Subsea Europe Services invests in technology for next-gen marine solutions

Subsea Europe Services has opened a new R&D centre at its premises in the Ocean Technology Campus Rostock. The new department is led by Frank Niemeyer and has been established to enable the subsea systems, services and solutions provider's mission to simplify the acquisition of marine data by leveraging new integrated, autonomous and digital technologies.

Following Niemeyer's appointment as head of research and development in January 2023, Subsea Europe Services plans to grow the department further with new data science, mechatronics, software development and platform management roles to ensure cross-discipline in-house expertise informs the development of truly autonomous survey platforms and new data-as-a-service workflows, which can significantly reduce cost and provide cloud access to high-quality marine data.

Autonomy and AI

Offshore Technology Campus Rostock is often regarded as one of Europe's leading marine technology and research clusters, making it the perfect location for Subsea Europe Services' next phase of expansion. The new R&D facility measures 100m^2 and will be used for further developing the company's autonomous platform capabilities for marine survey with the *Autonomous Surveyor* autonomous surface vessel (ASV) and underwater inspection with the *A.IKANBILIS* hovering autonomous underwater vehicle (HAUV).

The Subsea Europe Services R&D team will also focus on creating new application-specific AI-powered autonomous control systems and unlocking the potential of swarm surveys featuring multiple autonomous vehicles with crewed or uncrewed motherships capable of managing the entire operation. These cutting-edge marine survey technologies and methodologies contribute to a unique and disruptive strategy that can positively transform marine survey and underwater inspection for all stakeholders.

"Our expanded R&D department underpins our mission to simplify marine data acquisition as it will drive the development of truly autonomous survey systems that deliver high-quality data at extremely low operational costs, without the need for in-house client expertise or large operations centres to scale," said Sören Themann, CEO, Subsea Europe Services.

Achieving true autonomy for marine surveying

Frank Niemeyer joins Subsea Europe Services from his previous role as scientific research associate at the Fraunhofer Institute for Large Structures in Production Engineering, where he has been on secondment to the Rostock branch office of the Smart Ocean Technology research group, working on diverse technical R&D projects. He has also held R&D positions, including research associate at the University of Rostock and chair of Geodesy and Geoinformatics.

"I'm excited to apply my R&D experience in the pursuit of achieving true autonomy for marine surveying as well as supporting the development of the entirely new business models it will enable," said Niemeyer. "Subsea Europe Services has quickly established itself among the top tier technology companies in this field and I look forward to becoming part of a team with huge ambitions and the skills and expertise to make it happen."

R&D facility of Subsea Europe Services, with the Autonomous Surveyor ASV and hovering AUV A.IKANBILIS. (Image courtesy: Subsea Europe Services)