

OCEANS'14 MTS/IEEE St. John's

By Aileen Torres-Bennett

OCEANS'14 MTS/IEEE St. John's took place September 14 to 19 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The theme of the show was "Oceans: Where Challenge Becomes Opportunity." The setting—the province of Newfoundland and Labrador—has a long history of maritime industry and culture and bills itself as "the world's cold-ocean laboratory."

The bustling show, attended by 1,963 visitors, had a wide variety of participants. Particularly striking was the high attendance by young people and women, who are typically under-represented groups in the industry. The up-and-coming generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs mingled with established industry members, and a lot of new connections were made as people discussed ideas during and after the technical sessions, as well as on the exhibit floor, which hosted more than 130 exhibitors, including *Sea Technology* magazine.

Technical Sessions

Among the special sessions was "International Partnerships: Catalyzing Ocean Technology Transfer and Collaborations with Government, Industry and Academia." Speak-



ing at this half-day presentation were Michael Larkin, technology transfer manager at the U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center; Fiona Regan of Dublin University; Dr. Theresa A. Baus, head of the Technology Partnerships

Office at the U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center; and Harlan Doliner, attorney and head of maritime practice at Verrill Dana LLP and president of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network. "Technology transfer is about getting the results of research into the public domain," said Larkin. "It can be a catalyst for innovation." The challenge is identifying the players to get things done—a challenge that applies to government, industry and academia alike. An example of a successful public-

private international partnership was presented by Regan, who spoke about the pilot program SmartBay off Ireland's Galway Bay, an ocean cluster where various sensors, ocean energy and communications technologies are being tested and developed.

The regular technical sessions were well-attended, with many talks being given to a full crowd. Underwater navigation was a popular topic, which included presentations on "Enhancing AUV localization using underwater acoustic



This year's Compass Industrial Award was given to Greg Johnson of RBR, Ltd. (left). The Compass Distinguished Achievement Award was given to Bjørn Jalving (middle), who also accepted the Compass International Award on behalf of Kongsberg Maritime Embient GmbH. Amos Bussmann (right), president of Compass Publications, Inc., presented the Compass Awards during the MTS luncheon at OCEANS'14 St. John's.

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sensor networks: Results in long baseline navigation from the COLLAB13 sea trial” by NATO-STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation and “Real-time Visual SLAM for Underwater Robotic Inspection” by INESC TEC/Faculty of Engineering University of Porto.

Underwater communications systems was another popular topic, which included a presentation on “Advanced Technologies for Undersea Object Location” by Justin Manley of Teledyne Marine Systems. Manley spoke about different ways of attempting to locate missing airplanes in the ocean, a topic relevant to world affairs with Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 still lost in presumably deepwater after being reported missing in March. Manley said broadband transponders, as opposed to pingers, are game changers by enabling a network approach to search and recovery, but it will require “social engineering” to change the concept of operations to this type of system.

MTS Awards

Several awards were presented at the MTS luncheon during the show, including those given out by Compass Publi-

cations, the publisher of *Sea Technology*. The Compass Distinguished Achievement Award was given to Bjørn Jalving, who also received a Rolex Submariner timepiece. Rolex is a long-time partner in the Compass Awards. The Compass International Award was given to Kongsberg Maritime Embiment GmbH (Halstenbek, Germany). The Compass Industrial Award was given to RBR, Ltd. (Kanata, Canada).

The Lockheed Martin Award for Ocean Science & Engineering was given to Francis Rowe.

MTS also designated two new fellows: Karen Kohanowich and William Kohnen.

Ocean News & Technology presented its Young Professional Award to Michael Lombardi, who wrote about the Exosuit atmospheric diving system for *Sea Technology's* December 2013 issue.

IEEE Awards

The IEEE luncheon honored Christian de Moustier with the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society's Distinguished Technical Achievement Award for his long-standing contributions to acoustic remote sensing of the ocean volume and boundaries with side scan sonar and multibeam echosounders.

IEEE also honored Diane DiMassa with the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to the governance of the Society.

Next OCEANS

The next OCEANS show will take place May 18 to 21, 2015 in Genova, Italy. More information is available at www.oceans15mtsieeegenova.org. ■



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