

ANNIVERSARY Newsletter - August, 2013

## 40 Years ... Now the next GENERATION UVS



UVS was born in the early 1970s when Dave Pearson, a professional diver and electronics technician, started supplying ESSO with underwater cameras for the Bass Strait oil fields.

Operating as Video Systems, inspections were provided for organisations such as the American Bureau of Shipping. Around that time Russell Priest and Phil Crankshaw joined the company.

The UVS Newcastle team

As the North West shelf oil fields expanded, UVS opened a Perth office to service its contract with Woodside to design and build a control system for a sea plough to bury a 1016 mm pipeline that ran 134 kilometres.

"To reduce the impact of demand fluctuations, we diversified into oceanographic sales and looked to the expansion of engineering assignments", Russell recalled.

"Having more diversity enabled us to respond to unusual challenges by developing skills in custom engineering tasks. In conjunction with an engineering partner, a high pressure water jet was developed to cut underwater pipes. The process was monitored and controlled by our video cameras and telemetric systems.

"More recently, a cable plough control system was deployed for a Singapore assignment and another in the North Sea off the Netherlands. These tasks were run by our engineers online from our Perth office".

Russell said the biggest step in subsea equipment management has been the interfacing of ROV's, microcomputers and highly advanced software.

"UVS revolutionised underwater tasks by being one of the world's first companies to use microprocessors under water. We went on to design, develop and manufacture underwater housings, as well as developing our own deepwater pressure testing facilities.

"Today, we are very much a one-stop shop with the in-house ability to manufacture, supply and complete mechanical, electrical interfacing and software", he said.



## **UVS and TELEDYNE RDI to host ADCP Conference**

The 2013 "ADCPs in Action in Australia" Conference will again be held at the Southport Yacht Club on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

UVS has partnered with Teledyne RD Instruments (TRDI) for the second time to present the conference down under.

Papers will include topics from Curtis Schur of ATSA, Mark Randall of Water Monitoring Information, Mike Lysaght Hydrological Services Pty Ltd, Brian Berna from BlueView Teledyne, Charles Lemkert from Griffith University and Michael Redmayne of Teledyne ODOM.

The aim of this unique event is to bring Water Resources professionals together to share knowledge about Marine measurement and profiling applications.



The conference will review the most re-

cent AiAiA for Marine Measurement applications, as well as discuss the experiences and lessons learned from working with ADCPs in Australia.

Other key highlights of the event will include presentations by customers and industry experts, data analysis clinics, hardware and water demonstrations and workshops and analyses of instrument de-



ployments and recoveries.

Neil Trenaman of UVS said, "This is an outstanding event where participants will be able to network with other Water/Marine professionals and become familiar with the innovative practices of ADCPs for inland applications.





## Milestones for UVS in subsea technology

**1973**- Wetdocking of ships, drill rigs. Inspection carried out to American bureau of shipping certification standards. "Glomar Conception - Bass Strait. Prime contractor- Sub-Sea Services Pty Ltd.

**1974** – Inspection to A.B.S. standard while drilling on location. No loss in drilling time. "Glomar Tasman" Arafura Sea. Prime contractor -Oceaneering Australia Pty Ltd.

**1976** – Supply and ongoing support for the first RCV-225 remote-controlled underwater vehicle in the South Pacific area to Esso Australia Ltd.

**1977** – Carried out the first downhole video inspection of water bores for Sale City Council Victoria. Prime contractor – D.H.P. Consultants.

**1979** – Supplied and provided service to RCV-150 remotecontrolled vehicle. First RCV of its type in use worldwide. Owner -Esso Australia Ltd.

**1980** – Designed, supplied and operated video telemetry system for an 85 tonne post trenching plough to be used for burying submarine pipelines. Prime contractor – Harbour & Marine Engineering Pty Ltd.

**1981** – Designed developed and manufactured the complex electronic monitoring and control instrumentation system on the massive 350 tonne plough used to trench the 40 inch diameter North Rankin A, Subsea Trunk line on the north-west shelf of Australia.

**1982** – Supplied and continue to service and operate the RCV-150 used of the north-west shelf project for Woodside Offshore Petroleum Pty Ltd.

**1982 -** Carried out the first successful underwater video inspection on an onshore mining shaft to 350 metres depth. Prime contractor – Thyssen Mining Construction of Australia Pty Ltd.

**1983** – Enabled the first underwater colour television TV inspection in Australia to Lloyds register of shipping standards, on the Shell tanker M.S."Conus" prime contractor – SEACA Pty Ltd.

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## **40 YEARS ON AND THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT**

A lot has changed in the subsea equipment industry since UVS established 40 years ago. From the advent of the digital era to the complete global overhaul of OHS systems, Phil Crankshaw has been in the industry for the last four decades, to witness the evolution.



"When I first started going offshore we used to hang in a basket under a crane, waiting for a boat to come up. We'd get our feet wet, our bags would get wet!" Phil explains. "Nowadays there is a lot more accountability for Occupational Health & Safety."

With a huge reduction in accidents and a complete overhaul in the way people are looked after in the work place, the last 40 years has seen OHS systems shift from an

Your Melbourne UVS sales, engineering and support team

afterthought to a primary concern across all workplaces today.

But according to Phil, the greatest impact on the industry came with the introduction of computer technology. "We used to use sonar, which had very limited performance.

Now, we have such incredible computer systems, signal processing and data management - what used to incredibly difficult and time consuming, is now very easy."Along with the evolution of the digital era, the more recent birth of the internet changed the landscape for UVS yet again.

"Before the internet, we were the experts. Customers would come to us looking for a solution and we would provide it. Nowadays, customers tend to do more research on the internet, coming to us with more expectations of what they want."

Phil, however, is certain that UVS will continue to successfully weather the changes, committed to always providing personal contact and exceptional customer service.

"Personal contact still plays a major part in big business. Nothing beats talking to an expert on the phone. We still guide customers as we will always have the knowledge to advise them on what they really need." And the future for UVS?

"Competition is tough, but that's nothing new. I think the future is bright for UVS, we've risen to the challenges of the last 40 years, let's look forward to what the next 40 years have in store!"