

# Oceanology International

Oceanology International 2010, the global forum for the ocean science and marine technology community, saw record-breaking attendance when it was held at London's ExCeL (UK) from 9 - 11 March 2010. Over the three days 6,921 people from 75 countries attended Oceanology International, a 4% increase on the 6,643 who attended in 2008.

"There was a buzz in the exhibition hall right through the three days," said the event manager, James Coleman. Of all attendees, 38.42% came from overseas, and with 62.9% of the 537 exhibitors from over 30 overseas countries Oceanology can claim to be a global forum. The exhibition was more than 7% larger than the previous one held in 2008.

The information provided at the exhibition could be further extended by attending live demonstrations on various survey vessels that were available alongside ExCeL. A very special vessel at the quay was *HMS Cattistock*, with sensors able to detect small mines at a depth of more than 100m, and at a distance of 1000m from the vessel.

The conference was programmed with day-long sessions on ocean observation and forecasting; navigation

and positioning; hydrography/geophysics; marine environment; and geotechnics; and a special New Scientist session on offshore renewables. The Society for Underwater Technology and five specialist committees organised highly relevant and fascinating conference streams.

The Awards Ceremony held on opening day saw six awards being given, with the richly deserved award of the Oceanology International Lifetime Achievement Award being made to Ian Gallett of the Society for Underwater Technology. Matthew Quartley, managing director of Valeport Limited won the Association of Marine Scientific Industries (AMSI) Business Person of the Year Award; the Alan Greig Memorial Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Commercial Operational Oceanography 2010 was awarded to Rhoderick Powell, Metocean advisor, AGIP KCO; and The Bob Barton Memorial Award which aims to recognise excellence in writing and reporting on marine science, engineering and technology was awarded to Phil McKenna, who is based in Cambridge (MA, USA).

The BP Postgraduate award for best MSc thesis for the academic year 2008-09 in the

fields of Offshore and Subsea Engineering and Technology was awarded to Ani Bede Chinedu from the University of Aberdeen (UK) for his thesis entitled *Analysis of Large Diameter Catenary Risers for Oil Production in Moderate Water Depths*; and Benjamin Loveday from the University of Southampton won the Fugro GEOS Award for best MSc thesis for the academic year 2008-09 in Meteorology, Physical Oceanography or Applied Oceanography for his thesis *Using Data from*

*Autonomous Underwater Gliders to Assess the Performance of Ocean Forecast Models in the Northwest Mediterranean Sea*. Both won cheques for GBP500.

Oceanology International 2012 will be held at the London ExCeL from 13 -15 March 2012.

Joost Boers, news editor, *Hydro INTERNATIONAL*.

More information: [www.oceanologyinternational.com](http://www.oceanologyinternational.com)

## Underwater Intervention

Underwater Intervention took place in its usual home, the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. This year there was much to celebrate. As well as a strong technical program and a well attended show, the New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl. The city was in a buoyant mood and the usual Mardi Gras parades were preceded by the Saints Team Parade held in the afternoon of 9 February, coinciding with the first day of the conference. Thus the first day of Underwater Intervention, the combined annual conference of the Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) and the Marine Technology Society (MTS) ROV Committee, was by all accounts unusually slow and quiet.

But for those who made the trip to New Orleans there was an opportunity to share in the festivities while also benefiting from a great technical program with more than 50 technical papers and well over 100 exhibitors. The high attendance on Wednesday and Thursday sessions showed that

the industry is still kicking and they proved to be a perfect opportunity for visitors and vendors alike to learn about the state-of-the-art in diving, ROV and AUV technology.

UI 2010 was also an opportunity to celebrate the best in the industry with the combined ADCI Awards and MTS ROV Committee Awards. This year the MTS ROV Committee's Corporate Excellence Award winner was VideoRay and the Chairman Award went to Don Nelson. The ADCI honored Mr. Harry (Bud) Mills and Mr. Robert G. Ratcliffe by being inducted into the 2010 Commercial Diving Hall of Fame. As is normally the case both the MTS and ADCI awarded sponsorships to deserving students who have an interest in the respective industries. This year the scholarship awards went to Lindsay McCurley, Joanna Lapucha, Joshua Rosenthal, Kurt Jankowski, Andy Lister, Patrick Hickey, James Douberley, Amanda Lowe and Zachary Miller.

Joseba Tena, *SeeByte, Scotland (United Kingdom)*



In the evenings, the casual get-togethers were a popular way to keep in touch with colleagues.