



End-to-End Marine and Coastal Data Management and Decision Support

e-newsletter Winter 2014

A Happy New Year to all our customers, distributors and partners. Many thanks for your support and we look forward to working with you in 2014.



A wintry January scene at Fowey Harbour, Cornwall

Marine Themes extended to the Baltic Sea region

OceanWise has recently completed its Marine Themes vector mapping coverage for a large area of the Baltic Sea including Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Estonia and Denmark. This extensive expansion is part of the programme to complete European coverage by the end of 2014. This data is now available through all our distributors.

OceanWise sponsors 2014 Coastal Futures Conference

The popular annual Coastal Futures event, run by CMS (Dr Bob Earll), is one of the UK's primary marine science events. OceanWise will be sponsoring and exhibiting at this years event on 22nd-23rd January 2014 at SOAS, UCL, London. See www.coastms.co.uk for more details. We look forward to seeing you there.

OceanWise delivers new Port of London Authority Tide System

The new Port of London Authority (PLA) tidal monitoring, telemetry and display system, colloquially known as 'Polatide 5', went live recently in time to record the storm events and subsequent tidal surges that impacted the South East coast of England throughout December and early January. The system includes eight monitoring stations, four base stations and a data feed from six upriver tide gauges operated by the Environment Agency. OceanWise acted as prime contractor, system designer and integrator and provided all of the data management and web based user display and administration software.

The data management and display components were delivered using OceanWise's commercial off the shelf software products, Ocean Database and Port-Log, which have been improved significantly over the last 6 months in response to feedback from VTS and Navigation System Users at PLA. A map interface utilising different base mapping including OceanWise's ENC Web Map Service is included as standard and provides visualisation of system performance and scientific data, as well as access to more advanced functions.

The monitoring stations comprise VRS20 Radar Level Sensors and TideMaster from Valeport, GPRS and UHF radios, and mains and solar power, all installed in a robust EMC certified enclosure. The enclosure and all equipment are now available as standard from Valeport and as an integrated system including all data management and display software from OceanWise. OceanWise has had numerous enquiries about the new advanced system and has already won a contract with Centrica to deliver a similar system to The Wash Ports.



BP Shipping

OceanWise has won a long term contract with BP to provide a tidal monitoring system and services in Iraq. Two systems at Um Qasr Port and Kwharr Al Zhubbayr Port use Valeport TideMasters and UHF modems, and Scannex Ethernet and GPRS transceivers, to deliver system and scientific data to OceanWise's on-line Ocean Database and Port-Log service. Installation and maintenance is being provided by EAME Ltd. OceanWise, in conjunction with Geomatix Ltd is providing data QC/QA and tidal analysis, the results from which will be used to update tidal predictions for Um Qasr and as input to engineering design and operational planning.

OceanWise attends Regional Hydrographic Commissions

John Pepper recently attended the South Africa & Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC) held in Lisbon, Portugal and the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) held in Cadiz, Spain. John presented on the “*Value and Benefit to be derived from Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)*” and the way OceanWise’s services are supporting the “Blue Economy” in terms of economic and socio-economic development.

OceanWise acts as Secretariat to IHO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)

The IHO MSDIWG Open Forum and Meeting No 5 hosted by NOAA, Office for Coastal Surveys will take place on 4th-7th February 2014, at 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. The Open Forum, which precedes the meeting on the 4th is open to all industry and governmental stakeholders and the topic focus will be “*MSDI – More Than Hydrography; Better Decisions from Better Data*”. For information go to http://www.ihonet.org/mtg_docs/com_wg/MSDIWG/MSDIWG5/MSDIWG5.htm

Future Events

OceanWise is attending the Joint IHO/FIG Capacity Building Stakeholder Conference in Monaco on March 5th - 7th 2014.

We will also be exhibiting at the 9th International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA) Congress in Bruges from 26th -30th May 2014. For details go to <http://www.harbourmaster.org/maritime-events.php>

Maritime Stakeholder Workshop hailed a great success!

OceanWise, and its GIS partner, Cadcorp, co-hosted a successful Maritime Stakeholder Workshop in London in late November. The theme for the event was “Realising Real Value and Benefits from Effective Maritime Data Management”. David Cotton from the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) spoke on behalf of UK data providers and users on the subject of Improved Marine Data Access and Use. Case studies were provided by Claude Yvon of Geomod about its Port and Bathymetric Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC’s) for Marseille Harbour; Tom Gardiner of Thomson Ecology spoke on managing marine ecology in a Port environment and John Pinder, the Port of London Authority Hydrographer spoke of new initiatives and developments in the Thames Estuary. The free-to-attend event was well attended and feedback has been very positive. Watch this space for details of the 2014 event!

Digital Marine Mapping for the Public Sector

OceanWise has won an 18 month contract with Scottish National Heritage (SNH) to supply digital marine mapping locally and via a Web Map Service hosted by OceanWise distributor, Marine FIND Ltd. The mapping includes OceanWise’s advanced vector mapping dataset, Marine Themes, which is being used widely by central and local Government.

Dr Mike Osborne, OceanWise’s MD, stated, “We are pleased that UK authorities now consider OceanWise’s Marine Themes as the most definitive dataset of its kind and that OceanWise has now surpassed HR Wallingford’s SeaZone brand as the preferred provider, both technically and in terms of customer service. OceanWise is committed to continuing to serve all of its customers and to provide exceptional value. I pledge personally that this will not diminish as more and more users of marine mapping migrate to OceanWise”.

OceanWise provides Advice to Cefas and MEDIN

OceanWise continues to provide support to Cefas and the UK Marine Environmental Data Information Network (MEDIN), in defining future data policy in support of UK government’ call to identify, develop and deliver marine related data products and services. Cefas, in conjunction with MEDIN is well placed to make this ambition a reality in delivering efficient and effective marine planning and licensing frameworks that include both public sector and industry acquired datasets.

From our Distributors...

FindMapping Ltd has supplied its Web Mapping Service and Tile Mapping services, based on OceanWise data, to industry clients including Fugro EMU, Osiris Projects, North West Inshore Fisheries Conservation Agency and Scottish National Heritage.

"The MarineFIND WMS has proved to be a great option for Fugro EMU's source of OceanWise Raster Charts. Quick and easy to use, the WMS provides high quality charts in a format that integrates well within our GIS systems. MarineFIND has customised the feeds to suit our specific requirements, saving time as all chart licensing agreements are in place" says Richard Marlow, Assistant GIS Manager, Fugro EMU.

Falkland Islands Expertise

OceanWise's MD, Dr Mike Osborne, is helping Premier Oil to develop the Sea Lion Field, north of the Falkland Islands. Mike is providing expertise on all aspects of the meteorology and oceanography of the region as input to engineering design and operational planning. Prior to his involvement in OceanWise, Mike worked in the oil and gas industry for many years and was involved in the initial exploration of Falkland Islands Waters in 1998 – 2000.

Reson PDS 2000 Integration

A key benefit of developing a Maritime Information Infrastructure (MII) is streamlining the 'flow' of data between existing systems, ensuring datasets are stored in their native formats and accessed directly without the need for exported or exchange datasets. To facilitate this, OceanWise's latest version of Maritime Toolbar allows Reson PDS 2000 formatted data to be read and used directly in GIS (Cadcorp SIS). All of the parameter types stored by PDS 2000 are available.

IHO Capacity Building Training in Singapore

OceanWise undertook Capacity Building training on Data Management, Database Design and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure on behalf of the IHO East Asia Hydrographic Commission (EAHC) at the Maritime Port Authority (MPA) in Singapore in October 2013. Sixteen students from Japan, China, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand attended and all successfully completed the training which embraced both theoretical and practical elements of the course, the latter very ably provided by Esri Inc. California.



Training for General Commission for Survey (GCS), Saudi Arabia

OceanWise successfully developed and delivered two technical training courses at the General Commission for Survey in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December. The courses, in the hydrographic department in GCS were provided to both management and practitioners on the subject of Effective Data Management and Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures.



Practical elements of the training were provided by our partners, Caris BV. The Vice-President of GCS stated that *"this excellent training and education provides a vital platform from which GCS will develop its full hydrographic capability in the next 2-3 years"*. OceanWise looks forward to developing a deeper relationship with GCS in the provision of training and other services.

ENCs for Clydeport, Southampton and Marseilles Ports

OceanWise has provided Clydeport Operations Ltd with the capability of creating Bathymetric and Port ENCs as part of an integrated environmental and operational data management system. Hydrographic data is acquired and processed natively in Clydeport's existing survey package (Reson PDS 2000) before being read directly into GIS (Cadcorp SIS). Depth contours and areas are created and combined with other topographic features and meta-features, topologised, validated and written to one or more S-57 files according to a predetermined schema, also stored within the management system. The ENCs can then be read directly into VTS and Portable Pilot Unit software. Similar work is being carried out for ABP Port of Southampton by OceanWise and for Marseille Port by OceanWise's French business partner, Geomod. The integrated system in all cases uses Cadcorp SIS, OceanWise's Maritime Toolbar and the ENC Writer Extension developed by Geomod. Feedback from port personnel, including the pilots, has been excellent.