

## Fugro Survey And Fugro TGS Integrated In Australia

The integration of Fugro Survey Pty Ltd and Fugro TGS (Australia) Limited (formerly Thales Geosolutions) will see the new entity operating under the Fugro Survey Pty Ltd banner.

It will offer complete in-house services for the oil and gas industry from the initial site survey and geotechnical investigation through to the final processing and charting of data.

Fugro Survey Pty Ltd is now promoting itself as offering a "full offshore turnkey solution", including remotely operated vehicles and metocean services, as well as positioning, geotechnical, geophysical and construction survey services.

According to Fugro Survey Pty Ltd Managing Director, Grey Roughan, also Managing Director of Fugro Holdings (Australia) Pty Ltd, the combined resources of the two companies will place Fugro Survey in a better position to be able to support client requirements.

"With the flexibility of those additional resources, we believe we can offer a better service - and more efficient service to our customers - and a much better response time than either company could on their own", Roughan said.

"We will keep the Skyfix differential GPS service running independently of the Starfix differential GPS service, so we'll be able to offer two totally independent services.

"Some offshore users require independent services, so that they're not using the same reference stations or the same network hubs."

"The Landstar service will be merged with Omnistar (Fugro's global DGPS service) and ultimately will become one service to the positioning requirements for onshore users", he said.

"From this office, the OmniSTAR hub controls, and is responsible for, Sub-Sahara Africa through the whole of Asia, Australia and the Pacific.

"Landstar, in this area, was not a very significant business, so there's not an awful lot to merge. There were only two employees in that part of the formerly Thales Geosolutions business in Perth and they've both been taken across on to the Omnistar payroll.

"We're not intending to lay any operational people off at all. We believe that they are all good people and we need all the good people we can get."

The sales, project management and administration arm, Fugro Survey Pty Ltd, will remain in Balcatta, WA, for the next year or so, as will the operations, equipment and warehousing arm in Osborne Park, WA, until both can ultimately move to one site. Staff at Fugro Survey offices in West Perth will be split between the Balcatta and Osborne Park offices.

In addition, some of the ex Fugro TGS staff will be relocated from Balcatta to Osborne Park. In total, Fugro Survey will have about 125 staff in Australia.

"Other than in the overhead area, there are no reductions in staff at all", Roughan said.

Fugro's South East Asian operations are going through the same integration exercise between the Fugro survey company and the Fugro TGS survey company.

Fugro Survey is already seeing positive results from the integration.

As was expected, even in the first month when the two companies have not yet really merged, we've already found the flexibility of resources to be a benefit to the service we're providing", Roughan said.

"We had a client requirement for an ultra-short baseline acoustic system which became an urgent requirement, and previously we would have had to import one from Singapore to service that need whereas we were able to do it using local resources, giving a more economical result and better response time for our client."

"We are convinced that we can show to our clients that this move is in fact a benefit to them."

Roughan said it was not an aggressive move: Thales Geosolutions was put on the market by its parent company Thales and Fugro simply responded.



Geotechnical site survey vessel: Markab off the Victorian coast of Australia on the Geographe Thylacene gas project.

Throughout the recent consolidation within the oil and gas industry, Fugro has not only survived but expanded, Roughan explained.

"The service industry has had to consolidate because our client base has consolidated", Roughan said.

"Where we used to have quite a number of major petroleum companies operating in Australian waters... with the numerous mergers and acquisitions that have occurred over the last few years, our client numbers are substantially reduced. As a flow on, service companies also have to consolidate. ■

### New Appointments At Fugro

**Stephen Duffield** has been appointed General Manager – Marine Division with **Travice von Bergheim** now in the role of Financial Controller. **Huw Ellis** has taken up the position of QA and HSE Manager, and **Martin (Cass) Castalanelli** has been appointed to the position of Technical Development – General Manager.

Completing the new structure is: **Bill Russell-Cargill**, Sales & Marketing Manager; **Norman Mackay**, ROV Manager; **Ian Hobbs**, Geophysical Manager and Positioning Manager; **David Scott**, Construction Manager; **Johannes (Hans) Hanse**, Geotechnical Manager; and **John Stoker**, Operations Manager.