Sonardyne Adds Cost-saving Functionality to Transponder Product Range

Sonardyne International releases new firmware that will enable their Super Sub-Mini (SSM) product range to test a host of different subsea positioning transponders. This capability removes the need to purchase a separate transponder test unit for use in workshops or onboard vessels.

Introduced as part of Sonardyne's on-going product support and development programme, the firmware upgrade is available on an EPROM that can be fitted in a simple workshop procedure. Once installed a user is then able to connect a SSM to a PC, via the supplied RS232/ charging lead and use it to interrogate and test a second transponder placed alongside.

The upgrade has several benefits including improved equipment usage and greater operational independence, especially when working onboard a vessel-of-opportunity where a suitable test unit is unavailable.

The introduction of a 'transponder test mode' in the new firmware extends the capabilities of SSMs and now makes in-air acoustic testing of other transponders possible. This is considered to be an essential procedure prior to deployment as it provides the user with the confidence that a transponder is functioning correctly and within acoustic specification.

The enhancements to the SSM product range also have benefits for customers with mixed inventories of Medium Frequency transponders. Using a SSM, a user now has the ability to test Sonardyne PGTs, Compatts, older style Type 7656/7866 transponders and all HPR300/ 400 compatible beacons.

For existing customers, the firmware upgrade is intended for use with Type 7970 and Type 7973 SSMs currently using Version 2.00 firmware or higher. All new units will have the new firmware fitted as standard.

https://www.hydro-international.com/content/news/sonardyne-adds-cost-saving-functionality-to-transponder-product-range