

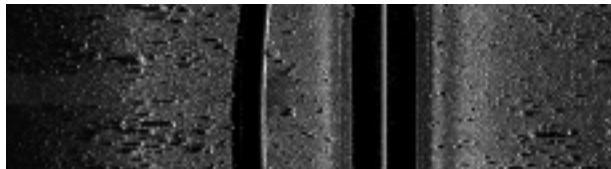
# World record set for pipeline tracking with AUV



SeeByte, a cutting edge software solutions company, recently carried out inshore operations using its innovative AutoTracker control software in the St. Margaret's Hope area, Orkney, to test low-logistics autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to survey and inspect subsea pipelines. The BP-sponsored trials successfully demonstrated the integration of the AutoTracker software to two-man-portable AUVs, which are pre-programmed on the surface to carry out specific missions underwater, navigating using sonar and other sensors. Two-man-portable AUVs can be launched from vessels or shore by two personnel without the need for specialist cranes or lifting equipment. SeeByte was able to demonstrate greater flexibility and significant cost savings over current inspection technolo-

gies because the AUVs operated without the need for umbilical connections to a dedicated surface support vessel and could be launched from vessels of convenience or the shore.

The operations ran along Talisman's oil pipeline running along Water Sound. The distance covered by the inspection in the longest uninterrupted line was 10 km, which is a new world record for a two-man-portable AUV. SeeByte developed the Autotracker module as part of the SeeTrack Offshore family. The Autotracker module paints a picture of the seabed and interprets that picture so that it can instruct the AUV to maintain a constant offset from the pipeline. The module is capable of accurately tracking a single pipeline amongst multiple pipelines and on varied terrains. In addition, Autotracker includes advanced search routines that enable it to recover the pipeline track after an unexpected pipeline burial.



*Boulder next to pipeline*

The Autotracker module has now been integrated to work with both the GAVIA and REMUS vehicles. The low logistics associated with an AUV clearly highlight the potential of the technology to operators and contractors: AUV pipeline inspections provide high quality data for a fraction of the price of ROV operations. Autotracker adds yet another state-of-the-art solution to the market.”

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