Paper 16

Swathe Bathymetry — a real time pipeline route modelling tool?

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With oil production moving into ever increasing water depths in South East Asia, and with mounting costs of pipeline installation and through-life management, the importance of pipeline route design is paramount. Swathe surveying techniques now offer a rapid and cost-effective means for 'blanket' surveying large seabed corridors for more confident selection of safe pipeline routes.

This paper will describe the current techniques and systems available to the surveyor (and geophysicist), the advantages to be gained and also the sources of error that must be catered for. The paper will be illustrated with suitable examples from Racal Survey's recent experiences in South East Asia.