

DIVENWS

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JACKS DIVE CHEST**

NEW MEMBER EFPPZ TUNESIA

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FEMALE COMMERCIAL DIVERS**

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BENEATH
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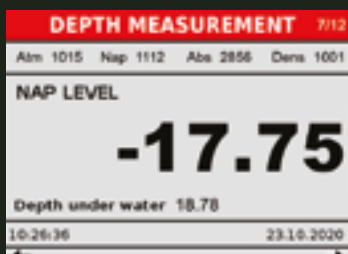
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**The Alan Bax Award
honorable mention:**

- Alan Bax (2017)
- Dag Wroldsen (2019)
- Leo Lagarde (2022)
- Carin Bot (2025)
- Robbert de Bie (2026)

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INSPIRING
PEOPLE





FROM THE CHAIRMAN

LEO LAGARDE

Dear Members,

As we look back on the past months, I am pleased to reflect on a highly successful Annual Meeting in Antwerp, hosted by SAB Diving. The gathering brought together our international community in a constructive, positive atmosphere, with strong participation from both member schools and industrial partners. The meeting offered valuable presentations, productive discussions, and a renewed sense of shared purpose across the IDSA network.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Our days in Antwerp were filled with meaningful contributions from many of you. We welcomed presentations from member schools, industry partners, and regulatory authorities, as well as updates on ROV-diver cooperation, incident reporting, and international outreach.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all delegates who contributed to the discussions on logbooks, Q Cards, and the continued modernization of our standards. Your input helps shape the direction of IDSA and ensures that our framework remains practical, relevant, and internationally recognized.

A special moment during the Annual Dinner at the MAS was the presentation of the Alan Bax Award to Robbert de Bie for his long-standing contribution to diving safety and his commitment to strengthening IDSA's role within the industry. His work continues to support our mission and our visibility worldwide.

Strengthening Quality – Audit Program

IDSA's commitment to quality remains central to our mission. We are now running the full audit cycle for our Full Members, with re audits scheduled every four years. In September, we successfully completed the audit of Jacks Dive Chest in South Africa, now officially recognized as a Full Member. We congratulate them on meeting the high standards required and welcome them into the core group of certified schools.

New Q Cards Available

We are pleased to announce that the IDSA Q Cards for Supervisor Training and Dive Medical Assistance are now available. These cards support the newly developed Parts IV and VI of the IDSA Standards and provide clear, practical guidance for students and instructors.

We encourage all Full Member schools to issue the appropriate Q Cards to their students participating in IDSA programs, ensuring consistent recognition and professional documentation worldwide.

Looking Ahead

With the momentum from Antwerp and the continued growth of our community, we look forward to the next Annual Meeting in 2027. The Board will review the proposal from MECD Egypt and confirm the location in due course.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to IDSA and to the advancement of safe, professional diver training. We wish all members a productive season ahead, with many new students and continued collaboration across our global network.

Warm regards,
Leo Lagarde
Chairman, IDSA



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The Magazine is A4 format printed in 4 colors offset litho.

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FROM THE EDITOR ROBBERT DE BIE



The commercial diving world never stands still and neither does our community. As we begin the Q3-2026 edition of IDSA News, I'm reminded of how much strength comes from shared knowledge. Every article, every photo, every story helps connect our members across continents and disciplines.

This year's Annual Meeting in Antwerp captured that spirit perfectly. Hosted by SAB Diving, the gathering brought together instructors, school leaders, industry partners, and technical experts for a fruitful and forward looking exchange. We also welcomed new members into IDSA, expanding our network and reinforcing our mission to support safe, professional, and internationally aligned training.

IDSA News is your stage. Whether you're documenting a challenging underwater project, reflecting on a training experience, presenting new technology, or exploring the roots of our profession, your voice matters.

We invite contributions such as:

- **Articles on commercial diving;** operations, training, safety, new technologies
- **Experiences from audits or certifications**
- **Instructor or student perspectives;** your path, challenges, lessons
- **Technical features;** equipment developments, specialized underwater work
- **Historical pieces**
- **Updates from schools or companies**

A concise one page article with photos is perfect. Send your contributions to admin@idsaworldwide.org.

Let's make this year's issue a true reflection of the professionalism, diversity, and innovation within our industry.

Safe Diving,

Robbert de Bie
Editor, IDSA News
Chairman, Technical Committee



IDSA ANNUAL MEETING 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

BY MONA SHOBAIR, REGIONAL SALES MANAGER AT
MIDDLE EAST FOR COMMERCIAL DIVING



This year's IDSA annual meeting is with a different touch being held in the astonishing city of Antwerp, Belgium which holds Europe's second biggest port hosted by SAB. Antwerp's location and historic existence makes it a true addition to IDSA annual meeting. Members gathered from all over the world to be part of this one-of-a-kind event where schools and members share ideas and visions to enhance the commercial diving standards worldwide. This year's meet and greet aimed high to the roof top at "Skybar" with a magnificent view of Antwerp port. Members enjoyed the scenery and got the chance to get introduced to meeting participants. The event commenced with an informal networking gathering, providing members with an opportunity to engage with one another, make introductions, and strengthen professional connections.



Leo Lagarde, Chairman of IDSA, welcomed all attendees followed Jo Luyten (SAB Diving), event host who gave a brief introduction. Robbert de Bie provided a presentation for the update on the IDSA Q-Card and logbooks and that this looks promising. Hossam Elmasry gave a presentation on ROVs and Diving which was very insightful. Followed by a workshop led by Lars William Wroldsen. The workshop included a review of the previous meeting's discussion on incident reporting. An incident report format was accepted for inclusion in the IDSA handbook by the Technical Committee.



The following day members visited SAB where Jo Luyten held a presentation about the school. Among the attendees were Alessia Stefanini and Pietro Fronteddu representing DRASS who brought D-ONE helmet to the event and was used during live in-water demonstrations, divers had the opportunity to experience D-ONE. Robbert de Bie gave an update on IDSA technical committee and thank Johnny Jensen and Dan Hedberg (which both are retired) and thank them for all their work they have put into the technical committee. announced two new members joining with a small presentation Robert Venema (Yrgo) and Harald Sigvart Elvatun (Bergen). The annual meeting dinner was held at MAS with a spectacular view and a soothing atmosphere. The dinner was very well presented with a variety of delicious food and drinks.

One of the most heartfelt and memorable moments of appreciation came during the



distinguished and beautifully hosted Association Dinner, when IDSA Chairman Leo Lagard announced Robbert as this year's recipient of the Alan Bax



Award. Robbert's dedication and commitment to IDSA and its standards are widely recognised and deeply appreciated. As an IDSA Board Member, Chairman of the Technical Committee, and Editor of IDSA News, Robbert is actively involved in many aspects of the Association's work and contributes significantly to its ongoing development.

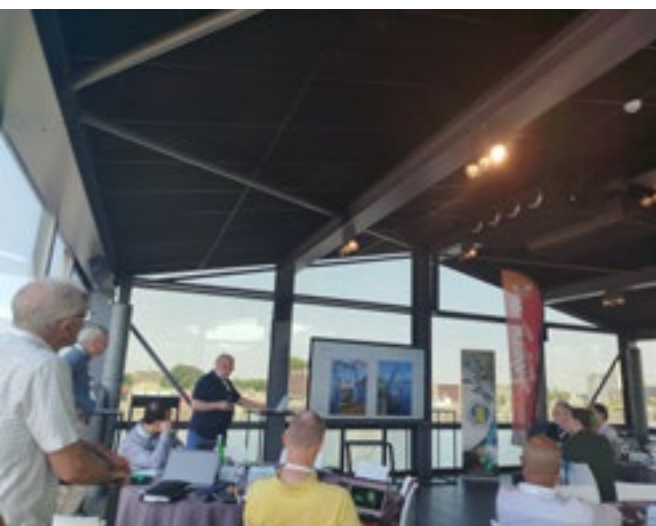


Robbert is always the go-to person for matters related to IDSA. He works tirelessly on IDSA News, ensuring that it continues to provide valuable and relevant information to members. As Chairman of the Technical Committee, he is also closely involved in reviewing and updating IDSA standards and strengthening safety guidance across the industry. Beyond his professional contributions, Robbert is approachable, supportive, and always willing to make time for others. His commitment, professionalism, and genuine dedication to the Association make this recognition truly well deserved.

A huge congratulations to Robbert on receiving the Alan Bax Award. A very well-deserved achievement and a wonderful recognition of his continued contribution to IDSA and the commercial diving community.

The meeting ended with a splendid yacht tour through the historic Port of Antwerp. We were honoured to be joined by Mr. Marc van Peel, former Alderman of the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and Chairman of Patrimoine Maritime in Antwerp. During the tour, Marc shared fascinating insights into the history and development of the port, explaining how Antwerp evolved from a historic trading harbour into one of Europe's major maritime and industrial centres. He also highlighted the remarkable expansion of the port over the years and the importance of its strategic location on the River Scheldt, providing access to the heart of Europe.

Today, the Port of Antwerp-Bruges is a major European gateway for global trade and industry, handling hundreds of millions of tonnes of cargo annually and bringing together maritime transport, logistics, industry and energy. The yacht tour provided not only a memorable conclusion to the meeting, but also an excellent opportunity to appreciate the scale, history and continuing evolution of one of Europe's most important ports.







COMMERCIAL DIVE ACADEMY IN THE STRAND

**EARNs IDSA FULL MEMBER
ACREDITATION**

JACKS DIVE CHEST CC BECOMES A FULL MEMBER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
AFTER RIGOROUS FOUR-DAY AUDIT

STRAND — Jacks Dive Chest CC,
a commercial dive training academy
based in Strand, Western Cape, has been
confirmed as a full member of the
International Diving Schools Association
(IDSA), following a comprehensive
four-day audit of its facilities and
operations.

The audit, conducted from 14 to 17 September 2026, examined every facet of the academy's operations – from administrative documentation and training facilities to dive sites, equipment, maintenance records, operational procedures, and dive medical training.

The assessment was carried out by IDSA auditors Leo Legarde (Chairman of IDSA) and Wim Gerrits, whose conduct throughout the four days drew particular praise from JDC. Both auditors were described as thorough and exacting in their approach, while remaining fair and transparent at every stage of the process. Rather than treating the audit as a box-ticking exercise, Legarde and Gerrits engaged closely with JDC's staff and instructors, asking probing questions and taking the time to understand the reasoning behind the academy's procedures before reaching their conclusions.

"They were extremely professional and diligent," a JDC spokesperson said of the two auditors. "It was clear

throughout that they were representing IDSA's standards with real integrity – they held us to a high bar, but they did so fairly, and their feedback was constructive rather than simply critical."

That balance of rigour and fairness, JDC said, was evident in how the audit was structured: an opening planning session to set clear expectations, followed by detailed reviews of paperwork and dive sites, a thorough inspection of equipment and maintenance schedules, and a final day devoted to dive medical training, before closing with a formal debrief in which Legarde and Gerrits set out their findings directly to the JDC team.

"This achievement represents much more than an audit result," the spokesperson added. "It is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, commitment, and professionalism of the entire JDC team, as well as our continued commitment to maintaining high standards in commercial diver training."

Founded in September 1993, Jacks Dive Chest has spent more than three decades training commercial divers in South Africa. The academy's leadership described the IDSA membership as a milestone that builds on that history while opening a new chapter of international recognition.

**THIS
ACHIEVEMENT
REPRESENTS
MUCH MORE
THAN AN
AUDIT RESULT**

IDSA plays a leading role in setting internationally recognised standards for commercial diver training

and competency. Membership signals that an academy's training practices, safety protocols, and operational standards meet those international benchmarks – a distinction that carries weight for both prospective students and industry employers evaluating where divers are trained.

Jacks Dive Chest extended its thanks to Legarde and Gerrits for the manner in which they conducted the audit, as well as to its instructors, staff, students, clients, and partners for their continued support. The academy said it intends to build on the accreditation by continuing to train commercial divers for the demands of the industry, while pursuing new partnerships and opportunities within the international diving community.

**THEY WERE
EXTREMELY
PROFESSIONAL
AND DILIGENT**





Jacks Dive Chest cc helps aspiring commercial divers take their first step into the underwater world

For some, diving is an adventure. For others, it is the beginning of a career. At Jacks Dive Chest cc, students learn that working underwater takes far more than a willingness to dive: it calls for discipline, practical skill and a strong commitment to safety.

Based in Strand, Western Cape, South Africa, Jacks Dive Chest cc offers commercial diving training for people ready to turn their ambition into a professional qualification.

Its Class IV Commercial Diving SCUBA course introduces new divers to the underwater working environment through theory and hands-on training. Students can continue to the Class III - 30 m Inshore course as they build their skills. The Class II - 50 m Offshore course prepares divers for work in the offshore industry.

The school recently celebrated milestones that training academies around the world aspire to achieve. It passed several audits by organisations beyond South Africa's borders, with full membership of the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA) being its latest achievement.

For the Jacks Dive Chest cc team, this achievement recognises the work behind its training and strengthens its commitment to developing capable commercial divers.

Commercial diving can open doors to varied fields, from scientific and archaeological work to public service diving. Every journey starts with sound training and the determination to meet the challenges of working underwater.

If you are ready to explore where a career beneath the surface could take you, Jacks Dive Chest cc is ready to help you begin.



Imagining the possibilities beneath the surface

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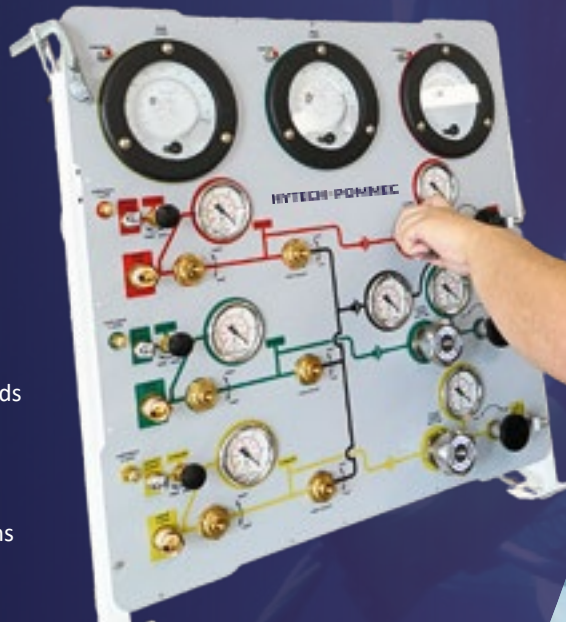
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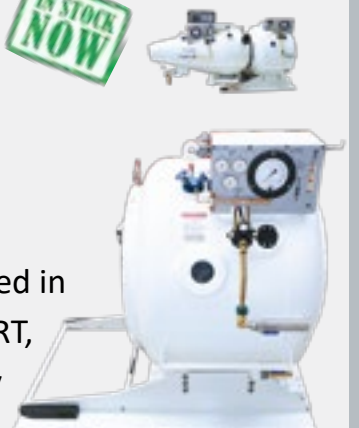
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- ✓ Ideal for remote locations



ATEL

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This **Attachable Transport Entranche Lock** can be used in combination with the DART, for the attendant to entry the dart.



AYTEIN NASR ONE OF THE VERY FEW FEMALE COMMERCIAL DIVERS

BY GEHANE GHANIME EIDS EGYPT



“Being one of the very few female commercial divers in the Middle East has never been about proving that women can do the job. It has been about proving that professionalism, competence, and commitment have no gender. I hope my journey encourages more women to see commercial diving as a career they can confidently pursue.”

In what year were you trained as a professional diver?

I began my professional commercial diving training in 2014. That decision completely changed the direction of my career and introduced me to a profession that combines technical skills, discipline, teamwork, and a passion for the marine environment.

Where did you receive your diving training?

I received my commercial diving training at the Egyptian International Diving School (EIDS) in Alexandria, Egypt. The training provided me with a strong technical foundation and prepared me for the demanding nature of commercial diving operations.

How did you experience the time of your training?

The training was physically and mentally demanding. Every day challenged me to push beyond my limits, strengthen my technical skills, and build confidence underwater.

As a woman entering a profession traditionally dominated by men, particularly within a conservative Middle Eastern culture, I faced an additional challenge beyond the technical aspects of diving. I often had to prove that I was just as capable as my male colleagues. At times, people assumed I would be physically weaker, unable to perform certain tasks, or in need of extra assistance simply because I was a woman.

Those assumptions became one of my biggest motivations. Whenever I sensed that someone doubted my abilities, I chose to let my work speak for itself. I often declined unnecessary help not out of pride, but because I wanted to demonstrate that I could carry out the same tasks to the same professional standard. Over time, I learned that the most effective way to change perceptions is not through

words, but through consistency, competence, and professionalism.

Looking back, those experiences made me more resilient and confident. They taught me that determination, preparation, and a commitment to excellence matter far more than gender.

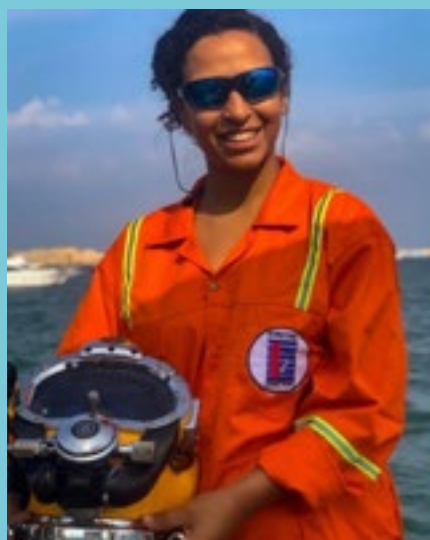
What is your technical background before starting the training?

Interestingly, my academic background was not in engineering. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Oriental Languages (Hebrew), but I knew that if I wanted to build a long-term career underwater, I needed more than practical diving skills alone.



This motivated me to pursue post-graduate studies in Underwater Archaeology. My goal was to broaden my career opportunities, deepen my understanding of the underwater world, and combine my passion for diving with scientific knowledge. I wanted to build a career supported not only by practical experience, but also by a strong academic foundation.

Before entering commercial diving, I also worked in public relations, logis-





tics, and project coordination. These experiences strengthened my communication, organizational, and leadership skills, which have become invaluable throughout my diving career. I have always believed that a profes-



sional diver should never be “just a diver.” The more knowledge you gain whether in science, management, safety, or technology, the more valuable you become to your team and to the industry.

What did you have to do in the field of further education / safety training to practice your profession?

Commercial diving is a profession where learning never stops. Throughout my career, I have continuously developed my knowledge in diving safety, emergency response, risk assessment, operational planning, dive supervision, and marine logistics. Safety is not simply a requirement, it is the foundation of every successful diving operation.

How did you experience the time after your training—for example, finding the right employer?

Finding opportunities was challenging, especially as a female commercial diver in the Middle East. There were very few women in the industry, and many employers had never worked with one before. However, I remained focused on demonstrating professionalism, competence, and commitment. Eventually, the quality of my work opened doors that initially seemed impossible.

Are you employed by a diving company or are you self-employed?

I am employed and currently work in marine operations, diving safety, and logistics management within large-scale marine development projects in Saudi Arabia.

How did you find your way into the job market in the beginning?

I was fortunate that my journey into the industry began immediately after graduation. I graduated among the top students at the Egyptian International Diving School (EIDS), which is owned by International Naval Works (INW). As a result of my performance



during training, I was offered a position as an Assistant Instructor at the diving school.

This gave me the opportunity to participate in real commercial diving projects whenever the company required additional divers. Those early assignments allowed me to gain practical experience, learn from experienced professionals, and understand that commercial diving extends far beyond what is taught in the classroom.

I was also incredibly fortunate to have Captain Omar Ezzeldin, the owner of the company, as one of my greatest mentors and role models. He believed in my potential from the beginning, challenged me to continuously improve, and encouraged me to pursue opportunities that many people thought



were beyond my reach. His guidance helped shape not only my career as a commercial diver but also my approach to leadership, professionalism, and lifelong learning.

Looking back, I realize that opportunities may open the first door, but it is your performance, attitude, and willingness to keep learning that determine how far you go. Over time, my reputation became my strongest recommendation.

Have you underestimated things?

Yes. Early in my career, I underestimated how much communication, planning, logistics, and leadership are

involved in commercial diving. Diving itself is only one part of the profession; successful operations depend on careful preparation before anyone enters the water.

Have you overestimated things?

At first, I thought technical diving skills alone would determine success. Over time, I learned that decision-making, teamwork, leadership, and safety culture are equally important.

Where do you work now (diving company / region / international / work field)?

Today I work in Saudi Arabia on one of the world's most ambitious marine conservation and tourism developments. My work combines diving operations, marine logistics, operational management, coral restoration support, and diving safety within an international multidisciplinary team.

What is your specialty within the diving company?

My specialization extends beyond diving itself. I focus on diving operations management, diving safety, logistics coordination, risk management, and operational planning. My role ensures that diving teams can work safely and efficiently while supporting marine conservation projects.

What does your day look like in the workplace?

Every day is different. My responsibilities include planning diving operations, conducting risk assessments, coordinating boats and logistics, reviewing permits, monitoring safety procedures, preparing operational reports, supporting emergency readiness, and working closely with engi-

COMMERCIAL DIVING HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNO- LOGY-DRIVEN

neers, marine biologists, technicians, and management teams.

How have you seen your profession develop?

Commercial diving has become increasingly professional and technology-driven. Digital planning tools, improved communication systems, better diving equipment, stronger safety management systems, and a greater emphasis on risk assessment have significantly improved the industry. Safety culture today is much stronger than when I first started, and knowledge sharing has become an essential part of professional development.

Have you mapped out your future—are there still challenges?

Absolutely. I want to continue growing as a leader in marine operations while contributing to safer and more efficient diving practices. However, one of my biggest passions has always been teaching.

I genuinely enjoy sharing knowledge and helping others grow. One of my strengths is taking complex technical concepts and explaining them in a simple, practical, and engaging way. I believe that when students truly understand the "why" behind a procedure, not just the "how", they become safer, more confident, and better professionals.

I also believe that diving is a profession where small details can make a huge difference. Many of the lessons that seem minor during training become invaluable later in a diver's career. That is why I enjoy making technical information easy to understand, memorable, and even enjoyable to learn. In the future, I hope to continue teaching alongside my operational career. I would also like to encourage more women to enter commercial diving



and the wider marine industry, showing them that competence, professionalism, and determination matter far more than gender. For me, there will always be new challenges to pursue—and that is exactly what makes this profession so rewarding.

If you had the choice now to become a professional diver—with the knowledge of today—what would you do?

Without hesitation, I would choose

this profession again. I might prepare myself earlier by studying engineering concepts and project management alongside diving, but I would absolutely choose the same career path.

How do you see the labor market developing?

The demand for highly trained commercial divers will continue to grow, particularly in offshore renewable energy, marine infrastructure, underwater inspection, environmental restoration, and coastal development. However, future divers will need broader skills than ever before, combining technical diving with digital technologies, project management, and safety leadership.



How important is teamwork where the dive supervisor is in charge?

Teamwork is everything. While the dive supervisor has ultimate responsibility, every diver has a duty to actively contribute to safety. Good divers

do not simply follow instructions, they observe, communicate, identify risks, and support the team. A strong safety culture depends on everyone speaking up when something does not seem right.

What would you like to advise future divers?

Diving is much more than working underwater. It requires discipline, continuous learning, humility, and respect for safety. Never stop asking questions, never compromise on safety, and remember that your reputation is built by your professionalism, not by the number of dives you complete. Stay curious, work hard, support your teammates, and always keep learning.



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SUBCONN AND TRUSTLINK DATA

BY ROBERT DE BIE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER MACARTNEY BENELUX

As subsea systems become more data-driven, connectivity becomes a performance factor in its own right.

Every year, we pull more data out of the ocean. Sensors get smarter, vehicles go deeper, and real time systems demand clarity at a level we couldn't imagine a decade ago. And all of that depends on one thing: the quality of the subsea connection.

For many of us, SubConn® has been the trusted backbone for years. Their data connectors are built for harsh environments, pressure tested to **600 bar** and deliver **1 Gbit/s up to 75 metres**. Whether it's the classic circular, low profile or metal shell versions, they all share the same DNA:

- **Chloroprene rubber bodies**
- **Gold plated contacts**
- and a design that survives **500+ wet-mateable connections** without losing integrity

It's the kind of reliability that quietly keeps offshore operations running. ROV inspection, subsea survey, real-time sonar, HD video monitoring and distributed observatories all

place increasing demands on the full transmission path, from sensor to connector, cable and topside system. As data volumes grow, we need more than "reliable." We need assured high-speed performance at depth.

That's where TrustLink™ Data steps in.

TrustLink™ Data is built as a complete harness solution: a **19 contact connector**, a purpose engineered MacArtney data cable, and controlled terminations that deliver **10 Gbit/s at 10 metres**, fully qualified at **600 bar**. It is not just a connector; it is a controlled transmission chain that helps protect signal integrity from the subsea sensor to the system.

What I appreciate most is how these two worlds complement each other, and in modern subsea operations, connection quality directly affects system confidence.

SubConn® delivers proven dependability for 1 Gbit/s networks over long runs.

TrustLink™ Data brings the next step in high speed clarity for advanced platforms, real time operations, and

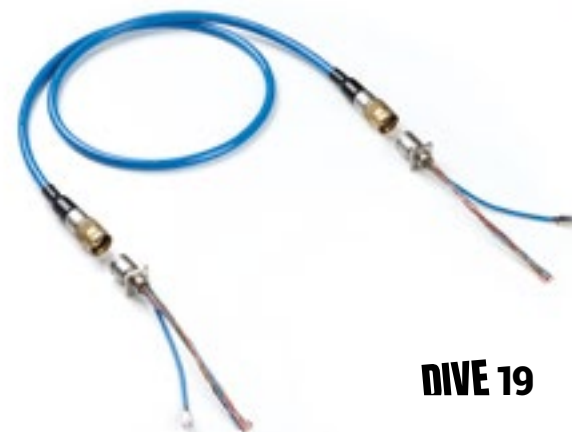
the growing demand for offshore data confidence.

As we continue to extract more insight from the ocean, the connection between sensor and system becomes just as important as the sensor itself. And with SubConn® and



TrustLink™, we have a connectivity toolbox that's ready for the next generation of subsea data.

If you're working on a project where data integrity at depth matters, I'm always happy to discuss what's possible with SubConn® or explore the high speed capabilities of TrustLink™ Data.



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MEDICAL ISSUE FOR SAFE DIVING

By Dr Hossam A. El-Masry - CEO Middle East for Commercial Diving MECD



INFECTION PREVENTION IN COMMERCIAL DIVING

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF HELMETS AND DIVING EQUIPMENT

Commercial diving equipment is designed to provide divers with a controlled breathing environment under demanding conditions. However, the same equipment can become a potential route for transmission of microorganisms when it is shared between divers and is not adequately cleaned and disinfected.

Protecting Divers from Cross-Infection Through Proper Helmet Hygiene:

This is particularly important with commercial diving helmets, where several components come into direct contact with the diver's face, mouth, nose, respiratory secretions and skin.

From an occupational health and infection-control perspective, cleaning and disinfection of shared di-

ving equipment should therefore be considered an essential part of the diving operation—not merely a cosmetic or maintenance procedure.

Kirby Morgan itself recommends cleaning and sanitizing its helmets, BandMasks & full-face masks after each day of diving and/or between individual divers using the same equipment. Particular attention is required for components that are exposed to the diver's respiratory secretions.

Why Can a Diving Helmet Become a Source of Infection?

During a dive, the internal components of a helmet can become contaminated with Saliva, Respiratory secretions, Nasal secretions, Sweat, Skin microorganisms, Droplets generated by coughing or sneezing, Blood from minor oral or facial inju-



ries, Environmental microorganisms, Bacteria, viruses and fungi. The risk becomes particularly relevant when one helmet is used successively by different divers.

The diver's mouth and nose represent a direct route to the respiratory tract. Consequently, components such as the oral-nasal mask and regulator should receive particular attention during reprocessing.

A commercial diving helmet is not automatically equivalent to a medical device, and diving equipment must be processed according to its





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manufacturer's instructions. Nevertheless, the medical infection-control principle is highly relevant: **equipment that comes into contact with respiratory secretions requires substantially more attention than an external surface that only contacts intact skin.**

Cleaning Is Not the Same as Disinfection

One of the most important concepts in infection prevention is the difference between **cleaning, sanitizing/ disinfection, and sterilization.**

A: Cleaning

Cleaning physically removes; Dirt, Organic material, Saliva, Mucus, Sweat, Oils, Other visible contamination. Cleaning is essential because organic material can interfere with the effectiveness of disinfectants.



B: Disinfection

Disinfection uses an appropriate antimicrobial chemical process to destroy or inactivate many or most disease-causing microorganisms on equipment.

The effectiveness depends on:

- Correct disinfectant
- Correct concentration
- Adequate contact time
- Appropriate temperature
- Complete coverage of the contaminated surface
- Proper cleaning before disinfection
- Correct rinsing and drying afterward

C: Sterilization

Sterilization is a much more stringent process intended to eliminate all forms of microbial life, including bacterial spores. Not every component of a diving helmet needs to be sterilized. In fact, attempting to sterilize an assembled Kirby Morgan helmet using inappropriate heat, chemicals or processes could damage seals, rubber, silicone, plastics or other components and potentially compromise the helmet's safety.

**DURING A DIVE,
THE INTERNAL
COMPONENTS
OF A HELMET
CAN BECOME
CONTAMINATED**

Therefore, the operational goal for shared commercial diving helmets should generally be described as manufacturer-approved cleaning and disinfection, rather than indiscriminate sterilization.

A Medical Approach to Helmet Hygiene

A useful infection-control system for commercial diving companies can be divided into six stages:

1. Immediate Post-Dive Cleaning

As soon as practical after the diver finishes using the helmet, visible contamination should be removed. The helmet and relevant components should be cleaned according to the current manufacturer's maintenance instructions. Organic material should not simply be allowed to dry on internal components. The

cleaning process should include appropriate mechanical action where permitted by the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Disinfection of Diver-Contact Components

After cleaning, the components exposed to the diver should be treated using a manufacturer-approved germicidal solution. As an example, Kirby Morgan lists specific products and dilution instructions in its published guidance. The current manufacturer instructions should always be checked before selecting or substituting a chemical. The disinfectant must be used at the correct concentration and for the complete required contact time. A common failure in infection-control procedures is applying a disinfectant and immediately rinsing it away "Contact time matters".

3. Thorough Rinsing

Following chemical disinfection, the components must be thoroughly rinsed. This is particularly important for diving equipment because residual disinfectant may subsequently be inhaled or come into contact with the diver's mouth, nose or skin. Manufacturers warn that inadequate rinsing may result in respiratory irritation and may contribute to long-term degradation of rubber and silicone components. The equipment should therefore not be considered ready for the next diver until the disinfectant has been adequately removed.

4. Drying

Moisture can contribute to microbial survival and growth. Following cleaning, rinsing and disinfection, equipment should be allowed to dry appropriately in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular attention should be given to:

- Internal cavities
- Regulator components



- Oral-nasal mask areas
- Valves
- Neck dam
- Other areas where water can remain trapped

Clean equipment should be protected from recontamination during drying and storage.

5. Inspection Before the Next Diver

Disinfection does not replace equipment inspection. Before the helmet is returned to service, the competent diving technician should inspect it according to the applicable manufacturer's maintenance procedures.

Particular attention should be paid to Damaged silicone or rubber, Cracks, Degraded seals, Contaminated or damaged oral-nasal components, Regulator components, Valves, Neck dam, Communication components, Any area that cannot be adequately cleaned. From an infection-control perspective, damaged surfaces are important because cracks, deterioration and irregular surfaces can make effective cleaning and disinfection more difficult.

6. Documentation and Traceability

A professional commercial diving operation should consider maintaining a cleaning and disinfection record for shared helmets.

A simple record can include Hel-

met serial number or company equipment number, Date and time of cleaning, Previous user Cleaning completed or not Disinfection completed or not, Disinfectant name and concentration. Contact time achieved or not, Rinsing done, Inspection completion: Technician/Responsible person. This creates accountability and helps demonstrate that infection-control procedures are part of the company's formal diving safety management system.

Clean→ Disinfect→ Rinse→ Dry→ Inspect→ Document→ Protect from Recontamination

How Frequently Should a Helmet Be Disinfected?

The manufacturer's guidance is particularly clear on this point. As an example, Kirby Morgan recommends cleaning and sanitizing helmets, BandMasks and full-face masks:



- After each day of diving
 - Between individual divers using the same helmet
 - When future use by another diver is anticipated during the mission
- Kirby Morgan also emphasizes sanitization between users during consecutive dives when possible.

Therefore, for a commercial operation where a helmet is shared by several divers (like in training), waiting until the end of a multi-day project before disinfecting diver-contact components is not

an appropriate infection-control strategy. The equipment should be processed between users whenever the same helmet is transferred from one diver to another.



Why "Spraying and Wiping" May Not Be Enough

A quick spray-and-wipe procedure may appear convenient, but it can leave important areas untreated. Microorganisms may remain in Valve assemblies, Internal regulator surfaces, Crevices, Oral-nasal mask components, Exhaust pathways, Around diaphragms, Areas

underneath removable components. Effective disinfection requires that the disinfectant actually contact the relevant surfaces for the complete manufacturer-specified exposure time.

For this reason, a written standard operating procedure should specify what is removed, what is immersed, what is wiped, the concentration used, the contact time, rinsing requirements and drying requirements.

THE RISK OF CROSS-CONTAMINATION INCREASES WHEN SEVERAL DIVERS SHARE THE SAME HELMET DURING A WORKING SHIFT OR TRAINING

Special Considerations for Multiple Divers

The risk of cross-contamination increases when several divers share the same helmet during a working shift or training.

For example:

Diver A → Helmet → Cleaning/disinfection → Diver B

is fundamentally different from:

Diver A → Helmet → Diver B without an effective reprocessing step.

The second process allows microorganisms from one diver to potentially reach the next diver through shared surfaces and respiratory-contact components. This is why helmet hygiene should be integrated into the dive team's operational workflow rather than left to individual diver preference.

Infection Prevention Is Part of Diver Safety

Commercial diving safety is usually associated with hazards such as Decompression illness, Oxygen toxicity, Gas supply, Contaminated water, Pressure-related injuries, Equipment failure, Communication failure. However, infection prevention deserves a place within the same safety system.

A contaminated helmet may not cause an immediate problem, but

repeated exposure to contaminated respiratory-contact equipment creates an avoidable occupational-health risk. Good helmet hygiene therefore protects not only the individual diver but also the entire diving team.

Recommended Commercial Diving Helmet Hygiene Protocol

A company operating can establish the following basic workflow:

BEFORE DIVING

1. Inspect, Confirm that the helmet and relevant components are clean, intact and serviceable.
2. Confirm previous disinfection, Verify that the helmet has been processed after the previous diver.
3. Prepare equipment, Ensure that required cleaning/disinfection materials are available and correctly prepared.

AFTER EACH DIVER

1. Remove relevant components according to the manufacturer's procedure.
2. Clean, Remove visible contamination and organic material.
3. Disinfect, Use an approved germicidal solution according to the manufacturer's concentration and contact-time requirements.
4. Rinse, Thoroughly remove disinfectant residue.
5. Dry, Allow the equipment to dry appropriately.
6. Inspect, Check for contamination, damage and deterioration.
7. Record, Document completion where the company's quality and safety system requires traceability.

Conclusion

Helmets are sophisticated life-support equipment, and their infection-control requirements should be treated with the same seriousness as their mechanical and breathing-gas requirements. When a helmet is shared between commercial divers, inadequate cleaning and disinfection can create an avoidable opportunity for microbial transmission. Ultimately, effective helmet hygiene is not simply about making equipment look clean. It is about breaking the chain of transmission between divers while preserving the mechanical integrity and life-support function of the diving helmet.

For commercial diving contractors & Schools integrating helmet disinfection into the **Diving Safety Management System (DSMS), equipment maintenance program and occupational health procedures** provides a practical way to protect divers and standardize hygiene across the operation.



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KB ASSOCIATES PTE LTD LAUNCHES DELTA-BRAVOPMS®

A Smart, Cloud-based Maintenance Management Solution

KB Associates (KBA) recently announced the launch of delta-bravoPMS®, an innovative cloud-based Planned Maintenance System (PMS) designed to simplify equipment maintenance documentation and recording, improve operational efficiency, and support regulatory compliance across a wide range of industries.

Developed with the end user in mind, delta-bravoPMS® provides organisations with a secure, intuitive, and accessible platform for managing maintenance activities anytime, anywhere. With individual

encrypted user logins, the cloud-based system ensures data security while enabling maintenance teams to collaborate seamlessly across multiple locations.

The system streamlines maintenance management through simple and intuitive workflows that reduce administrative burden while improving visibility of equipment status and maintenance schedules. Automated email notifications keep maintenance teams informed of new work orders, assigned tasks, and completed work orders awaiting approval, helping organisations maintain efficient workflows and minimise downtime.

To further enhance operational efficiency, delta-bravoPMS® incorporates QR code equipment identification, enabling users to quickly access equipment records, update maintenance activities, and retrieve service histories directly from the field.

The platform also features comprehensive reporting capabilities, including certification reports, equipment summaries, maintenance tasks due, open work orders, and spare parts status. Reports can be exported in both PDF and Microsoft Excel formats, providing convenient access across a variety of devices and supporting management reporting requirements.

Additional features include automated alerts for spare parts and critical



inventory levels, a comprehensive library of OEM data, and pre-populated maintenance checklists that promote consistency while supporting compliance with manufacturers' recommendations and industry best practices.

By combining cloud accessibility, robust security, and practical maintenance tools within a user-friendly interface, delta-bravoPMS® establishes a new benchmark for digital maintenance management. The system enables organisations to improve asset reliability, enhance operational efficiency, and maintain compliance with OEM specifications and industry requirements.

"At KB Associates, we believe technology should simplify compliance and empower operational excellence. Our delta-bravoPMS® system has been developed to provide organisations with a secure, intuitive and highly accessible maintenance management solution that streamlines workflows while maintaining the highest standards of safety and regulatory compliance. By combining cloud-based accessibility with industry-specific expertise, we are setting a new benchmark for maintenance management across the commercial diving, ROV, rope access and wider industrial sectors."

said Mr. Darren Brunton, Managing Director of KB Associates Pte Ltd.

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ROBBERT DE BIE

HONORED TO RECEIVE THE ALAN BAX AWARD

I was deeply honored to receive the **Alan Bax Award** during the annual dinner this year's IDSA Annual Meeting in Antwerp, hosted by SAB Diving. This recognition carries great meaning not only personally, but for everyone committed to strengthening professional standards in commercial diving.

The award, presented by IDSA Chairman **Leo Lagarde**, reflects the shared dedication within our international community to continually improve training quality, operational safety, and global alignment. I see this honor not as an individual achievement, but as a tribute to the collaboration, expertise, and passion that drive IDSA forward.

The warm reactions, kind words, and support from members and colleagues in Antwerp were truly appreciated. Moments like these highlight the strength of our network and the value

of working together toward safer, more consistent training worldwide.

Our collective efforts, whether through audits, standard development, school cooperation, or contributions to IDSA News, continue to shape the future of commercial diving. I am grateful to play a part in this ongoing work and remain committed to supporting the mission of IDSA.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to continue this journey with all of you. Thank you for your trust, your teamwork, and your inspiration.

Robbert





BUILDING THE FUTURE OF COMMERCIAL DIVING IN TUNISIA



SURFACE-SUPPLIED DIVING WITH LARS TRAINING



UNDER WATER WELDING TRAINING

30 DIVE

With more than 1,300 kilometers of Mediterranean coastline, Tunisia possesses an exceptional maritime potential and significant opportunities in commercial diving, underwater construction, aquaculture, marine resources, and offshore operations. Establishing a professional diving training center was therefore not only a strategic decision but also a natural response to the country's growing need for highly qualified commercial divers.

This vision became a reality through the creation of the Professional Diving Training Center of Zarzis, construction began in 2016 and completed in 2021. Designed as a modern training facility, the center offers an environment specifically developed to deliver effective, practical, and internationally oriented professional diving education.

ALL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH IDSA TRAINING STANDARDS



VIRTUAL WELDING SIMULATOR

The center provides a wide range of training programs covering commercial diving, underwater works, aquaculture, sponge fishing, and coral harvesting. All programs have been developed in accordance with IDSA Training Standards, reflecting the center's commitment to achieving full compliance with internationally recognized requirements and preparing for full IDSA membership. Training is delivered by experienced officers of the Tunisian Navy, specialists in military diving who have received professional commercial diving training at the French National Institute of Professional Diving (INPP). This unique combination of military discipline and commercial diving expertise ensures high-quality instruction and a strong safety culture.



DIVING SUPPORT VESSEL

The first training courses were launched in December 2024, marking the beginning of a new era for commercial diving

education in Tunisia. In 2025, the center became an **Associate Member of the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)**, an important milestone in its international development.

To support high-level practical training, the center is equipped with comprehensive facilities, including a swimming pool, a dedicated diving pit, equipment maintenance and repair workshops, underwater construction equipment, a virtual welding simulator, terrestrial welding workshops, and gas production and filling systems.

In addition to its training infrastructure, the center features a dedicated Diving Medical Service equipped with a modern hyperbaric chamber. This facility supports surface de-



HYPERBARIC CHAMBER

compression procedures, allows dry dives for training and operational purposes, and, most importantly, provides emergency treatment for diving-related accidents. The presence of this medical capability significantly enhances both the safety of training activities and the opera-

tional readiness of future commercial divers.

A major asset of the center is its dedicated diving

support vessel, equipped with an integrated commercial diving system comprising a Launch and Recovery System (LARS), a hyperbaric chamber, an air and Nitrox gas production



DIVING SUPPORT VESSEL

unit, and a Dynamic Positioning (DP) system, providing trainees with hands-on experience using equipment commonly employed in modern offshore diving operations.

Looking ahead, the center aims to achieve **Full IDSA membership within the coming year**. This milestone represents more than an institutional achievement; it is a commitment to delivering internationally recognized training that enhances the employability and professional mobility of its graduates. By aligning its programs, facilities, and instructional methods with the highest international standards, the Professional Diving Training Center of Zarzis is positioning itself as a regional center of excellence and an important contributor to the future of commercial diving in Tunisia and the Mediterranean region.

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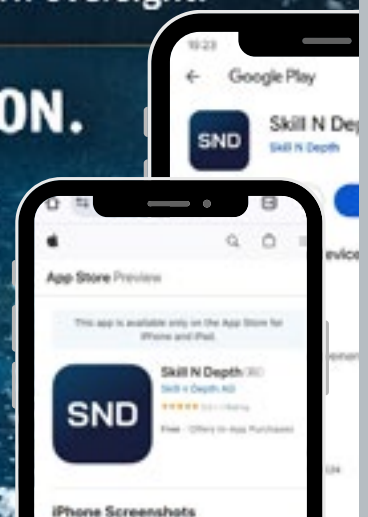


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**DIVERSITY
BENEATH THE SURFACE:**

INTER NATIONAL STUDENTS AT MECD

BY MONA SHOBAIR, REGIONAL SALES MANAGER
AT MIDDLE EAST FOR COMMERCIAL DIVING – MECD



Middle East for Commercial Diving (MECD) is one of the training establishments that attracts trainees seeking high-quality commercial diving education and internationally recognised training. Over the years, MECD has built a reputation for its comprehensive courses, experienced instructors, and high training standards. This reputation has attracted trainees from across the world, creating a truly international learning environment.

It is not unusual to find seven or more different nationalities represented on a single course at MECD. This diversity brings both challenges and valuable opportunities. Bringing together people from different countries, cultures, professional backgrounds, and ways of thinking can sometimes make communication and teamwork more challenging. At the same time, it creates an insightful learning environment where trainees are exposed to different perspectives and experiences from across the industry.

MECD's broad range of programmes makes it a comprehensive training destination for commercial diving and ROV professionals. The centre offers a wide variety of diving-related courses, including technician training for air and saturation diving systems, as well as Kirby Morgan-related courses. Medical training is also an important part of its programme, with courses ranging from first aid to dive medic training. In addition, MECD is

IMCA-recognised for TADS, ROV, and DMT courses, allowing trainees to access a range of specialised training programmes under one roof.

As an all-in-one training establishment, MECD welcomes trainees from different parts of the world throughout the year. Managing such a diverse group can be challenging, particularly when individuals bring different approaches to communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. However, years of experience have helped MECD develop an environment where these differences can be embraced and where trainees are encouraged to work together, learn from one another, and build professional relationships that extend beyond the classroom.

Egypt's geographical position also contributes to its appeal as a training destination. Located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe, Egypt is easily accessible to trainees from different regions. Its rich history and cultural heritage provide an additional dimension to the training experience.

Another factor that adds to Egypt's appeal as a commercial diving training destination is its favourable climate. With generally warm



weather for much of the year, Egypt offers excellent conditions for outdoor and practical training, particularly compared with many countries where colder weather can limit outdoor activities and water-based training for significant periods of the year.

For international trainees, the opportunity to combine intensive commercial diving education with a warm and relatively predictable climate can make the overall training experience more enjoyable. The weather also allows students to spend time outdoors between training sessions and explore the surrounding area, beaches, and historical attractions.

For trainees travelling from colder regions, the Egyptian climate provides a welcome change and adds another dimension to their time abroad. Combined with Egypt's long coastline, maritime heritage, and access to the Mediterranean and Red Sea environments, the climate contributes to making Egypt an attractive destination not only for professional training, but also for an enriching international experience.





At MECD, students therefore experience more than a classroom-based training programme. They benefit from

the combination of professional development, practical training, cultural experiences, and the opportunity to enjoy Egypt's warm climate during their stay.

At MECD, the intensive nature of commercial diving training is balanced with opportunities to experience the country and its culture. The centre organises visits to historic sites and attractions in Alexandria, a city with a rich heritage shaped by Greek, Roman, Mediterranean, and Egyptian influences. These activities give international trainees an opportunity to discover the city and create memories outside the training environment.

For many trainees, the experience

is therefore about more than simply completing a course. They come to Egypt to develop their technical and professional skills, but they also have the opportunity to meet people from different parts of the world, experience a different culture, and enjoy the unique atmosphere of Alexandria.

The combination of internationally recognised training, a diverse course portfolio, an international student community, and the cultural experience of Egypt make MECD a place where trainees from around the world can learn, connect, and grow together.

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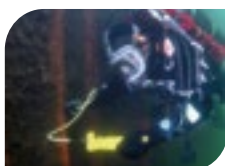
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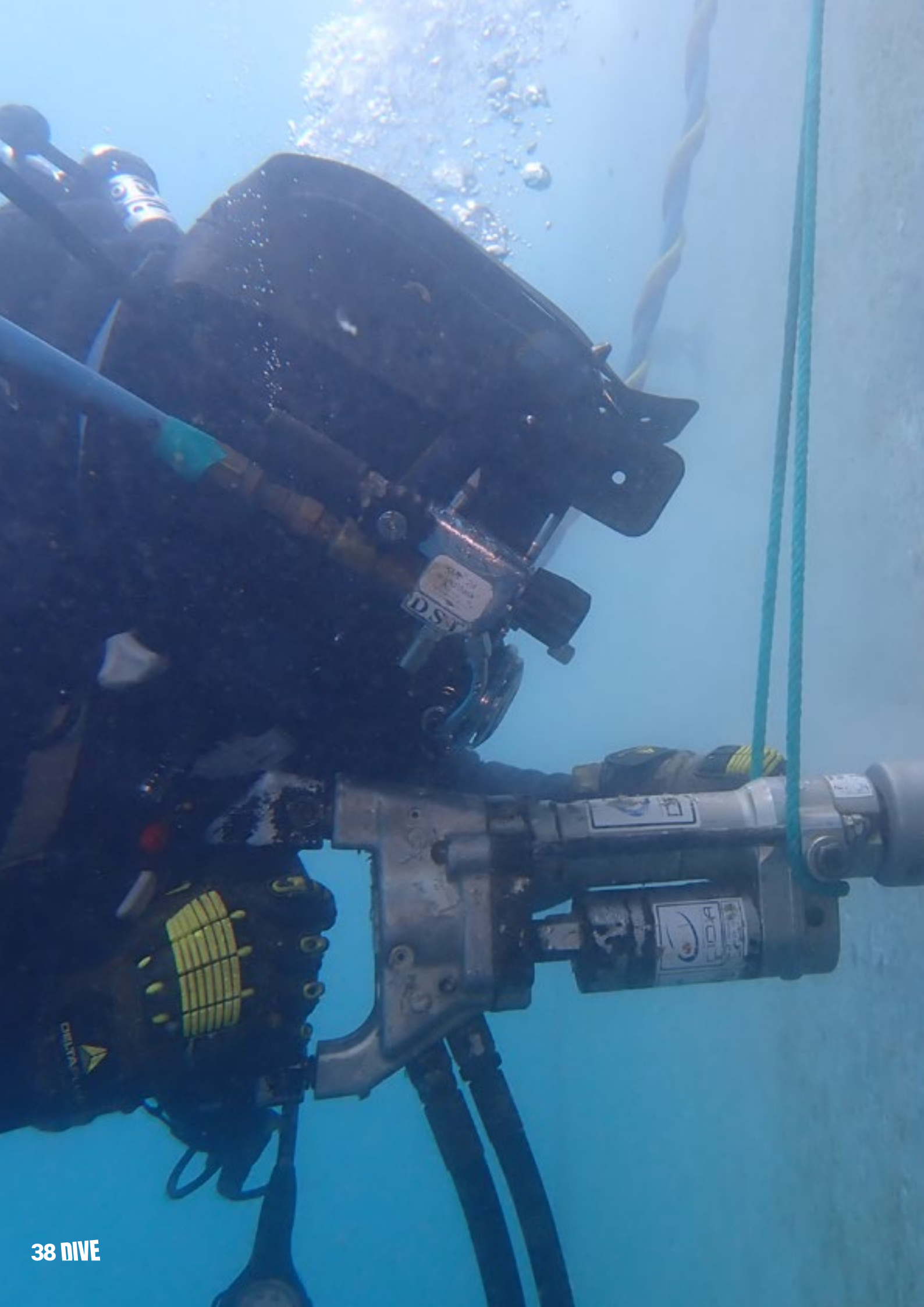
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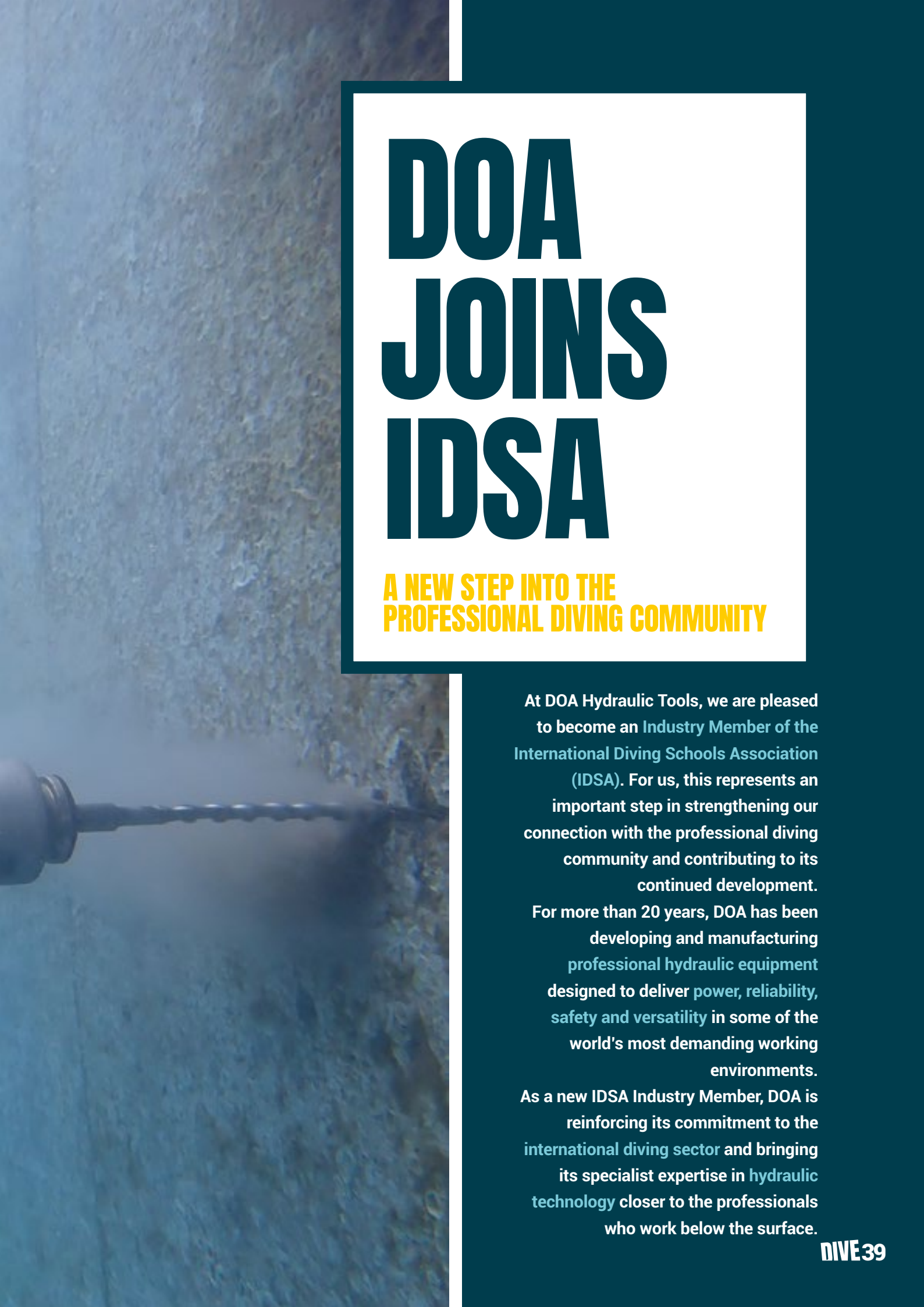


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TO CLIENT
UTILIZING
THE LATEST
TECHNOLOGY
IN THE
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DOA JOINS IDSA

**A NEW STEP INTO THE
PROFESSIONAL DIVING COMMUNITY**

At DOA Hydraulic Tools, we are pleased to become an **Industry Member of the International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)**. For us, this represents an important step in strengthening our connection with the professional diving community and contributing to its continued development.

For more than 20 years, DOA has been developing and manufacturing **professional hydraulic equipment designed to deliver power, reliability, safety and versatility** in some of the world's most demanding working environments.

As a new IDSA Industry Member, DOA is reinforcing its commitment to the **international diving sector** and bringing its specialist expertise in **hydraulic technology** closer to the professionals who work below the surface.

Powering professional diving

Underwater work demands equipment that can perform when conditions are difficult. Divers and underwater contractors need tools that are **powerful, reliable, easy to operate** and capable of working in environments where conventional equipment may not be the best solution.

This is where DOA's hydraulic technology makes a difference.

DOA offers a comprehensive range of **subsea hydraulic tools**, including hydraulic hammer drills, breakers, grinders, disc saws, core drills, impact wrenches and chainsaws, together with hydraulic power packs, pumps, hose reels and accessories. The range has been developed to support demanding applications such as **underwater construction,**

demolition, drilling, cutting, marine infrastructure maintenance, port and harbour operations, shipyards, salvage and emergency work.

From precision drilling to heavy-duty cutting, DOA's hydraulic systems are designed to provide professional divers with the power and reliability required for demanding underwater applications.

One power source – many possibilities

One of the major advantages of a hydraulic system is its **versatility**.

A DOA power pack can provide the hydraulic power required to operate **different hydraulic tools**, allowing operators to select the right equipment for the job without having to rely on multiple independent power systems.

DOA's range includes **gasoline, diesel and electric hydraulic power packs**, giving contractors flexibility according to their working environment and operational requirements. This approach can make a significant difference for diving companies working from vessels, pontoons, docks or other locations where mobility, compact equipment and reliable power are essential.

DOA also has the technical capability to develop and supply **customized hydraulic solutions**, working with customers to match equipment to specific applications.

Built in Italy. Ready for the world.

DOA's philosophy combines **Italian engineering, practical experience and continuous product development**.

The company's products are designed for professional users who expect **robust equipment, reliable performance and a high level of operational safety**. DOA works closely with customers to understand their applications and develop solutions that respond to real-world requirements.

For the underwater sector, this means more than simply supplying a tool. It means having a **technical partner able to develop and supply the complete hydraulic system**—from the hydraulic power unit and hoses to the tool operating at the end of the line.

Why IDSA?

Joining IDSA marks an important step in DOA's commitment to the **professional diving industry**. The underwater sector is international by nature, bringing together diving contractors, schools, equipment manufacturers, technology providers and other specialists with a





demanding underwater operations.

Looking below the surface

DOA is focused on developing **hydraulic solutions that meet the evolving demands of underwater operations**, with safety and reliability remaining key considerations in product development.

As marine infrastructure expands and existing ports, bridges, dams, vessels and offshore assets require inspection, repair and maintenance, professional divers will continue to need equipment capable of delivering safe and efficient performance in challenging environments.

Through its growing range of **subsea tools, hydraulic power packs and customized solutions**, DOA aims to help underwater professionals work more efficiently, adapt to different applications and maximize the capabilities of their diving operations. As we look ahead, DOA aims to **build stronger relationships within the international diving community, exchange knowledge and continue developing hydraulic solutions** for the professionals who work underwater. We look forward to connecting, collaborating and sharing expertise with diving professionals around the world.

shared **focus on safety, competence and operational excellence**.

As an IDSA Industry Member, DOA can engage more closely with this international professional community, exchange knowledge and gain a deeper understanding of the evolving needs of commercial divers and diving organizations.

For DOA, this connection is particularly valuable. As a manufacturer of hydraulic equipment, we believe **that understanding how professionals work underwater is essential to developing practical and reliable solutions** for real-world applications. Our goal is not simply to supply individual tools, but to contribute our experience in hydraulic technology to complete systems designed around the needs of professional operators.

IDSA provides DOA with an opportunity to connect, **collaborate and share expertise** with professionals from around the world, while continuing to develop solutions that support safer, more efficient and more



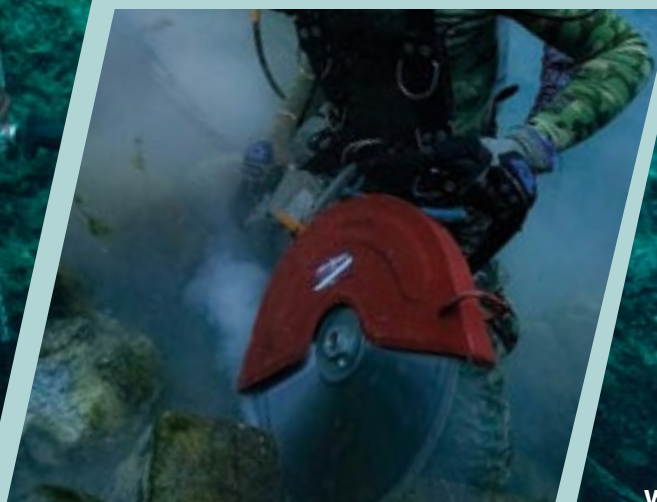
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JUSTDIVE BLUE ACADEMY

Our Journey and Why We Joined IDSA



Founded in 2016 in Peniche, Portugal, JUSTDIVE Blue Academy was created with a clear mission: to provide high-quality maritime and diving training while contributing to the professionalization of the diving industry in Portugal.

Our journey began with recreational diving, achieving certification as a Recreational Diving School in 2017. In 2018, we expanded our training portfolio and became a certified Lifeguard Training School, helping to improve water safety standards along the Portuguese coast.

Recognizing the growing needs of the maritime sector, we became a Recreational Boating School in 2020. The same year marked a major milestone in our history: JUSTDIVE was certified as a Commercial Diver Training School, becoming the only academy of its kind in Portugal dedicated exclusively to the training of professional divers.

Over the years, our commitment to excellence has been recognized throughout the industry. For four consecutive years, JUSTDIVE was the recreational diving school with the highest number of diving certifications issued in Portugal. Since 2020, we have trained more than **250 commercial divers**, many of whom are now working in underwater construction, inspections, offshore operations, scientific di-

**OVER THE
YEARS, OUR
COMMITMENT
TO EXCELLENCE
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THROUGHOUT
THE INDUSTRY**

ving, aquaculture, and other specialized sectors.

Joining the **International Diving Schools Association (IDSA)** represents a natural step in our development. As Portugal's only commercial diver training academy, we believe that international cooperation, standardization, and the sharing of best practices are essential for the future of professional diving. Through IDSA, we aim to contribute to the global diving community while ensuring our students receive training aligned with internationally recognized standards.

We are proud to be part of the IDSA family and look forward to collaborating with fellow members to advance safety, competence, and excellence in commercial diver training worldwide.





The Historical Diving Society

Promoting and Preserving our Diving Heritage

www.thehds.com

What do we do?

Conserve, demonstrate and research historic equipment, research and record military and civilian helmet divers, hold conferences, exhibitions, film and book group meetings, give talks, share expertise.



JOIN US

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Commission for England and Wales
Charity No: 1159032 | Co. No: 9204944
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The Diving Museum

An outreach of the Historical Diving Society

www.divingmuseum.co.uk

What to see and do ...

Commercial, sport and military diving history and artefacts, interactive activities, friendly guides and a warm welcome. (We are also dog friendly)



VISIT US

The Diving Museum, No. 2 Battery,
Stokes Bay Road, Gosport,
PO12 2QT, United Kingdom
info@divingmuseum.co.uk

HISTORICAL DIVING

ACTORS IN HISTORY

**THE BEGINNINGS
OF PROFESSIONAL DIVING
IN THE ARGENTINA,
AT THE PORT OF
MAR DEL PLATA**

BY VERONICA IÑURRIETA HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY



VERONICA IÑURRIETA.

Professional diving activities were to expand in line with the growth of Argentina during the 19th century, when an increase in foreign trade, especially to Europe and Great Britain, called for larger ports capable of handling greater capacities.

The development of the country also led to the arrival of millions of immigrants, the majority from Europe. They were welcome, because at this time there was an increasing need for more workers generally. Many of them were to stay on, including a few groups who were already professional divers; these ended up helping to build the port at Buenos Aires. Most of these were Italian, who could be said to have pioneered diving in Argentina.

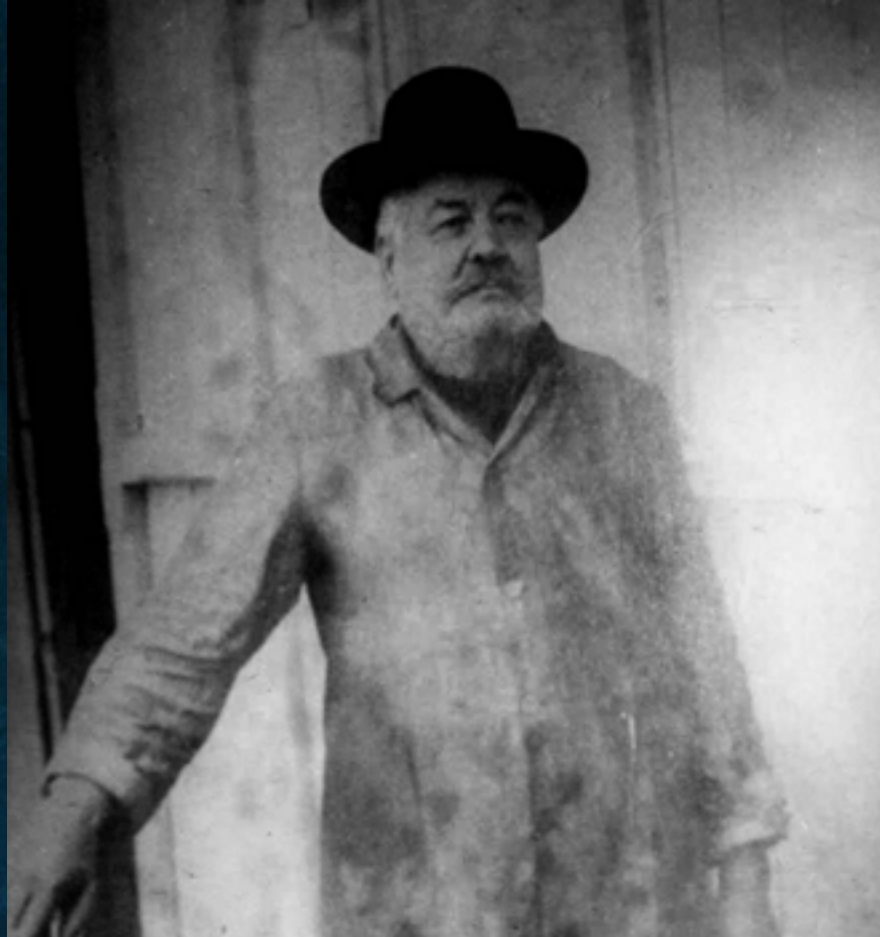
Nowadays in summer Mar del Plata is the principal city for tourism in Argentina, with its coastline and 40 km (25 miles) of attractive sandy beaches. However, when Argentina was still growing at the end of the nineteenth century, Mar del Plata was little more than a settlement with around one hundred inhabitants. Although it had a short history at that time, in the future it was to have a long one regarding diving activities.

**MOST OF THE
IMMIGRANTS
WERE ITALIANS;
THEY CAN BE
CONSIDERED
THE PIONEERS
OF THE SPORT
OF DIVING IN
ARGENTINA**

Vicente Carboni first arrived in the Argentine at the age of 22, to work as a diver on the port in Buenos Aires. An Italian, born in Sanpierrez near Genoa in 1839, he was to be a diver all of his life. While in Buenos Aires he lived in La Boca, a district of immigrants from Genoa and it is doubtful exactly when he first came to work at the little settlement of Mar del Plata. Without a doubt he was employed by Mr. Pedro Luro, who built up most of the village during the 1880s and owned the dock under which Carboni did all of his diving.

As a professional diver Carboni was to work at all the ports in Argentina, though he chose Mar del Plata as the place to settle his family. The reason it seems is that he could see the potential of the village, with its sandy beaches, as a centre of tourism. In fact, his family were to pioneer services to tourism while Carboni, the old Italian diver, died in the village in 1925.

Without any doubt the immigrants coming into the country were to be essential to its progress, as at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, the government began taking an increasing interest in public works. Of the projects undertaken, the construction of the deep water port in Mar del Plata became

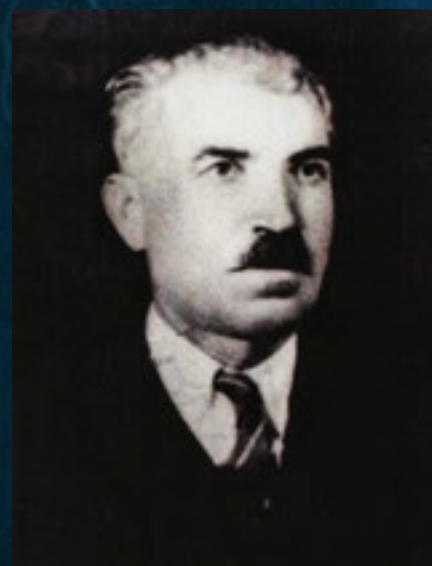


VICENTE CARBONI, THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL DIVER IN MAR DEL PLATA.

the most important, the responsibility being delegated to The Société Nationale de Travaux Publics, from Paris, a subsidiary of the French construction company Allard, Dolfus, Sillard and Wirit, who had already built the port of Montevideo in Uruguay and carried out several similar projects in the Mediterranean.

The new port was to be situated 8 km (5 miles) to the south of Mar del Plata proper, at a place with fresh water

from rivers. There were also a lot of rocks but nothing more. A thousand workers together with their families were to be brought into this area by the French construction company, more arriving by 1913 when worker requirement was to be at its highest. Among these workers were a few



THE LEBANESE DIVER JOSÉ AYUB.

groups of divers and of course, they were all foreign. Some names that



A GROUP OF DIVERS IN THE 1930'S

can be identified include Antonio Olanda (the oldest and most experienced), Don Juan, Daciosa, Piccolo, José Lascienza and José Ayub. The French company was to employ divers into the 1940's, though it is impossible to put together a full list of names, as no written records were ever kept and they have faded from memory with time. Most probably in more of 30 years of working on the building of the port and its maintenance, many more divers were involved. Certainly, none left their personal history and, for the moment at least, their names should be considered as lost.



OLANDA LEFT & AYUB IN STANDARD GEAR.

Interviewing José Ayub's son, I established that he had been born in the Lebanon in 1894 and first arrived in the Argentine in 1913. His real name was Hussein Mohamed Yamal-Eldeen, but he preferred José Ayub. He first became a diver very shortly after being first employed by the French construction company. Most probably he simply learned on the job from the older divers, as had Antonio Olanda. In the eventuality, Ayub was to remain a professional diver at the port of Mar del Plata for 33 years, from when he arrived in 1913 until 1946.



THE ITALIAN DIVER OLANDA, WITH AYUB (RIGHT).

The construction of the port may have been a relative simple task, but it required a lot of hard work. The location was open and faced seaward, the water was very cold, the bottom sandy, there were currents and low or zero visibility. Their first job was to build two long breakwaters which, would then offer protection from the weather while other work on the port construction was undertaken.

a steam crane named "Titan", a diver following the descent of each block. Once in place, he had then to use his hands and feel that it had been positioned correctly, if so then they moved on to positioning the next block. In this way, one by one, over months and years, these few foreign divers built both breakwaters. The southern one, more than 3000 metres (over one mile) in length, offered the principal protection, while the northern one was 2500 metres long.

The fishing and commercial port at Mar del Plata was to become very important, and the French company made a film about its construction. In its scenes from 1914 and the beginning of 1920s show how they obtained the rocks and made the cement blocks. Although it only lasts two minutes, it is still possible to see the how divers worked, as the block was lowered and they submerged with it. This film is the presently property of the Museum of the 'port's men' of Mar del Plata, the 'Cleto Ciocchini'.

All of these divers used the classical



AYUB ON A CONCRETE BLOCK, WITH THE STEAM CRANE IN THE BACKGROUND.

First, the construction called for the divers to level the bottom by removing rocks. With this finished, they then began positioning hundreds of cement blocks, each of 30 or 40 tonnes. These were raised, positioned and then lowered into place by

diving equipment, and no great water depth was involved. They were to spend all their life as divers at Mar del Plata's port, yet only a few photographs and scenes of the film show them and their equipment. It is a pity that their efforts are still

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© MMXXV Kirby Morgan Dive Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. www.kirbymorgan.com ® Registered Design Trademark, U.S. Patent Office, EU and other foreign Registrations. U.S. and foreign patents have been issued for these products.

largely unknown, even to the 'port's men' and to local history. All that is known for sure, is that the first professional diving at Mar del Plata in the Argentine was carried out by Italians and Lebanese.

Mar del Plata was to become a very important city to the development of diving generally in South America during the 20th century, due to the presence of a naval force. The naval diving school began its first diving course in November 8th, 1921, teaching the use of the standard di-

ter a two week course at the diving school of the local naval base. Her aim had been to enter the navy and, as a civilian teacher, it was considered that she would have a minimal knowledge of diving. However, to the surprise of the military divers she took second place, which unfortunately was still not good enough as there was only one place available. Perhaps it was fortunate because what she discovered during those two weeks was that she could bring her two passions together; history and diving.



UNDATED POSTCARD OF THE PORT OF MAR DEL PLATA, SHOWING THE BREAKWATERS.

ving dress, not only to members of the armed forces but also to civilian professionals, especially from other countries such as Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Uruguay. In 1950 Mar del Plata became the home of Eugenio Wolk, the founder of the special Italian frogmen divers of the Second World War. Because of this the diving school at Mar del Plata now has a very important place in the history of diving in South America.

About the author

Veronica Iñurrieta, who is now in her fifties, was born in Mar del Plata. She graduated as a history teacher in 1989 and since then has worked in public schools. Although she first took a diving course in 1995, she dates her consuming interest in diving history from November 2000, when she took a series of tests af-

None of this has been without problems, as she works alone in her spare time and consequently progress is slow. Much of the information that she knew would be of interest she found was either widely dispersed or lost altogether, as in the case of army records. In the eventuality her most useful source turned out to be the retirement records of divers, held in the naval base; which is why she required permission to study them.

Veronica says that the structure of the branch of the army who carried diving work, saw an enormous gap between officers and men. So, while there are a number of books on naval history available to her, they were all written by officers. The men did not write books, which is why she began gathering oral histories, with which to hopefully fill the holes in local diving history and assure its continuity. Based on her work so far, Veronica has written a book on the history of diving in Mar del Plata - in Spanish.

The necessary permissions were subsequently granted for her to gather information together for a book on diving history and December 2000 saw her carry out her first interview with an 'old' diver, as she begun her search into the history of diving in Mar del Plata. Today, she says that she has more than 50 cassettes of interviews, with around 40 interviewees already interpreted and rewritten, together with a large number of folders full of other information.

Finally, why does she really have an interest in the local history of diving? For her it is very simple. She too is a diver in the same cold water and low visibility of the South Atlantic. She loves history and consequently found that stories of the divers to be very emotional. Someone she felt, should at least try to put their exploits on record for future generations. As she put it, 'Divers are actors in history'.



RE-AUDIT OF CEDIFOP ITALY



In the port of Palermo, where the sea reflects the movement of cranes and ships in constant motion, an important meeting took place that underscored the connection between underwater professionalism and the safety of maritime infrastructure. In recent days, Luciano Caddemi, head of the Operational and Security Area of the Port System Authority of the Western Sicilian Sea, welcomed a distinguished delegation from the International Diving Schools Association. Their visit coincided with the periodic audit at the Cedifop Studies Centre, the professional diving institute operating inside the port and the only IDSA Full Member in Italy.

The delegation included IDSA Chairman Leo Lagarde and auditor Wim Gerrits, who had travelled from the Netherlands to evaluate Cedifop's training processes. They were joined by Cedifop director Manos Kouvakis and instructor Francesco Costantino. Together, they discussed the importance of employing operators trained to international standards, the only standards capable of ensuring complex underwater interventions carried out in full compliance with Legislative Decree 81/08 and Regional Law 7/2016.

Engineer Caddemi paid particular attention to the training pathways that lead to IDSA Level 3 certification, the same level recommended by IMCA for offshore work. The message that emerged from the meeting was clear: the safety of the port depends on the professionalism of

those who work beneath the surface. The May audit was not simply a technical review of logbooks and student exercises. It became a moment in which the operational needs of the port and the regulatory framework governing commercial diving were brought together. In a sector where improvisation can lead to tragic consequences, as recent events have sadly shown, cooperation between international certification bodies, high level training schools, and maritime authorities remains essential for protecting human life and safeguarding the marine environment.

The meeting took place at a decisive moment in the port of Palermo. Under the guidance of the Port System Authority, the port is undergoing a broad process of infrastructural and managerial renewal. In recent years,

**THE SAFETY
OF THE PORT
DEPENDS ON
THE PROFESSIONALISM OF
THOSE WHO
WORK BENEATH
THE SURFACE**

the Authority has launched strategic projects aimed at modernizing port facilities, strengthening operational safety, and increasing competitiveness in the Mediterranean.

For the Port System Authority of the Western Sicilian Sea, investing in safety and skills is not only a regulatory obligation. It is a defining element of the new direction the port is taking, one increasingly aligned with European standards, sustainability, and high quality services.



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- 2 x camera (AxSEE30)
- 2 x light (AxLIGHT35)
- 1 x Combox with black box recording (AxTALK)
 - 2 x HP hose optional up to 30m length
 - 2 x LP-hose for oxygen optional up to 30m
length
- 2 x Harness (Aquavest, MK5,...)
- 3 x Umbilical configured up to 120m
- 2 x 7ltr. 300bar Bailout kit with Quick Disconnect
incl. 1st stage, LP hose & pressure gauge
- 2 x High Flow Oxygen Reducer (Frost resistant)
- 12 x 3kg lead

Already sold to several
governmental entities.



The IDSA QCard:

STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONALISM ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF COMMERCIAL DIVING

BY ROBBERT DE BIE

The IDSA QCard has long been recognised as your passport to the underwater world as verified, traceable proof of training, competence, and safety. But with the introduction of the Supervisor QCard and the Dive Medical Assistance QCard, the system now supports the full professional spectrum of commercial diving: divers, supervisors, instructors, and medical support personnel.

The Expanding Value of the IDSA QCard

Every IDSA QCard issued by a Full Member is authentic, traceable, and backed by an audited training organisation.

This verification is essential in a global industry where divers move between countries, companies, and operational environments. The QCard provides:

- **Proof of verified training**
- **Instant recognition across borders**
- **Enhanced safety and reduced operational risk**
- **Clear competence levels for employers**

With the arrival of **Part IV (Supervisor Training)** and **Part VI (Dive Medical Assistance)**, two new QCards have been added:

- **Supervisor QCard**
- **Dive Medical Assistance QCard**

These cards formalize roles that are critical for safe diving operations and ensure that supervisors and medical support personnel meet IDSA's rigorous standards.

The Logbook: Your Professional & Legal Proof

The presentation emphasises a simple truth:

"Your logbook is your résumé on the job." "No log = no proof."

Whether you are a diver, supervisor, or instructor, your logbook is not optional, it is essential.

Why every professional must maintain a complete logbook

- **Proof of experience for future contracts**

- **Credibility during promotions or qualification reviews**
- **Support during disputes or insurance claims**
- **Verification for safety officers and auditors**

QCard Growth 2022–2026

The presentation shows a clear upward trend in QCard issuance across all levels. For example:

"IDSA Level 3 – 212 cards issued YTD 2026."

This growth reflects stronger global recognition of IDSA standards and increasing trust in the QCard system.

The Message to All Professionals

Whether you are a diver, supervisor, instructor, or medical support professional:

IDSA

Use your QCard. Maintain your logbook. Protect your career.

These tools are not administrative extras, they are essential components of professional diving safety, competence, and credibility.

Looking Ahead

With new QCards, updated standards, and stronger verification systems, IDSA continues to build a unified, safe, and internationally recognized framework for commercial diving.



Apox



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IDSA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The IDSA Technical Committee now consisting of Chairman Robbert de Bie, Hossam Elmasry, Robert Venema, and Harald Sigva Elvatun, would like to provide an update on the ongoing development of the IDSA Standards and associated safety tools.

During the Annual Meeting, two long serving members stepped down from their roles. We extend our sincere appreciation to Johnny Jensen and Dan Hedberg for their dedication, expertise, and many years of contribution to the development and refinement of the IDSA Standards. Their work has strengthened the foundation of safe and consistent commercial diving practices worldwide.

Progress on Standards and New Additions **Parts I, II, and III**

Parts I, II, and III are in operation, and we want to remind everyone that these documents are living standards. Your operational experience is essential for continuous improvement.

Members are encouraged to share:

- **Comments**
- **Practical observations**
- **Suggestions for clarity**
- **Concerns about implementation**
- **Operational challenges**

New Sections approved

Two important sections have pro-

gressed to external review and have been distributed to all IDSA Full Members:

- **Part IV – Supervisor Training.**
- **Part VI – Dive Medical Assistance**

Incident Reporting **– Approved for Inclusion**

A significant development this period is the formal approval to include incident reporting procedures within the IDSA Standards. This addition will support transparency, learning, and continuous improvement across all member organization's.

Incident reporting will be integrated into the standards framework in the upcoming revision cycle.

New IDSA Q Cards

Two new Q cards are nearly completed and can be distributed when requested by Full Members:

- **Supervisor Q Card**
- **Dive Medical Assistance Q Card**

Your Input Remains Essential

The Technical Committee relies on member participation to ensure the



standards remain practical, relevant, and aligned with international best practice.

We welcome:

- **Questions about content or interpretation**
- **Suggestions for improvements or additions**
- **Clarification requests**
- **Implementation challenges**
- **Technical concerns related to education, safety, or operations**

All remarks can be sent directly to admin@idsaworldwide.org.

Together Toward a Safer Diving Industry

IDSA's strength lies in the shared expertise of its members. With new committee members, expanded standards, and improved safety tools, we continue building a unified, future focused framework for safe commercial diving worldwide.



**KNOWLEDGE
SHARED IS
SAFETY GAINED.
TOGETHER,
WE ENSURE
SAFE DIVING.**



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IDSA MEMBERS LIST

Full Members	Country	IDSA Level
SAB AKVO	Belgium	3
Arab Academy for Science Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt	3
Egyptian International Diving School (EIDS)	Egypt	3
Middle East for Commercial Diving (MECD)	Egypt	3
Luksia Sukellusala	Finland	2
Ecole Nationale des Scaphandriers (ENS)	France	3
Hellenic Commercial Diving Academy	Greece	3
The Irish Navy Diving School	Ireland	3
Centro Studi CEDIFOP	Italy	3
Foundation NOK	Netherlands	3
Norwegian Commercial Diving School, Oslo (NYD)	Norway	4
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Diver Education (HVL)	Norway	3
OSNZ FROG	Poland	2
Jacks Dive Chest CC	South Africa	3
Oceanos Escuela de Buceo Profesional SL	Spain	3
Commercial Diving School of Gothenburg (YRGO)	Sweden	3
KBA Training Center PTE Ltd	Singapore	Specialist Diving Training

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Cente IFAPME de Dinant	Belgium
Central African Diving Institute	Cameroon
EUC Nordvest North Sea College	Denmark
Centre Activities Plongee de Trebeurden (CAP)	France
Deep Divers Commercial Diving Academy	Greece
Ganpat University	India
Neel Diving Acadamy	India
Nirvidhi Marine Private Limited	India
Ruthampara Commercial Diving Institute	India
Irish Sea Fisheries Board (BIM)	Ireland
Kerry Education and Training Board	Ireland
Idea Kuwait	Kuwait
Divestuff Ventures	Malaysia
Regional Centre for Underwater Demolition (RCUD)	Montenegro
Nitrox SARL	Morocco
Mieka Dive Training Institute	Nigeria
SUBWEB Technical Academy Limited	Nigeria
Just dive Academy	Portugal
ANRSPS (Asociatia Nationala Romana a Scafandrilor Profesioniști și Sportivi)	Romenia
PROfessional Diving Service	Switzerland
Professional Diving training center	Tunesia
DDS Project	Turkey
T.C. Piri Reis University	Turkey

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Dive Marine Services (Gibraltar) LTD	Gibraltar
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DOA Srl	Italy
Drafinsub Underwater Technology Srl.	Italy
Hytech-Pommec B.V.	Netherlands
MacArtney Benelux BV	Netherlands
Norwegian Association of Underwater Entreprenurs (NBU)	Norway
Commercial Diving Panama	Panama
Alpha OMQ Company	Saudi Arabia
Deep Ocean Marine Company	Saudi Arabia
Aquamont Service	Serbia
Subservices SL	Spain
Interspiro AB	Sweden
Skill N Depth AG	Switzerland
Aries Underwater Solutions LLC	United Arab Emirates
Atlantis Marine Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
Gulf Marine Contracting FZE	United Arab Emirates
HHA Diving Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
ISEAS, Integrated Subsea Engineering and Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
JVS Diving and Marine Services LLC	United Arab Emirates
SmartDives LCC	United Arab Emirates
Kirby Morgen Dive Systems Inc.	USA

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Association of Diving Contractors (ADC)	UK
Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI)	USA

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