Welcome,

Since our last newsletter we had our annual DP conference and workshop. For those who missed it the conference had good turnout, I thank the DP community for their support.

Captain Joshua Reynolds was this year’s keynote speaker at the conference. He is in charge of all marine inspection in the Gulf of Mexico for the United States Coast Guard. CAPT Reynolds encouraged voluntary reporting of DP Incidents to US Coast Guard and said the reports would be anonymized and a public DP incident report would be issued by the USCG Center of Excellence. See the separate article in this newsletter.

A new event at the DP Conference was a panel discussion on “Preventing potential for DP loss of position incidents”, with a focus on handling of position reference sensors. The panel achieved great interest and enthusiasm from the audience. Panelists were from the DP control system community, the position reference community and the inertial navigation systems community. The objective was to bring the industry together to develop more effective countermeasures for position reference sensor triggered events that, even today, result in DP incidents. Audience and panelists agreed that improvements were needed. A TECHOP is planned to document progress.

2015 saw a surge of interest in “Learning From Incidents”, where DP incident reports are published to share knowledge. The intent of sharing of incident experience is the aspiration that vessel personnel will check for, and correct, equipment, processes or training on their vessels if recognized faulty based on others DP incident information, thereby avoiding future DP Incidents. This has huge potential for the industry, I hope that vessel owners and interested parties will make use of the information to lower risk of DP Incidents.

- USCG is advocating voluntary incident reporting and is publishing anonymized incident reports. See the link http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/ocsncoe/LessonsLearned.asp
- The DP Committee kicked off a Learning From Incidents (LFI) focus in the workshop before the DP Conference, followed by development of a new LFI sub-committee, and publication of our first LFI report.
- The Center for Offshore Safety and the DP Committee will work together on publication of LFIs.
- IMCA, who has been involved in DP incident reporting for many years, has recently accelerated its publication of Annual DP Incident Analysis.

We hope that the pace of offshore activity increases this year and puts our industries skilled offshore workforce back to full employment.

Best regards,

Pete Fougere
Chairman
NEWS IN BRIEF;
BY DOUG PHILLIPS

♦ The MTS DP Committee and MTS DP Conference Subcommittee meetings were held in Houston on January 26th, 2016.
♦ There will soon be a call for papers for the 2016 DP Conference.
♦ Potential update of DP quiz on the website - it may be replaced with DP flash cards.
♦ Two DP classics were retired recently; Deepwater Navigator (ex Sedco 445) and GFI Explorer (Ex Hughes Glomar Explorer submarine recovery vessel) - both are going to be scrapped.

SUB COMMITTEES

GUIDANCE
♦ Working on TECHOP on DP Position Reference Systems.

HISTORY
♦ The DP History Timeline has been published on the website.
♦ We gratefully received additions and corrections to the timeline and hope to continue to receive more via info@dynamic-positioning.com.
♦ We will start looking for additional input from industry sectors every quarter.
♦ In process are the inclusion of water depth records for MODUs and key dates for Kongsberg DP control systems; based on their book “Jewel in the Crown”.

TESTING
♦ A subcommittee is forming under a new chairman. It will focus on key items where the industry might need guidance - for example - black out recovery, MODU ESD testing and network storm testing.

LEARNING FROM INCIDENTS
♦ Need to appoint a chair person.

THRUSTERS
♦ Considering offering guidance on capability plots - how to perform them and how to verify them; at least for wind speed and current.
CAPT Joshua Reynolds spoke at the 2015 DP Conference about voluntary sharing of DP Incident information. He said that “Many of you have a robust lessons learned program from past incidents. Why not share them more openly? I understand there are liability and proprietary knowledge concerns; but honestly I don’t see these as reasons as sufficient not to share best practices across the industry. The kinds of things that are happening can be shared in a manner that respects these concerns. The Coast Guard called for that in 2013 but the response has been sparse at best. I’m here to renew that call. The Coast Guard offered to be a vehicle to share lessons learned and we wish to do that. We are in a pre-rule environment. With the consolidation early next year, I am now the offshore OCMI for every drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. I believe that DP incidents that:

- do not involve an emergency disconnect and discharge of riser mud.
- are not reportable marine casualties under existing regulations
- are not required to be investigated under 33 CFR 141.201(a)-(d)

Need not be officially investigated if the drilling contractor voluntarily reports the incident and collaborates with our Outer Continental Shelf National Center of Expertise to develop and publish anonymous lessons learned. The report will NOT placed on a drilling rig’s record and will NOT be used for increased regulatory oversight.

In short, I encourage every drilling contractor to voluntarily report DP incidents and share lessons learned to promote a culture of safety and incident free DP Operations.

DP incident reports, whether current or historical, may be sent to voluntaryDPIncidentReport@uscg.mil

The Dynamic Positioning (DP) Committee of the Marine Technology Society will hold its Annual Conference October 10-12, 2016 at the Westin Memorial City Hotel in Houston. Click here for rates.

Now in its 20th year, the conference continues to attract a growing number of attendees and exhibitors. We expect 2016 to be a highly successful and well-attended event.

The DP conference is internationally recognized as the leading annual professional symposium covering the latest changes, developments and technology pertaining to dynamic positioning. Attracting an International audience of DP professionals, world-class experts present cutting-edge papers on the latest technology and developments associated with Dynamic Positioning, while DP manufacturers and service companies exhibit their products and services.
**Collaboration on LFI’s on DP Incidents**

*By Suman Muddusetti*

Charlie Williams, Executive Director, Center for Offshore Safety Chaired the Session on Conducting Effective and Comprehensive DP Incident Investigations at the MTS DP Conference Workshop and followed through with a lunch time presentation at the Conference about the COS’s efforts in supporting Incident reporting and Learning From Incidents. During the lunch time presentation, Charlie commented that MTS DP Committee’s LFI’s were technically comprehensive and highly detailed and could serve Industry well by appropriate dissemination and be used to prevent similar incidents. He also commented that the MTS DP Committee had the skills and ability to review and provide technical advice on DP incidents and COS would look forward to collaborating with MTS DP Committee on LFI’s on DP Incidents.

**Offshore Energy Center Award**

The Offshore Energy Center is dedicated to expand the awareness of the vast energy resources beneath the world’s oceans, and to chronicle the unique heritage and technological accomplishments of the industry that discovers, produces, and delivers these resources in a safe and environmentally responsible way. Their Offshore Pioneers Hall of Fame was established to recognize and record the individual and technological achievements of the offshore energy industry. OEC presented their 2015 awards in September.

Among those honored were several MTS DP COMMITTEE members, Howard Shatto, Chairman Emeritus, Pete Fougere, Chairman, and Nils Albert Jenssen, who were presented with the Offshore Energy Center’s 2015 Technology Pioneer Award for Dynamic Positioning Reliability.

The Offshore Energy Center’s Hall of Fame for Pioneering Technology notes that technology evolves from the fertile minds of individuals. It is nurtured by the culture and vision of companies and organizations. The oil and gas industry, especially the offshore, owes its existence to the development and application of technology to solve seemingly insurmountable challenges in the search for energy. Certain technologies stand out as milestones in the development of our offshore resources. We honor the organizations and individuals who dreamed, believed, supported, struggled and achieved their goals. These are the technology pioneers.

**“Dynamic Positioning Reliability**

Initially, floating rigs were positioned by an array of anchors and cables. As water depths increased, these became uneconomical to install. In 1983, Shell selected the Sonat Offshore Discoverer Seven Seas with its Honeywell DP control system to conduct drilling in 7500 ft. of water off the East Coast of the United States. Loss of position in those depths was economically prohibitive, and the risk of a possible oil spill was unacceptable. Because of these risks, Shell instituted a NASA-developed safety program called Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA) raising the odds of failure to four years. In 1991, Sonat Offshore working with Simrad, further upgraded the DP system for the Discoverer 534, a sister rig, using Simrad’s modular redundant control system to further increase failure possibility to over five years. By 1995, DP had become universally accepted.

For more information, click here.
Doug Phillips has dedicated his career to improving the design and reliability of DP control systems, providing consulting services on installation, commissioning, testing, suitability, auditing, acceptance, performance trials and incident investigation of several hundred DP vessels worldwide.

After graduating with an honors degree in Computer and Control Systems Engineering, Doug began his career in 1974 with GEC Electrical Projects (now Converteam), subsequently working as Project and Design Engineer on numerous Dynamic Positioning control systems. Joining Global Maritime in 1994, he consulted on a range of DP safety and training issues, including Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA), Acceptance and Annual Trials, and training. He subsequently spent three years with Nautronix, rejoining Global Maritime in 2000 as Director of Dynamic Positioning and Vessel Control Projects. He was promoted to Vice President in 2005.

Since 2007, Doug has worked as an independent consultant providing DP and Vessel Control Systems assistance and training to oil companies, vessel owners and control system suppliers.

A key contributor to the DP Conference, Doug has authored or co-authored sixteen papers presented at the Conference. He has chaired numerous sessions and acted as the Conference’s Technical Chair in 2008.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK APPRECIATED

MTS DPC NEWS

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NEWSLETTER

DP GEEKS

YOUR FEEDBACK
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