

## Mountain discovered downunder

Oceanographers mapping Australia's south-west corner have stumbled on an underwater mountain the size of the Uluru monolith that tourists flock to see in the centre of Australia.

Professor Charitha Pattiaratchi from the University of Western Australia in Perth said the chance discovery was remarkably similar in size and shape to what used to be called Ayer's Rock.

"We didn't go looking for it," Pattiaratchi told national broadcaster ABC. "It's the same size and almost the same shape and about the same length."

He named the mountain Mount Gabi, after his partner.

## Rescue eyes

**Kongsberg Maritime, Norway, reports that it is to provide sophisticated cameras and sonar equipment for the new NATO submarine rescue vehicle (SRV) and remotely operated vehicle. The contract with Perry Slingsby Systems, which is responsible for the manufacture of next generation NATO rescue vehicles, will be fulfilled by the Kongsberg Camera Division in Aberdeen, Scotland, and Kongsberg Mesotech in Vancouver, Canada.**

The manned SRV and unmanned ROV (based on the Perry Slingsby Triton SP ROV) form the basis of the NATO submarine rescue system, an extensive project by the French, Norwegian and UK Navies to provide a highly mobile fast response distressed submarine rescue platform. Kongsberg Maritime has supplied the underwater portable navigation, tracking and communications system, including camera and sonar equipment, to both vehicles.

# I IDC hands out contract tips and coveted awards

**The second Inland/Inshore Diving Conference (I IDC), an intensive one-day conference organised by Underwater Contractor International and Spearhead Exhibitions, in association with the Association of Diving Contractors (ADC), successfully took place alongside March 2006's Oceanology International show in London, UK.**

The theme for the event was based on "closing the deal", or "the do's and don'ts of getting that contract". The conference brought together a number experienced professionals from the industry who shared with delegates their particular knowledge in the point-scoring moves and the pitfalls to avoid in contract bidding.

The speakers for the event fell broadly into two categories – those who are directly or indirectly involved in vetting or awarding contracts and those whose specialist disciplines are pre-requisites in any successful contract.

### ENGAGING

Falling in the first category were Bill Chilton of Sub-Surface Engineering, Trevor Nicholls of the Environment Agency, Tony Stammers of British Waterways and Iain Cooper of Jacobs Babtie (whose presentation was given on his behalf). Their presentations were entitled 'Consulting engineer as the client', 'Engaging competent contractors – requirements and expectations of contracts providing goods and services to the Environment Agency', 'The British Waterways Way' and 'Successful bidding –

*Bill Chilton, project manager at Sub-Surface Engineering, kicks off the conference with a presentation entitled 'Consulting engineer as the client'*



what an engineering consultant expects' respectively.

In the second category were Roger O'Kane of ADC ('The ADC advantage'), Chris Sherman of HSE ('What the regulations require') and Cliff Butters of Houlder Insurance ('Insurance assurance').

Delegates were in agreement that the presentations proved a special opportunity to pick up

invaluable tips and golden rules that could make the difference in winning or losing a diving contract.

For those unfortunate not to attend I IDC 2006, the entire range of conference papers can be purchased from Spearhead Exhibitions via telephone +44 (0)20 8439 8890.

As well as having a packed conference programme, ►



*Delegates enjoy a chat during the I IDC 2006 awards luncheon*



► IIDC once again acknowledged individuals and organisations which have made an outstanding contribution to the diving industry with the presentation of four prestigious awards.

Osiris Marine was presented with the IIDC Diving Contractor Award 2006 in recognition of overall excellence in the field of underwater engineering. The IIDC Subsea Innovation Award

2006 was presented to Speciality Welds for a variety of innovations, including its Auto-darkening welding lens, Hammerhead wet-spot welding process and electrode and Swordfish arc-cutting electrode.

Don Shiers was the recipient of the IIDC Personality Award 2006 for promoting the highest standards of diving over many years and setting the standards for others to follow and Dr Martin Sayer was presented with the IIDC Subsea Science Award 2006 for his contribution to the establishment of the National Facility for Scientific Diving.

The Award Judging Committee – comprising UCI editor and IIDC chairman John Bevan, Society for Underwater Technology executive secretary Ian Gallett, Association of Diving Contractors secretary



*Clockwise, from top left: Osiris managing director Aiden West (left) is presented with the IIDC Contractor Award 2006 by the HSE's Chris Sherman; Roger O'Kane (right) presents David Keats of Speciality Welds with the Subsea Innovation Award; Dr Martin Sayer (left) receives his award from Ian Gallett of the Society for Underwater Technology.*

Roger O'Kane and Chris Sherman, chief inspector of diving at the HSE – said the standard of award nominations was excellent and that the Committee had a very hard time

coming to its decisions.

All the award winners were presented with detailed Millennium Bronze diver statuettes at a special luncheon held during the conference.

### IIDC Awards 2006

Contractor Award  
- Osiris Marine

Subsea Innovation Award  
- Speciality Welds

Diving Personality Award  
- Don Shiers

Subsea Science Award  
- Dr Martin Sayer



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