

DO WE COMPLY? WITH WHAT AND WHO'S WATCHING?

Report on SUT Perth Branch Evening Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April, 2013

By Ray Steel, Perth Branch Committee Member

Underscoring the importance industry compliance plays in the life of the offshore oil and gas industry some 175 engineers and other professionals attended the Swan Room at the Parmelia Hilton to listen to three respected industry experts.

The evening was opened by SUT chairman, Ray Farrier and chaired by Ray Steel, Business Development Manager – Subsea with Vector Technology Group. The presentations are available on the SUT Perth branch website.

Jeff Baker, Energy Compliance Technical Manager for Australasia with Lloyds Register commence the evening with a review and discussion of the requirements of the offshore regulatory regime focusing on requirements for Third Party Validation, Verification and Classification encapsulated in the current NOPSEMA Offshore Safety Regulations and Guidance. Post presentation questioning centered around the application of current regulations and practices to the new technology of FLNG.

Captain Phil Griffin, Director – Marine, at London Offshore took an entertaining walk through compliance in offshore operations by delving into the range of applicable standards, statutes, and requirements enveloped within the NOPSEMA regime, AMSA and the State. Phil spoke at length regarding the Flag State/Port State dimension and the relative nature of compliance in marine operations.

The final presentation of the evening was from Stian Bentsen who is the Global Commercial Manager with GE Naxys based in Norway and he kindly volunteered his time to present at the Technical evening while on a brief visit to Perth. Stian's talk took a practical look at one of the tools that aids the offshore oil and gas industry in achieving compliance with the regulations around the world, in particular subsea leak detection. As the industry moves into deeper and more sensitive production areas and with increasing public concern to environmental issues there is a requirement for wide area leak detection including very small leaks like bubbles and droplets. The acoustic technology presented enables operators to monitor large subsea facilities on a continuous basis providing them an opportunity to make early shut-in decisions or to enter into consultations with regulators about continuing production when there is a small leak.

The presentations concluded at approximately 8pm at which time, Ray Farrier, SUT Chairmen, presented Joyce Bremner with a crystal vase in thanks for her hard work and dedication to the role of Events Manager. Joyce is leaving Australia to return to her native Scotland. Ray took the opportunity to introduce Jennifer Mannin, who has replaced Joyce, to the SUT membership. Following which the participants enjoyed networking over drinks and nibbles provided by the evenings sponsor, GE Oil & Gas Measurement & Control.