

OCEANS '10 MTS/IEEE in Seattle

The OCEANS Conference, the yearly gathering of the community active in ocean engineering and marine technology, was held in the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, WA from 20 to 23 September. Although held in the far west of the United States, OCEANS showed great influence from the Far East.

Keynote speakers were Nii Allotey Odunton, secretary-general of the International Seabed Authority, Liu Feng, deputy director-general of the China Ocean Mineral Resources R&D Association and Yoshio Isozaki, director-general of the Japan

Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology. This year's event was a great success: more than 1,800 scientists and engineers showed up in the Emerald City. The conference, with more than 300 technical sessions with topics on renewable

energy, coastal hazards, gulf oil spill and ecological studies on aquatic organisms, was accompanied by a large exhibition with 159 exhibitors from the United States, Canada, The Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, Norway and Russia. New and existing technologies were showcased for an audience that was very international, the delegates having travelled to Seattle from more than 35 countries. The exhibition area experienced highs and lows in attendance but the set up was obviously good with all the coffee and tea breaks on the show floor. Overall, the exhibitors were said to be pleased with the quality of the visitors. On the conference side, all sessions

were located very close to the show floor, with delegates having a wide array of topics to choose from thereby not always making it easy to choose. Ted Brockett, conference co-chair of the OCEANS '10 MTS/IEEE Local Organising Committee was convinced that this year's event was stronger than ever: "with a large and lively exhibition, cutting-edge technical sessions and outstanding plenary speakers", as he puts it. The location, Seattle, probably played a part in this. It will be hard to beat this next year in Hawaii, however beautiful, for a lot of people still remote and sometimes expensive to travel to. If the Local Organising Committee of OCEANS '11 succeeds in organising an exhibition and conference comparable to this year, it may well be worth going to anyway.

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A good set up of the exhibition took care of a lot of traffic at the booths during coffee breaks.

Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase (UUVS 2010)

The UUVS annual show provided an excellent forum for the ROV and AUV industries to discuss the latest advancements in technology and its application. Each year, a strong technical programme organised by the Underwater Robotics Group of the Society for Underwater Technology has helped to attract the leading manufacturers and sensor providers to this show, but a busy and competitive conference and exhibition schedule has had a significant impact on the number of visitors to the show. To realise the full potential of the conference, organisers Reed Exhibitions and SUT were, at the time of the event, in discussions on the most beneficial way to take the conference forward.

As a possible farewell to Southampton, this year's event proved to be more than apt. The conference programme, which was chaired by Jim Mann, delivered some great presentations. The keynote talks opened with a market analysis of UUV Technology provided by Bill Donaldson of Quest Offshore. Colin Manson of DSTL provided an insight into the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence strategy. This was followed by Tom Altshuler, who shared the Teledyne Webb Research underwater glider offering with the audience. The remainder of the afternoon continued with the SUT's highly popular Gadgets and Widgets and a strong overview of the latest advances into ROV technology. Day one of the conference came to a close with

Donald Faulds' great workshop on how to interface subsea sensors and actuators to ROVs and AUVs.

UUVS has always presented one of the best forums for members of the UUV industry to network, with the annual Gala Dinner largely responsible for this. This year the dinner took place shortly after the close of day one at the Dockgate 4 bar & grill, which is located in the former ballroom of the South Western Hotel. The dinner was attended by most of the exhibitors and delegates and superseded expectations as a networking evening.

Day two of the conference continued where the previous day had left off. The morning forum

provided an overview of military uses for UUVs. The next session 'broke the ice' for discussions on AUV technology when ISE's Tristan Crees delivered a talk on the use of AUVs for under ice Arctic operations that had the attendees buzzing. The event closed with an opportunity for academia to show off the latest advances and research within the industry.

The future of UUVS was a prominent topic of discussion this year, with speculation that it will be held parallel to the biannual Oceanology International. Whatever the fate of UUVS, 2010, although low in numbers, remained consistently high in quality and value.

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