

Evening Technical Meeting: Installation/IMR Vessels – Current and Future Trends



Report on SUT Perth Branch Evening Technical Meeting
Wednesday 14th February 2018

By Paul Upjohn, Perth Branch Committee Member

The February 2018 SUT Technical Evening at the Parmelia Hilton was co-opened by SUT Perth Branch Chairman, Chris Saunders and Jennifer Maninin with the evening being chaired by SUT Committee Member Paul Upjohn. The event was kindly sponsored by TechnipFMC, DOF Subsea and Fugro Marine.

We had four presentations during the evening from TechnipFMC and McDermott whom both focussed upon installation vessels and also from both Fugro Marine and DOF Subsea which looked into the future of where the IMR market was heading.

First up was Ashley Duncan of TechnipFMC whose presentation gave the audience a look into the recent developments related to the types of Craneage that can now be found on their and similar type vessels as well as Lay Spread developments that again showed what capabilities vessels now have to deploy subsea hardware especially into deep water scenarios. A well-presented overview of how such developments on installation vessels will now allow projects to be developed in greater deeper waters than ever before.

Second to the podium was Marcus Hemsted of Fugro Marine who had an unfortunate battle with video technology but this certainly did not detract from the quality of presentation that Marcus gave. Highlighting that a number of significant technology developments that could benefit the subsea oil and gas industry are already in existence, Marcus identified the need to adapt to what technologies are around and to adopt such technologies with open arms so in order to improve the way we work today within the IMR market. Showing what could be achieved working remotely was part of Marcus' theme with also many 'P' words being used throughout his presentation but mostly coming back to the most important 'P' word, this of course being 'People'

Ray Smith of DOF Subsea continued the theme of current and future developments in technologies within the IMR sector with a very good presentation which went into good details on the current uses of AUV's, FPSO Mooring Repairs and future LNG fuelled vessels that are deployed for IMR requirements, the vessels themselves being described as a main part of the whole IMR 'toolkit'. The benefits of the new areas of technology were thoroughly discussed and gave the audience a great overview of what savings can be made. Ray's last comments referred to the amount of data that can be captured with ease nowadays comparing to the 100's of 3.5" floppy disks that not so long ago were required to do his job, digging out an old disk to show for those in the room that may have never had to use such a thing!

The final presentation for the evening was by Simon Wolfe of McDermott, swinging back to the topic of the current and future of installation vessels that we now see in the market. With Simon having had working experience with a few of the major installation vessel companies this was a great overview for the audience showing some of the ranges from the older vessels and their now limitations to that of today. A quick pipelay vessel "101" was given at the beginning of Simon's presentation and he went on to describe the challenges in assigning certain vessels to projects as well as showing the differences between the older vessels dating back to the 1970's through to today where technology provides more all round scope with vessels of today. A fitting way to end the evenings presentations by highlighting the advances in technology and capabilities that pipelay vessels today can manage.

A number of good questions from the floor after each of the presentations were forthcoming and the discussion continued into the lobby where many of the near 140 attendees remained after the presentations to network and enjoy refreshments. They obviously didn't have anywhere to rush to on Valentines night or it was just that the evening was that good their partners may have just had to wait!!

With thanks again to the four presenters for the evening who gave up their own time as well as all SUT members and along with some non-members (hopefully future SUT members in waiting) that attended on the evening. Also big thanks to Corelle Charles of the SUT Perth Branch team who had her first SUT ETM where she was in charge of organising the event along with help from Jen Maninin and Fiona Allan as well as our visitor from the SUT UK Emily Boddy.