

UCi

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INTERNATIONAL

Mystery Solved?

**Remora ROV
recovers
black boxes
from AF447**



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surveys on dredging projects, and cable and pipe route surveys to assist in port design and alluvial mining projects was described by Dr Ir Peteralv Brabers, general manager, Demco. Dr Ir Brabers provided an insight into the theory of resistivity principles and a brief comparison between acoustic methods and marine geo-electric methods.

UNFAMILIAR

Following the morning tea and coffee break, Dr Ouzani Bachir, geoscientist, Offshore Geo-Survey, discussed deep-water geohazards characterisation. Unlike the continental shelf, where geohazards are well documented and site investigation methods are established, deepwater environments are unfamiliar and lack well logs and borehole data. The use of seismic inversion and amplitude versus off-

set (AVO) analysis for shallow-water flows and gas hydrates assessments was discussed.

Dan McConnell returned to the podium to describe his involvement in the DOE-Chevron Joint Industry Gas Hydrate Project in the Gulf of Mexico, 2009 (Leg II). The three-week, US\$11.5m (GB£7m) expedition drilled seven logging-while-drilling (LWD) holes at three sites that tested a variety of geologic/geophysical models for the occurrence of gas hydrate in sand reservoirs in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

After the lunch break, Dr Ouzani Bachir described how the iCUBE 3D volumes converted from 2D seismic lines shot at 50–500m spacing provide increased data density and allowed improved lateral geological continuity and definition of geological structures.

Dr Steve Tyler, principal geophysicist, Fugro Survey, then described how data from a geohazard and environmental

baseline survey within the Bonaparte Basin confirmed a barrier reef complex extended from the Sahul Platform through to the Ashmore reef area approximately 18,000 years ago. The geophysical data highlighted the structural complexity of this area with a significant number of pockmarks identified around the flanks of these outcropping palaeo-reefs.

FAULTS

A system of faults extending along the west coast and up to the North West Shelf was described by James Hengesh, a research fellow at the University of Western Australia (UWA). A magnitude 7.3 earthquake, the largest in Australia's history, occurred along one of these faults, and other faults have the potential to produce similar large magnitude events. Work is underway at UWA to better understand the hazard posed by these faults and to incorporate them in future seismic

hazard assessments for major infrastructure projects in Western Australia.

Dr Douglas Bergersen, CEO/geophysicist, Acoustic Imaging, described the oil and gas industry desire to standardise the presentation of baseline marine survey data for better long-term management of information across offshore development areas. One such template for the storage of information is the Seabed Survey Data Model (SSDM) based around the ArcGIS geodatabase structure. Dr Bergersen's paper presented an overview of the integration to date and discussed how software tools may be used to assist and optimise the identification, characterisation and quantification of marine geohazards. The seamless transfer of information to the SSDM was illustrated with a case example from the North West Shelf of Australia.

By Andy Lane
Woodside Energy Ltd

Vitrovex glass wins starring role in deep-sea film project

RS Aqua, as the UK and Ireland distributor for the Vitrovex glass products of Germany's Nautilus Marine Service GmbH (NMS), reports on an intriguing media venture with UK film company Ammonite Ltd that will see fruition later this year.

"Ammonite, an independent film company based in Bristol, is undertaking a very exciting, and slightly hush-hush project that involves the extensive use of specially made Vitrovex glass tube housings," said RS Aqua. "The complicated assembly will be used to house pioneering video technology which will look at the ocean in a previously unseen way.

"The plan is to deploy the equipment in the Atlantic later



Glass is an ideal medium for deep-ocean use in view of its lightness, corrosion resistance and chemical, electrical, magnetic and optical properties

thermal expansion coefficient.

this year. If it works according to plan, Ammonite believes it will be worldwide news but, until then, the exact details of the project must remain secret."

STRENGTH

Vitrovex glass products originate in Jena, Germany, and use top quality borosilicate 3.3 glass, also known as DURAN. This offers very high physical strength combined with low

The Ammonite supply comprises two 350mm by 114mm tubes for housing power and control accessories plus the main video housing at 600mm by 187mm. The latter is supplied with a special polished rear end cap, for perfect optical viewing, and a removable titanium flanged end cap with multiple connections for power, video streaming and mechanical control.

Rental firm's multi-million high-tech investment

Ashtead Technology, the UK-headquartered rental firm, has announced investments totalling US\$2.25 million (GB£1.36 million) in new high-technology equipment from leading manufacturers including R2Sonic, USA, Trittech, UK, iXSea, France, and Sonardyne, UK.

Included in the US\$2.25 million order are R2Sonic multi-beam echosounders, iXSea GAPS and PHINS positioning and navigation systems, Trittech Gemini 300m imaging sonars, Sonardyne Ranger Pro2 USBL positioning systems, RESON (USA) 7125 multibeam sonars and Hydro-Lek (UK) pan and tilt camera booms.