

# International Diving Schools Association

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# IDSA NEWS

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## **International Diving Schools Association**

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## ANNUAL MEETING 2007

will be held in Helsinki  
at the Scandic Marski Hotel  
([www.scandic-hotels.com/marski](http://www.scandic-hotels.com/marski))

Monday 10 to Wednesday 12 September 2007

### FROM the CHAIRMAN:

IDSA was created in 1982 by the joint action of very few people who, in those early days, had clearly understood the need for a common platform of minimum requirements and of training patterns for the education of hyperbaric divers. This year IDSA happens to be 25 years old and includes now schools and representatives from 25 countries worldwide. There is still a long way to go, but it is important to keep a keen eye on the future and a steady one on the past. It would be important, in this respect, to obtain from each individual school and member (full, associate, affiliate, industrial) a short presentation of the organization (when was created, where, activity, logo, courses, etc.) in order to be capable of putting together, by the time we meet in Finland, a presentation of who we are.

For the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDSA there is the possibility of preparing IDSA mugs with on one side the IDSA logo and on the other one the individual school or association logo. Mugs would be handpainted by the Brazilian artist who painted the mug given to Alan Bax during the Galveston convention last year. The cost will be of € 45.00 per mug, which would include a contribution to IDSA funds.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

#### We congratulate :

\* Associate members **Farjenas Diving School**, Gothenburg, and the **Swedish Armed Forces Diving School** in Karlskrona on upgrading to Full Membership teaching to IDSA Level 2, after being audited in May.

\* Associate member **Interdive** on being accepted as the first Full Member: Specialist Training

Divers at the Farjenas Dykarskola preparing for a water jetting exercise



#### We welcome new members :-

**Industrial :** Svensk Sjoentreprenad AB from Sweden

**Associate :** Peter Vered from Israel; the Caspian Diving School from Kazakhstan; and the London Diving Chamber

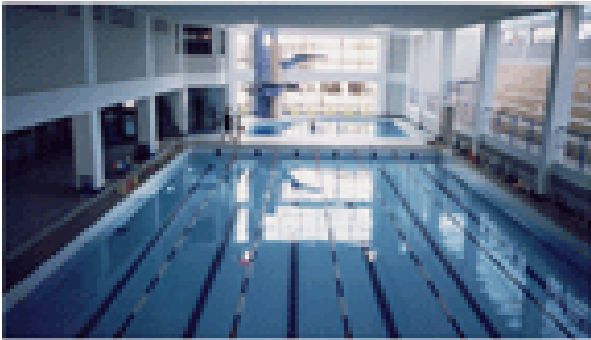
**Affiliate :** Aqua Mont Service from Serbia

# SCHOOL PROFILES:

## 1. The DIVERS UNIVERSITY, Santos, Brazil (IDSA Associate member)

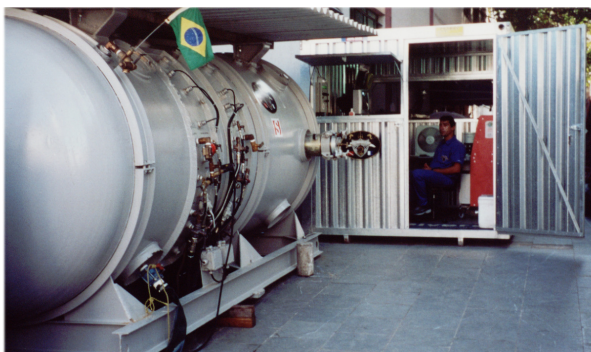
DIVERS UNIVERSITY is a new concept in diving structure, following the line of a true university for divers. It has several courses available, and offers credentials for all levels of divers, from children to professional divers, including technicians in attending medical emergencies.

Divers University is situated in Santos, inside one of the best Brazilian institutions of higher education, UNIMES (Santos Metropolitan University)



About our structure, we use a semi-olympic swimming pool and 5 meters deep operational tank for diving training, both covered and heated.

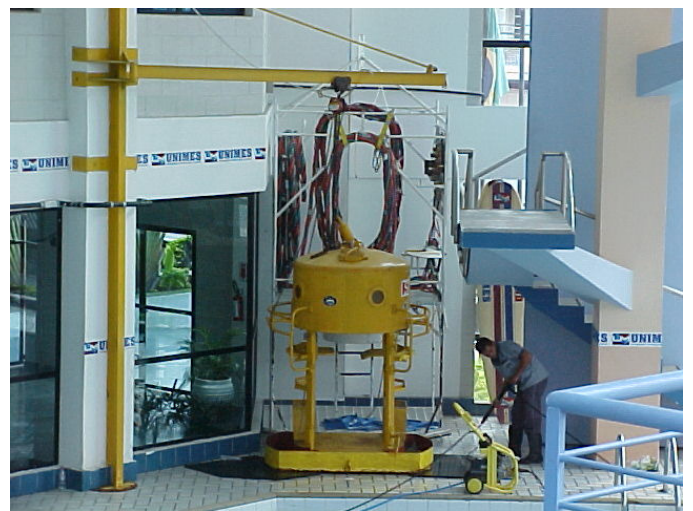
We also have a class room with all the necessary teaching infrastructure; an auditorium for 350 people with all the necessary infrastructure for special events; physical conditioning complex; room for physical evaluations; two hyperbaric chambers for dry dive simulations and training; a large assortment of diving equipment in order to provide for all the courses taught there; medicinal compressed air and oxygen support, as well as a recharging of gas mixtures station.



Today, DIVERS UNIVERSITY is the only professional diving private school recognized by Brazilian Navy and, in this philosophy, has an agreement with the Syndicate of the Companies of Remote Control Vehicle Operation, Underwater activities and similar (SIEMASA), originating a successful partnership, since the

agent which graduates the workers has the support of the employers, uniting professional divers directly with the market.

Our main objective is the graduation and qualification of the professional divers with safe diving practice. Because of this, we became members of ADC International (Association of Diving Contractors International), an entity that includes some of the biggest international professional diving companies and some of the main establishments that form the workers for that market in the world. The Divers University equipments are supported by DET NORSKE VERITAS (DNV), a well-known international classifier.



Adding to the concepts of technology and training, we have a scientific sector with jobs in archeological, physiological and environment fields. For this, we detach the implantation of artificial reefs, along with University of São Paulo (USP).

Regarding safety, we have a sector responsible for qualification and formation of international rescuers, following the highest standards dictated by associations such as National Safety Council, New York Academy of Fire Sciences, American Heart Association and American Safety Health Institute.

Thinking about taking new diving concepts to our continent, the Divers' University has been giving training courses to other nations of Latin America, like Chile, Peru, Argentina, Venezuela and Panama. Also, in our own country, we have been cooperating with development of many Brazilian institutions, giving Army, Fire Department, Federal Police, etc.

Saying all that, we are sure we are able to offer all kinds of teaching support and work related to underwater and connected activities. We base our work on our team's technical knowledge.

*RAFAEL DE NICOLA, DIVERS UNIVERSITY.*



## 2. NAVFCO (IDSA Affiliate Member)

The NAVFCO International Military School was created in December 2003 and welcomed its first trainees in January 2004.

NAVFCO was created by the French Government some 30 years ago. Specialising in the transfer of French Defense know-how to foreign armed forces, NAVFCO enhances the value of its training proposals through its culture and expertise in compliance with French Navy standards.

The diving school offers the following to its customers:



### How to create a Military Diving Group

- Assessment of the threat
- Assessment of sensitive zones
- Proposals for a new organization
- Logistics studies (diving base, decompression chamber, support ship and boats, etc...)

### How to enhance the efficiency of a Diving Group

- Test of divers
- Test of the operational efficiency of your group
- Operational training in country
- Creation of a Diving School of Diving Training Center in your country
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### How to enhance the efficiency of the divers with the support of the NAVFCO Diving School

- Basic Mine Clearance Diver Course
- Advanced Mine Clearance Diver Course
- Explosive Ordnance Destruction Course
- Salvage Diving Course
- Police Diving Enquiry & Search for clues
- Hyperbaric medical courses
- Hyperbaric chamber courses (use and maintenance)



## UNDERWATER WORK

### A Competition in Finland

At the end of March, Finland was the first in the world to organise an international championship for underwater constructors. The participants in the competition were four-person-teams from Finland and five from Norway (one female participant from Norway!). The Finnish team represented Innofocus Lohja and the Norwegian team the diving department of Bergen University College. These institutions give divers a state-financed training, and both provide a one-year training course. The competition was held under the themes "safety" and "working safely and efficiently underwater". The competitors were able to pit their skills against the others in life-saving, classification diving, assembling a valve station, welding and rock drilling. The depths varied from 10 to 30 metres. The jury paid special notice to diving skills and safety, immaculate performance of the task and the time lapsed. The trainers of the Bergen team had selected the trainees they considered the best possible participants to the team, whereas the students of Innofocus Finland were given the opportunity to choose the competitors among themselves.

The first task was life-saving, which was clearly won by the Norwegians. The performances were captured on video and scores were given for the life-saver's speed and right actions to bring the victim to the surface. The next task was a classification dive, which consisted of picking up shackles and rope during the descent to 30 metres, then attaching the equipment to place at the target depth. This ended up in a very tight draw. The spirit of the competitors was high and both teams were fairly supporting each other. The audience had the opportunity to watch the competition via monitors and in real-time internet webcast. Plenty of interested people and media attended the event.

On days 2 and 3 the competition took place at the depth of 10 metres in flanging, welding and rock drilling. The Norwegians had most problems in welding, as they had not been concentrating in learning it too well. Both teams were equally good at flanging— the Norwegian team had delegated the assembly work to a professional plumber! But then, the difference started growing to the advantage of the Finnish team. The Finns were clearly leaders in welding and rock drilling. The students of Innofocus had practiced well how to apply the EU SFS-EN ISO 15618 standard for fusion welding at all possible circumstances.



Similarly the depth and straightness of their rock drilling holes were better within the given time limit than those of the Norwegians.

The Finns won with a small difference and the Norwegians were not too badly bothered by being left behind.

The tensions built up during the competition were cleared at the fraternal barbeque session the final evening, and when the time came to hand out the trophies, all participants had a happy smile on their faces, as the prizes given were fantastic. Each member of the winning team was awarded a prize Suunto D9 dive computer, which were handed out by the Suunto product manager Alastair Ansell. Each diver of the Norwegian team was awarded a Ursuk Heavy Light Cordura drysuit. To avoid the service team having to leave empty handed, the dive company Tarwell and their managing director Rauli Lähteenmäki gave them Divex dive watches.

All in all, the participants were enthusiastic about both the great experience they had and the good competition spirit, which united professional diver trainees beyond national borders. Innofocus received special thanks for excellent arrangements, good time-keeping, lunches and dinners, and a fair judgment of all competitors.



The next match will be held in 2008 in Bergen  
*Text and photographs by: Petri Puromies*



# COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT

## Assessment of Experienced Surface Supplied Divers to IDSA standards

Early last April (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) a formal competence assessment of professional divers in full compliance with the latest IDSA procedures and requirements approved during the 2006 association convention in Galveston was carried out and completed in Serbia. Five divers from AQUA MONT, a Serbian diving contractor highly specialized in underwater operations in inland waters (lakes, artificial water reservoirs, dams) were examined and evaluated and fully met IDSA requirements. The peculiarity of this competence assessment is that it was carried out jointly and in a formally parallel way for IMCA and for IDSA by Interdive Services Ltd. (John Rabone) and by IDSA officials. The five divers were fully examined and certified under both IDSA and IMCA certification patterns, inclusive of theoretical and practical assessment of competence.

Practical examination included a sequence of dives to a depth of 100 FSW (30 metres) in the waters of Zavoj Lake, located in the mountains near the border of Serbia with Bulgaria and Črna Gora. The lake is an artificial water reservoir created by a dam where most of the maintenance activity is being done by AQUA MONT divers.



Maintenance activities include debris removal, recovery of sunken logs, cleaning of the water intakes. Visibility is extremely poor and one of the important safety aspects is the potential situation of Delta P (differential pressure) which may be originated by the opening of water intakes whose control is of paramount importance during diving operations. Divers demonstrated their skill in the use of surface supplied diving equipment and in the controlled operation of air lifting devices for the removal and recovery of debris.

The managing director of the Company, Aleksandar Milosavljevič, well supported by his most efficient assistant, Tamara Maričić, was one of the five examined divers and gave a sound



Julio Melegari (Left) and John Rabone during the Assessment.

demonstration of competence and experience in an area of inland diving activities which is often ignored or underestimated by the offshore diving community.

Over a number of years, Interdive Services Ltd have carried out the competence assessment of surface supplied divers with broad diving experience but lacking acceptable internationally recognised qualifications. These assessments are carried out under the approval of IMCA, and Interdive Services are allowed to issue certificates on IMCA's behalf. Beside the IMCA competence assessment AQUAMONT experienced divers were examined and certified under the IDSA scheme as level 2 divers (i.e. surface supply to 30 metres).

The competence assessment of divers is not considered to be an alternative to formal initial training and qualifications. Such an assessment is only appropriate to divers who have acceptable commercial diving experience under the IDSA scheme. Divers can be put forward for assessment by a company or individual applications are acceptable provided they have at least the minimum experience logged (as shown in IDSA standards) whilst employed as a commercial diver.

*Julio Melegari*

## Update:

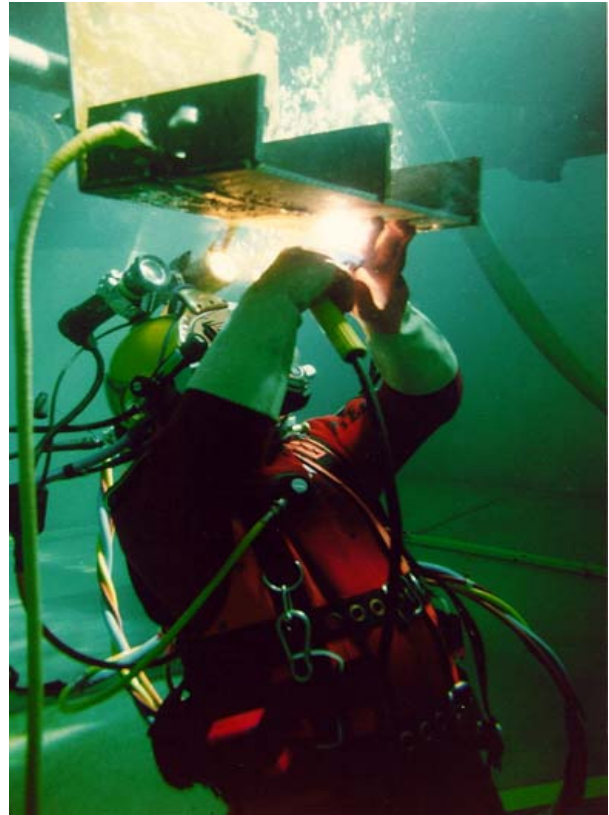
# Hydroweld Wet Welder Training Course (IDSA Affiliate Member)

### General overview

Hydroweld offer well established internationally recognised wet welder training courses that have become the most respected wet welder training standard in the world. These courses are run at several locations around the world, including the USA UK and Thailand. The courses which are provided in 10 day modules are intended to take students up to the high standards set by Hydroweld and as a minimum, to pass a Welder Performance Qualification (WPQ) to the AWS D3.6M: 1999 Specification for Underwater Welding. The programme includes a theoretical element, intensive in-water practical training and on the final day we invite an independent surveyor from Lloyds Register (LR) to observe the welding of the coupons (test pieces) and the testing of specimens to ensure compliance with Hydroweld wet welding procedures and the AWS D3.6M:1999 specification. Successful students are then be issued with a LR WPQ certificate for the type of weld completed. LR is a major classification society, and certification issued by them is generally accepted by other classification societies throughout the world.

### Who should qualify? .

Any commercial diver can enrol and take a wet welding course but those with surface welding skills are likely to gain the most benefit in the long term. With that said some of the best course results have been achieved by students with no or very little experience, who have no



preconceptions or habits likely to impair their progress. Some students enrol for different reasons - some in order pursue a career in wet welding, some to code up or qualify with a specific project in mind; and others, who are in full time employment, are enrolled by their company. Students should be aware that to become a competent and skilled wet welder takes time irrespective of their above water welding ability. The courses are not 'have a go and see how you get on' courses, they are intense and demanding and require a lot of effort to achieve each level of competence.

Whilst no previous welding experience is required it is an advantage and preferred. The courses are realistic in terms of what can be achieved in the time frame with the intent to provide the student with a real understanding of wet welding and develop skills to a repeatable high standard. With this in mind the courses have developed as a modular programme, related to the competence level of the student, and this has resulted in a high success rate. The modular programme allows students to develop their skills over a period of time, to suit their income and schedule, and gives dedicated students the opportunity to progress on to more demanding joint geometry's and positions

## The INTERNATIONAL DIVING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (IDSA) : LIST of MEMBERS

### FULL MEMBERS : DIVER TRAINING

Nautilus Dive Company	Austria
CFPME	Belgium
SYNTRA	Belgium
Seneca College	Canada
Royal Danish Navy Diving School	Denmark
Innofocus	Finland
INPP	France
HydroCAT	Italy
Netherlands Diving Centre	Netherlands
Bergen University College	Norway
Norsk Yrkesdykkerskole	Norway
West Coast Commercial Diving School	South Africa
Farjenas Dykarskola	Sweden
Swedish Armed Forces	Sweden
College of Oceaneering	USA
Divers Academy International	USA
Diving Institute of Technology	USA
Santa Barbara City College	USA
The Ocean Corporation	USA

### FULL MEMBERS : SPECIALIST TRAINING

Interdive Services Ltd	UK
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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Divers University	Brazil
Institute of Oceanology : Commercial Diving School	Bulgaria
Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT)	Egypt
International Academy for Diving Technology (IADT)	Egypt
Darya Koosh Marine Co	Iran
Peter Vered	Israel
Marine Consulting Srl	Italy
Caspian Dive School	Kazakhstan
Korean DTS	Korea
SMIT Terminals	South Africa
DDRC Pro-Services Ltd	UK
London Diving Chamber	UK
International Diving Institute	USA

### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Canadian Association of Diving Contractors	Canada
Maritim	Croatia
NAVFCO Military Diving School	France
Centro Studi C.E.DI FO.P	Italy
C.S.M. - Cooperativa Servizi Marini (S.c.r.l.)	Italy
Palumbarus Diving Works	Italy
Rana Diving & Marine Contractor S.R.L.	Italy
Nautiek	Netherlands
Baltic Diving Centre Explorer	Poland
Aqua Mont Service	Serbia
Sumergia s.a.	Spain
Tecnosub Internacional	Spain
Association of Diving Contractors (UK)	UK
Hydroweld	UK
Professional Divers Association (UK)	UK
Speciality Welds	UK
The Underwater Centre	UK
University of Plymouth	UK
Minnesota Commercial Diver Training Centre	USA

### INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS

C.N.S. - Cooperativa Nazionale Sommozzatori	Italy
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