# Xblue

Subsea Positioning and Communication Solutions Sea Tech Week - October 2018

#### iXblue expertise is positioning and navigation



Photonics







Underwater acoustics



**Mechatronics** 



Ship building



Survey operations









Principles of subsea positioning

- INS, Inertial Navigation Systems
- LBL, Long BaseLine acoustic positioning systems
- USBL, Ultra Short BaseLine positioning systems









C3 C5 C7 PHINS COMPACT SERIES



QUADRANS OCTANS PHINS

M3 M5 M7 MARINS SERIES





URSA LYRA VEGA ADVANS SERIES









ATLANS C AIRINS

### INERTIAL PRODUCTS RANGE

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#### Principles of subsea positioning



• INS performance depends on:

- Inertial sensor class
- Aiding sensor nature (USBL, LBL, DVL...)
- Travelled distance / trajectory (DVL, sparse)
- INS-DVL position accuracy is specified in percent of the travelled distance (% TD)





#### Principles of subsea positioning

#### • In LBL mode...

- Ranging measurement to fixed transponders
- Algorithm calculates the resulting position
- Possible combination with inertial navigation system:
  - Robustness
  - Sparse array navigation
  - Increase positioning accuracy
- 😕 Require to deploy fixed transponders on the seabed
- 😕 Require to box-in the fixed transponders
- ③ **Decimetric** positioning accuracy whatever the water depth
- ③ Autonomous positioning method





#### Principles of subsea positioning

- In USBL mode ...
  - Slant range + bearing estimation
  - Estimation of the position of the transponder
  - Possible combination with inertial navigation system:
    - Robustness
    - Increase positioning accuracy
- ② Does not require to deploy fixed transponders on the seabed
- ② Does not require to box-in the fixed transponders
- 😕 Positioning accuracy is a % of slant range (typically 1m at 1,000m WD)
- 😕 Position of the transponder is known remotely





#### iXblue offer

- Master each technology individually
- Combine them and provide a robust system
- Reach simplicity and performance







A range of sensors

INS

**POSIDONIA** 



**GAPS** The fully integrated, portable and pre-calibrated USBL for universal applications

**RAMSES** An Acoustic Synthetic BaseLine positioning system, a complementary approach to LBL

**Transponders** Low or medium frequency transponders to operate with iXblue acoustic systems



#### A new smart transponder for all applications

- Canop
- Ranging and communication capability (telemetry : 500bits/s interlaced with positioning cycle ; modem : 10kbits/s apart from positioning cycle)
- 4,000 m water depth, deeper optional, corrosion resistant
- Extremely low-power consuming for extended deployments (2-year listening life or in excess of 1,000,000 acoustic pings)
- Compatible with iXblue products range (GAPS, RAMSES)
- Internal / external environment sensors and embedded data logger
  - Configuration through WiFi communication / embedded Web\_MMI software



#### A new transceiver : RAMSES gen II



- Positioning system: full LBL or sparse LBL (INS interfacing)
- Decimeter accuracy
- 4,000 m water depth, deeper optional, corrosion resistant
- ✓ Acoustic telemetry
- Embedded data logger
- Battery backup
- Internal / external environment sensors included in base configuration + optional sensors
- ✓ User interface (Web\_MMI software) through WiFi communication



#### MTBx2 - The OEM transponder for AUV integration



#### FEATURES

- Gaps USBL positioning, with easy INS USBL aiding
- Robust acoustic data telemetry (500 bits/s)
- External sensor interface
- 3 interrogation channels (2 channels for USBL and 1 for wake-up)
- Hemispherical transmission and reception transducer
- WIFI wireless communication for remote programming and setting to work
- · Embedded web-MMI for the configuration
- 4 communication ports (Serial Link and Ethernet)
- · Responder and external power supply input
- $\cdot$  Low power consumption

#### BENEFITS

- Simultaneous tracking and acoustic communication
- Platform with multiple input/output ports
- · Easy integration in vehicles
- Unified iXblue web-based user interface











#### Mechanical

Length	380 mm (without connectors)
Diameter	fits in a 120 mm diameter
Weight	2.5 kg with remote transducer
Water depth	4,000 m (transducer head)





### **Canopus** Supervision software



#### Plan

Prepare the job (how many TP's, where, expected performance, etc).

**Deploy and calibrate** Configure and calibrate.

**Operate and monitor** Produce QA/QC, reach expected performance. Raise alarms.

#### **Post-process** Improve performance and additional QC.







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Real time picture Post processed picture

→ Based on DelphIns short term and long term replay



- Reduction of the number of transponders on the seabed without compromise on performance
- Robust and efficient acoustic data link between subsea devices and from subsea to surface
- Performant and field proven hardware



Picture on the right : Drix



### Canopus system Applications



### **Structure monitoring**

#### Measurement of heading, roll and pitch of a subsea structure



#### Principle

- Transponder fitted with docking interface
- Coupling with IMU 50
- Deployment on the structure
- Gathering of data (immersion, HRP,...)

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• Recovery of the transponder

### **Riser monitoring**



#### Context

- The FPSO collect the oil channelled by the riser
- The FPSO is anchored to the sea floor
- The riser is subject to movements of FPSO and current drag

#### Purpose

• Monitoring of riser movements

FPSO – Floating production storage and offloading



### **Riser monitoring**



#### Principle

- Instrumentation of Riser (integration of ADCP)
- USBL positioning
- Data recovery :
  - Depth
  - Roll, Pitch
  - Current

\*ADCP – Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler



### Subsea geodesy

#### Monitoring of seismic fault offshore Sicily





- Network made of 5 transponders
- Ranges measured between transponders every hour
- Data recovery : 1 to 3 times per year
- Measuring campaign : 3 to 4 years long

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### Subsea geodesy



#### Principle

•

- Deployment of the transponders
- Network calibration
  - Ranges measurement
  - Data recovery
- Data processing
- Recovery of the transponders

#### Purpose

• Monitoring of tectonic shifts (a few mm per

year)



## Thank you !