

LAUNCH OF MARINE & OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE OF INNOVATION FOR SMEs

The Marine & Offshore Technology Centre of Innovation (COI) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was officially launched on 24 October at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP). Marine and offshore companies keen to ride the surging growth of the industry can now develop new ideas or enhance their capabilities, products and services with the COI.

The COI is set up by NP in partnership with SPRING to provide technology expertise and resources to help marine and offshore companies, especially SMEs develop new and innovative products, services and processes. The COI has invested some \$5.5 million in state-of-the-art processing and development equipment under SPRING's \$150 million Technology Innovative Programme.

The COI, which became fully operational in March 2007, has received strong industry support. To date, it has clinched eight projects and is in discussion with SMEs for 18 other projects.

Besides the investment in the COI and helping SMEs to connect to technology expertise, SPRING will also assist SMEs by defraying part of their project costs under the Marine & Offshore Capability Development Programme. This is an \$8

million initiative launched in October last year to help SMEs build up their capabilities.

Mr Philip Yeo, Chairman of SPRING, said that Singapore has forward-looking SMEs who recognise the importance of technology innovation and are able to transform themselves to set new benchmarks and reshape the marine and offshore landscape. "All they need is a little expert help at affordable rates," he added. "The COI is an ideal platform for such SMEs to try out new technology ideas and enhance their capacity for innovation."

The COI is also established with the aim to attract talent and develop manpower. Through specialised training and future collaboration projects which involve the engagement of tertiary students, the COI will work with ASMI to groom and train marine technologists and specialists.

ASMI President Mr Michael Chia remarked, "The COI is a showcase platform for the marine and offshore industry which has evolved into a key growth sector with advanced technology applications. It also serves as a conduit to attract fresh talent and job seekers into the industry which offers specialised know-how and exciting innovations."

Two SMEs have successfully tapped on the COI to upgrade their capabilities so far. ASMI member Heatec Jietong, a heat exchanger and piping system specialist, has designed and developed the first heat exchanger test fixture in the region. This test facility is the first to test and guarantee the thermal efficiency of heat exchangers, thereby ensuring quality performance to customers.

The Marine and Offshore Technology COI is managed by NP, which can provide technical expertise such as surface preparation using laser and robotic pipe inspection capabilities to local enterprises. It leverages on the facilities of NP's School of Engineering such as a ship model tow tank, a wind tunnel as well as automation and control facilities. Three development labs are also being built at the COI to boost the infrastructure.

During the launch, the COI also inked an agreement with six major shipyards under the Marine Local Industry Upgrading Programme (LIUP) to roll out an industry-wide automation initiative. There are altogether six automation projects ranging from process optimisation in marine services such as pipe bevelling, cutting and welding, to product enhancement in plank testing machinery.

KEPPEL OFFSHORE & MARINE SETS UP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TO BOOST R&D EDGE

Keppel Offshore & Marine (KOM) has set up the Keppel Offshore & Marine Technology Centre (KOMtech) to boost its R&D edge and position itself for long term growth. KOM will inject seed money of S\$150 million to fuel the Centre's activities over a 5-year period with additional support from the Economic Development Board.

KOMtech is an extension and strengthening of current R&D initiatives

undertaken by KOM's technology units - Offshore Technology Development, Deepwater Technology Group and Marine Technology Group. The Centre will also work closely with industry partners to conceive effective solutions for the market. KOM's proprietary technologies have generated contracts worth some S\$15 billion over the years, including current projects under construction.

KOMtech's scope will include managing,

stimulating and carrying out R&D, product development, technology foresight, shipyard process improvement and knowledge building activities within the KOM Group.

The Centre, staffed by 30 professionals is expected to increase its headcount to about 100 in the near future. Prominent researchers and leading industry specialists will be engaged as Fellows to provide in-depth knowledge in specific fields.

WORKSHOP ON RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION FOR MARINE INDUSTRY

ASMI organised a half-day Risk Management (RM) Implementation Workshop for Marine Industry on 13 November. Targeted at supervisors and managers in the hull and piping trades, the workshop allowed participants to share and re-align their RM implementation in terms of communication, monitoring and documentation processes.

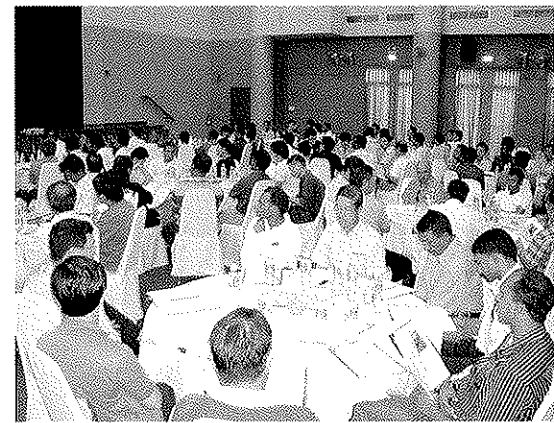
After a year of familiarization and implementation of RA at the workplace, it was timely to review the RM system so as to identify the weaknesses and improve on them. Mr Chandrasehgaran, Deputy

Chairman, ASMI Safety Committee said in his welcome note, "RM is a useful tool which assists us to eliminate or reduce the workplace risk which we may be exposed daily. It is important for us to implement the RA effectively so that it can reduce the occurrence of the accident and make the workplace a safer environment to work with."

This was followed by a presentation on the overview of RM implementation in the industry by Mr Philip Koh, MOM's Group Head (OSH Inspectorate). Mr Chan Kok Honn, Hull Section Manager of Keppel Shipyard then shared his yard's experience on implementing RM for the work processes in the hull trade. Likewise, Keppel FELS' Piping Superintendent Mr Loh Chien Ping gave an insightful presentation on their RM implementation experience for the piping trade.

Following their presentations, the

participants engaged in group discussions to identify the challenges and current practices under the documentation, communication and monitoring aspects of RM. The discussions were guided by facilitators from various shipyards. Mr Mohd Aliffi Ismail and Mr Derek Sim, key members of ASMI Safety Committee served as chief facilitators for the workshop.



ASMI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ASMI welcomes on board the following companies who joined the Association recently as Ordinary Members:

ORDINARY MEMBER

DERRICK SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

30 Tuas South Ave 8
Singapore 637653
Tel: 6863 1128 Fax: 6863 1213
Email: singapore@derricksl.com
Website: www.derricksl.com
Contact Person: Mr Shajahan Nalakath
Nature of Business: Manufacturing and repairing of oil and gas drilling equipment and machinery

PROSPER MARINE PTE LTD

71 Toh Guan Road East
#06-01/02 TCH Techcentre
Singapore 608598
Tel: 6261 2108 Fax: 6262 3669
Email: albertong@prospermarine.com.sg
Website: www.prospermarine.com.sg
Contact Person: Mr Albert Ong
Nature of Business: Marine logistics, tank cleaning services, marine engineering services and supplies

Calendar of Events (December 2007 - April 2008)

Training Courses

- Signalmen Course & Riggers Course On-going, Approved Training Centres, various shipyards
- Forklift Driver's Training Course On-going, Approved Training Centres, various shipyards
- Marine Metal Scaffolding Course for Scaffolders On-going, Approved Training Centres, various shipyards
- Risk Management Course 30 to 31 January 2008, ASMI
- Marine Metal Scaffolding Course for Supervisors 3 to 7 December 2007, Keppel Shipyard (Benoi)
14 to 18 January 2008, Sembawang Shipyard
February 2008, Keppel Shipyard (Benoi)
- Marine Project Management for Supervisors Course 12 January to 1 March 2008, Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- Certified Marine Supervisors Course 2 to 25 January 2008, PSB Academy (Delta Campus)
- bizSAFE Workshop for Company CEO and Senior Management 17 December 2007, ASMI

Social & Other Events

- ASMI Pacific Maritime 2008 26 to 28 March 2008, Hall 3, Singapore Expo, Singapore
- ASMI 13th 7-A-Side Soccer Tournament April 2008, Ngee Ann Polytechnic