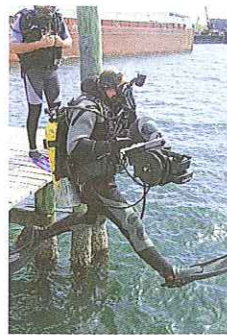


WE'VE SOLD

Shark points way for navy divers

Shark Marine Technologies of Ontario, Canada, has delivered a number of its Navigator diver-held sonar and navigation systems to the **Royal Netherlands Navy** (RNLN). The systems will be used by RNLN clearance divers for very shallow-water mine countermeasures and ship hull inspections. They will also be used to assist local civilian authorities in searching for drowning victims and underwater criminal evidence.

"The use of the Navigators will greatly enhance the divers' situational awareness, their area coverage rate and their personal



Diver with Shark Marine Navigator system

safety by providing them with real-time information regarding position, depth and heading, as well as an extended visual

range through the use of an imaging sonar," said Shark Marine. "They will be able to traverse pre-programmed tracks

and waypoints on a nautical chart, relying on guidance provided by the Navigator's many positioning options, while recording sonar imagery along with video and digital photos to be used to verify their identification of objects."

The RNLN joins a growing community of NATO and NATO friendly countries which have selected the Navigator to aid their clearance divers' underwater operations. Others currently using the sonar and navigation system include Canada, the UK, New Zealand, France and Russia.

AN UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY STORY:

September 1998 North Sea, Norwegian sector

"Taking the mud out of offshore drilling..."

If you could have seen the sea floor back in the 1990's after an oil well had finished drilling, it would be covered in mud and slurry – leftovers from the drilling process dumped on the seabed.

Leaving the seafloor as you found it after drilling an oil well may sound like a difficult task but doing just that is now a requirement – especially in environmentally sensitive areas. Mud and debris displaced by drilling is highly ecologically disruptive. If discharged directly onto the sea floor, it can have drastic effects on the surrounding sea life and ecology. Yet drilling waste must go somewhere.

An inspired solution now protects the seafloor. A high-tech vacuum cleaner lowered by winch to the sea bed sucks mud and other debris up onto the platform.

Riserless mud recovery, or RMR, has helped protect the sea floor life and environment around drilling areas in the North Sea for the last 13 years and has opened up areas for drilling otherwise off limits due to environmental restrictions."

MacArtney – dedicated to the underwater industry

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UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY

