

Summers gone (although I'm not sure you can always tell here in old Blighty) and autumn is well and truly upon us, with days now drawing in. Listening to the media about the financial crisis, perhaps the days will become dark too! I don't know about financial meltdown, but our customers are on full metal meltdown, as electrode sales for Barracuda Gold and Hammerhead are at their highest to date; happy welding. Finishing off the story from Briggs Marine and RW&UC; the pile extension works at Faslane. These were all completed and examined by Babcock's and all passed with flying colours. Just to remind you, there were four 2.5M diameter piles (50.0mm wall) to be welded using the FCAW process, on a KAT system. The photo shows the extension piece, which weighed in at over 80 tonnes being lowered into position. If you look closely you can get some idea of the size of the weld prep, see what we mean!



We are pleased to advise all customers that earlier this year (May to be exact) we were awarded ISO 9001 accreditation through CQS, for provision of welding consultancy services. The photo shows Mr. Neil Urquhart of CQS presenting the certificate to the lovely Julie; Company Secretary. It must clearly be a year of approvals and accreditations for us as we have also received formal approval as an accredited 'EAL'



test centre. While on the subject of EAL, our 'self-teach' WeldCraft-Pro® underwater welding course was the topic of a presentation made at this year's IDSA meeting, held in Philadelphia USA and sponsored by Divers Academy International of New Jersey. Great to see old friends and meet new ones. Following the presentation interest was expressed by a number of countries, including Sweden, Finland and the UK to run the courses. The presentation provided greater clarity to the accreditations offered by the programme, as well as the features relating to the delivery of training and the importance this qualification has to the subsea welding industries. The photo shows IDSA members on the USS New Jersey, a 1940's built battleship. We also ran our first WeldCraft-Pro® underwater welding



course in Sweden this year, for Centic Marin. It was very well attended programme with eight divers taking part from all over Sweden. Unfortunately though, not every diver was able to pass the class 1 standard first time round, but very well done to all, fantastic effort boys. Extract Technology manufactures of a range of high tech control systems re-new welding qualifications again for all their welders to BSEN 287-1. Hagh and Ellis welders qualify on high pressure pipe, welding in the fixed 6G position (H-L045). We were pleased to have been of service to Morrison supermarkets (VMU) department again, but this





time at their Gadbrook site, for their vehicle maintenance engineers. Eleven engineers in total were taught to weld using MIG, which included proper set-up and adjustment of settings for all



positional welding, safe use of oxy-acetylene cutting equipment was also covered, as was safe start-up and shut-down procedures. A slight departure from our usual client now, with the inspection of an aircraft de-icing machine; the lifting arm to be precise, for **Terberg DTS**. Having discovered repair welds had been



made on the lifting arm, without appropriate certification/

documentation, **Terberg** ask us to examine the welds/arm and provide reports confirming suitability to meet the necessary standards. **Terberg** specialise in refurbishment of these types of vehicle, supplying the MoD for the important role of de-icing



operations. The **Professional Diving Academy** is now on its second **EAL** approved WeldCraft-Pro® underwater welding course. This makes ten UK divers who have undergone this formal welding programme, that issues approved certification following the guidelines stated by the **International Institute of Welding** (IIW) and the **European Welding Federation** (EWF), with welder approval qualifications to ISO 15618-1 welding standards. Certification is issued under our **Zurich Insurance** and **EAL** approvals. Our customer **Holstan**, who specialise in pressure pipework

systems for the heating industry have again asked us to conduct welding inspections for various **Transco** projects they are undertaking to CTC Eng-012 standards. A record number of **Piranha** safety switches have been ordered in September. Although we are manufacturing these units continually, we recently received orders from



**Advanced Marine, Titan Marine, Searchwise, Abwood Marine, Ocean Kinetics, Neptune Marine, Underwater Engineering Services** for a total of 33 units, all delivered to customers within a 18 day period; a record that we admit stretched us somewhat, but all units were completed on time, meeting all our customers' requirements; but a bit more notice next time **please!** We manufacture three different models; all fitted with an approved 400 amp push/pull isolation switch, but may be supplied as a utility case (briefcase) model, or IP66 rated steel enclosures with or without amp/volt meters. The bulk of this recent order was for the **Junior** model, as shown in the photo and is the smallest of the systems, fitted with a red indicator bulb to indicate when the system is HOT, rather than amp/volt meters; best suited for cutting, rather than welding. Its larger wall mounted brother, also contained in a IP66 approved steel enclosure, is fitted with amp/volt meters, but is not a portable system. **Trim Systems**



order **Lastek's Superstar 400** transformer-rectifiers. These 'hard-working' rectifiers are indispensable when it comes to stick (MMA) welding. They offer high duty cycles, good ignition properties and excellent quality



welding current, and only require the minimum of maintenance. **PT. Lancer RejekiBerkat Jaya** and **All Dive** order **Swordfish** arc cutting electrodes in preference to exothermic cutting lances. We have also supplied **PCD Works Inc** who has been investigating the performance of the electrode and looking how useful this product is on a range of cutting operations and materials. The **Institute of Demolition Engineers** have asked us to present a paper at next years conference, as members have expressed interest in using these electrodes in preference to oxy-acetylene/propane equipment. **Swordfish** offers improved safety and convenience to cutting operations whether above or below the waterline. Watch the video of the **Swordfish** in action on our website at

[www.specialwelds.com](http://www.specialwelds.com). We do of course manufacture a traditional exothermic cutting lance, called **Scorpion blue**. Although we do



have to announce production will cease for the **sleeved** lance, due to high manufacturing costs. We hope this doesn't inconvenience too many of you. We appreciate many of you have specifically requested this lance, but we do still offer a top quality taped version which provides excellent results too, we're sure you'll like them. **Norfolk Marine** continues work in Belfast Harbour using our **Hammerhead** wet-spot welding system, to fit anodes. The system has recently undergone a modification to replace the transformer off the main board, as this can cause some difficulties if the unit is dropped or handled roughly (not by divers)! If you would like to update your system, please contact us. **Planet Platforms** has again asked us to approve their welders for their biannual qualifications. **Tuskar**

**Rock** also requested re-approval of their welder divers to BS 4872-1 welding standards, for a project in the deepwater berth at Ringaskiddy, Cork, fitting over 3000 anodes for **Ascon**. We would like to thank all of our other customers who placed order with us over the last 3 months, including; **Millennium Marine**, **Irish Divers**, **Hulltec**, **Qualitas Technology**, **SMP**, **British Engineering Productions**, **Calvert Site Services**, **Stratton Engineering**, **National Hyperbaric centre**, **Sukot**, **CDA**, **Dutch Diving**, **Terosystem**, **RBG**, **NPCS**, **Cater Trailers**, **Rig Repairs International**, **Posada y Molina de Telecom**, **Moorpark Engineering**. We would also like to welcome the following new customers to the Speciality Welds fold; **Soudcoup**, **OCN**, **Marex**, **All Dive**, **Neptune Marine** and **Terberg DTS**, and look forward to working with them and all our existing customers throughout the coming year. Remember, if you have a welding problem, training, certification and/or qualification issues we can offer you a cost effective, timely professional solution. So make sure we are on your radar scope. We look



forward to being of service and remember to check out our website at [www.specialwelds.com](http://www.specialwelds.com) for the latest news, or email us at [sales@specialwelds.com](mailto:sales@specialwelds.com) remember we're here to help you. Happy welding.....