



## PRESS RELEASE

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**RELEASE DATE:** 9 January 2006

### DIARY DATE

**Event:** *'ROVs: Leading the way into the future'* – half day seminar

**Date and time:** 22 March 2006. 14.00-16.30

**Venue:** Room 7, ExCeL in London's Docklands – running alongside OI2006

**Further information:** [events@imca-int.com](mailto:events@imca-int.com) and [www.imca-int.com](http://www.imca-int.com) Stand 860 at OI

### **'ROVS: LEADING THE WAY INTO THE FUTURE' – IMCA SEMINAR AT OI2006**

The growing importance of ROVs is to be recognised by a free half-day seminar *'ROVs: Leading the way into the future'* at Oceanology International 2006 (OI2006) and organised by the Remote Systems & ROV Division of IMCA - the International Marine Contractors Association.

"ROVs play an ever increasingly important role in the marine science and ocean technology industries addressed by OI2006, so we were delighted that the event organisers grasped the idea of this stand-alone seminar with enthusiasm to complement their conference programme," says Hugh Williams, chief executive of IMCA.

"There are four truisms associated with ROVs – they are more sophisticated than ever before; they are more used than ever before; they are essential as we work at ever-greater depths – many subsea structures are well beyond diver-depth - and where they aren't, ROVs complement vital diving activity; and they are more reliable than ever before. All this adds up to the need to devote an afternoon to the challenges for these invaluable 'workhorses' and the opportunities they provide for the industry."

In addition to an introduction by Hugh Williams, there will be three presentations:

- The use of small electric work-class ROVs in the oil industry - Derek Cruickshank of Rovtech
- Challenges for ROV surveys and inspections – Gert Juel Rasmussen, Stolt Offshore
- Powerful ROV simulation tools – Bob Curtis, Oceaneering International

The formal part of the afternoon will end with a panel discussion and this will be followed by a drinks reception.

"IMCA now has close on 300 member companies worldwide over 90 of which are members of the Remote Systems & ROV division, that fact alone says a great deal about the increasing use of ROVs globally," says Hugh Williams. "We are looking forward to an afternoon of stimulating discussion with OI2006 attendees, and to

meeting IMCA members and non-members alike.” IMCA, one of OI2006’s official supporting organisations, is exhibiting on Stand 860 at the biennial event.

Those interested in the free seminar are asked to register their intention to attend with Parul Patel at the IMCA Secretariat at [events@imca-int.com](mailto:events@imca-int.com) or on +44 (0)20 7824 5520.

Further information on all aspects of IMCA’s work is available from them at 5 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0NR, UK and at [www.imca-int.com](http://www.imca-int.com)

### **Notes to Editors**

- IMCA is an international association with its 290+ members in more than 35 countries representing offshore, marine and underwater engineering companies. IMCA has four technical divisions, covering marine/specialist vessel operations, offshore diving, hydrographic survey and remote systems and ROVs, plus geographic sections for the Americas Deepwater, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Africa and the Middle East & India regions, as well as a core focus on safety, the environment, competence and training. IMCA seeks to promote its members’ common interests, to resolve industry-wide issues and to provide an authoritative voice for its members.
- IMCA publishes over 170 guidance documents and technical reports. These have been developed over the years and are widely distributed. They are a definition of what IMCA stands for, including widely recognised diving and ROV codes of practice, DP documentation, marine good practice guidance, the ‘Common Marine Inspection Document’, safety recommendations, outline training syllabi and the IMCA competence scheme guidance. In addition to the range of printed guidance documents, IMCA also produces safety promotional materials, circulates information notes and safety flashes.

### **About IMCA’s Remote Systems & ROV Division**

IMCA’s Remote Systems & ROV Division is concerned with all aspects of equipment, operations and personnel related to remotely controlled systems (including ROVs) used in support of marine activities. The decades of cumulative experience of IMCA members are brought together in the division’s set of guidance, aimed at aiding safe and efficient operations on a worldwide basis. The bullet points below can only give a bird’s eye view of the Division’s activities further and fuller information is available on the IMCA website at [www.imca-int.com](http://www.imca-int.com) and then following the prompts to the Division’s dedicated pages.

- **The Division’s Work Programme**  
In line with the Association’s overall and strategic objectives, each year the world-wide divisional management committee sets out a programme of specific projects and objectives which it will work towards achieving. Details of the Division’s current work programme can be seen on the website
- **Code of Practice for the Safe and Efficient Operation of Remotely Operated Vehicles**  
The ROV industry is one of the most dynamic in the world. New equipment is constantly entering the market; and ROVs continue to find new applications. As the offshore industry moves towards more and more diverless intervention, their role in construction and maintenance will increase, along with their more traditional use for underwater inspection and observation. Created with that dynamism in mind and still aiming to provide the basis for safe and efficient operations on a world-wide basis, the code has recently been fully reviewed and revised to take into account the latest technological developments and the establishment of the IMCA framework of guidance on competence assurance and Assessment Scheme in the ROV sector.

- **Auditing of ROV Systems**  
The division has also produced a standard ROV audit document. It provides a set of templates for a high-level ROV audit document, each covering a specific phase/element of an ROV project; and has been produced with the aim of simplifying and standardising the way clients present their requirements and operators their ways of fulfilling them, to minimise duplication and excessively different ways of doing the same thing.
- **Other Technical Guidance**  
In addition to those documents listed above, the division has produced a range of referenced and related guidance relating to specific technical and safety issues – further information is available on the IMCA website.
- **Contracting Issues**  
IMCA has recently been working on the preparation of guidance which seeks to raise awareness among its members and their clients of contract-related issues in the sector.
- **Personnel Initiatives**  
The Remote Systems & ROV has been a leader in the implementation of IMCA's guidance on competence assurance and assessment, having developed additional, complementary guidance which was incorporated into the wider guidance documentation during a recent major revision. The division has also produced a range of guidance on both introductory and specialist technical training courses for ROV personnel. Certain careers information is also available.

Issued on behalf of IMCA by: ... .. Judith Patten

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