Croatia
NAVFCO Military Diving School	France
C.S.M. - Cooperativa Servizi Marini (S.c.r.l.)	Italy
Rana Diving & Marine Contractor S.R.L.	Italy
Nautiek	Netherlands
Baltic Diving Centre Explorer	Poland
Aqua Mont Service	Serbia
Sumergia s.a.	Spain
Tecnosub Internacional	Spain
Association of Diving Contractors (UK)	UK
Hydroweld	UK
Speciality Welds	UK
The Underwater Centre	UK
University of Plymouth	UK
Minnesota Commercial Diver Training Centre	USA

### INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS

C.N.S. - Cooperativa Nazionale Sommozzatori	Italy
Palumbarus Diving Works	Italy
Svensk Sjoentreprenad AB	Sweden