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# Deep Water Recovery Operations

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Britannia Hotel, Bucksburn, Aberdeen

Bar Opens: 17.30 Lectures start: 18.00 Supper 19.30

Chairman: **TBA**

## An Overview of the Recovery Operations of the 'Ehime Maru'

Alex Fleming, Survey Manager, Century Subsea

On the 9th February 2001, the 'Ehime Maru', a Japanese fishing training vessel, sank following a collision with the US Navy Submarine Greeneville. Nine crewmembers were lost in the accident, which occurred off the coast of Oahu in 2000 ft. The US Navy mounted a \$60 million recovery operation to first raise and transfer the vessel to diving depth of 115 ft. to recover the victims' remains; and subsequently tow the 'Ehime Maru' to a final memorial site in 6000ft. Century Subsea was involved in the first phase of the recovery operation from 2000 ft. The survey scope called for the acoustic positioning of the ROV's and complex jetting and lifting systems used in this initial raising of the vessel. The presentation will provide an overview of the project and some of the technical issues involved in the salvage operation.

## The 'Prestige' Project - Recovering Crude Oil from wreck in 4000m

John Ewen, Project Manager, Sonsub Limited

The wreck of the 'Prestige' oil tanker resulted in one of the worst natural disasters occurring in Spain's recent history. The oil tanker, carrying 77,000 Tm of fuel oil, was affected by a storm near the north western coast of Spain. After some days of uncontrolled sailing, the ship broke in two and sank in some 4,000m. Repsol YPF, though in no way connected to the vessel or its cargo, was appointed by the Spanish government to recover the fuel remaining inside the wreck. Subsequently, Repsol YPF selected Sonsub to be the main contractor. Due to the urgent need to extract the remaining fuel, and avoid further environmental damage, Repsol YPF and Sonsub were obliged to design and develop a group of innovative tools, which allowed the operation at such depths, within a very short time frame. This presentation describes the operation from the initial preparation, through preliminary studies and trials to the final extraction of oil from the tanker.

## The salvage of 'ss Persia' in approx 3000 meter water depth

Moya Crawford, Deep Tek Ltd.

The 'ss Persia' was sunk by a German U-boat on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1915 and came to rest in the Hellenic Trench System. In mounting an unprecedented salvage operation to recover the gold, diamonds, silver, and jewels known to be onboard, Pere UK Ltd. using DepTek's patented Winder System and manmade fibre rope, first located the wreck, precisely cut through and excavated 5 deck levels, to reach their salvage goal.

## 5 Minute Technology Bite

### Advances in Diamond Cutting Technology for Decommissioning - Eddie Grant, CUT Ltd.

CUT are a specialist cutting technology company based in Aberdeen who have developed technologies to make the operation of cutting structures and conductors under the mud-line more cost effective with improved safety. This presentation gives an insight into CUT's work and where this is leading to.

**\* New members attend FREE - Please see over \***

REGISTRATION FEES: *SUT Members £15.00 Non-Members £40.00\* SUT Student Members: £5.00*

Please complete and return to: SUT, Innovation Centre, Offshore Technology Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX  
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To become a Full Individual Member of SUT, you must either:

- be aged over 21 years, and
- show a professional interest or experience in the field of underwater technology, and
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**Note:** If you are a staff member of an organisation that is a Corporate Member of the Society you can already enjoy all the advertised discounted member rates for meetings and publications.

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