

# Meeting Manpower Demands and Overcoming Personnel Shortages

The headlines say much the same in a myriad of languages: ‘Oil and gas sector poised for jobs and wages boom’. But where will the people come from to fill the positions? Neil Evans, technical advisor Competence & Training at the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA, UK), aims to provide answers when talking at three conferences this spring – one in Houston, USA, one in Oslo, Norway, and the third in Copenhagen, Denmark. Additionally IMCA will be involved with ‘Careers Day’™ at Oceanology International 2014, the world’s largest exhibition for marine science and technology in London, UK, from 11-13 March.

At the Offshore Support Vessel North America Conference, being held in Houston, USA (27-28 March 2014) and at Subsea Vessels Europe (29-30 April 2014) in Oslo, Norway, he will be promoting the concept of working in the highly technical and challenging marine contracting industry as a career option with serious potential and ongoing global opportunities. There are superb internal training programmes that ensure that competence assessment, and continuing professional development (CPD) are part and parcel of working life, and every entrant can find their own level and plan a stimulating and rewarding career depending on their skills, ambition and commitment.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, he will be contributing to the European Manning & Training Conference (13-14 May 2014), discussing competence.

## Careers Day at Oceanology International

This year, IMCA will run the morning session of the Career Day on 13 March 2014 for OI before the graduates tour the exhibition. This session will comprise an introduction to IMCA and the industry; an overview of the marine, diving, offshore survey and remote systems and ROV sectors – together with insights from IMCA Technical Advisors into choice of job roles and routes into the industry; a series of spotlight presentations – personal testimonies from industry professionals such as recently qualified surveyors and ROV personnel will bring the session to a close.

Neil will be promoting careers in marine contracting which offers opportunities to explore the world in a challenging and highly technical environment. IMCA will also be highlighting how the industry is changing from a very male dominated environment to one where ever-more women are encouraged to join the industry at all levels and within all disciplines. ‘We need you and your skills,’ is Neil’s constant call.

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