

The remote handling specialist

Chris Lokuciewski is managing director and owner of Hydro-Lek, UK. He leads a company which is focused on putting tooling on ROVs worldwide

IOS How would you describe yourself in three words?

On the ball.

IOS What was your first job in the industry?

I started in January 1974 as a manned submersible pilot on *Pisces V* in Canada, working for P&O Intersubs.

IOS What does it take to be successful in your chosen field?

The offshore industry has always been about delivering yesterday. My philosophy is design the right products and have them on the shelf.

IOS Which person do you most admire in the industry?

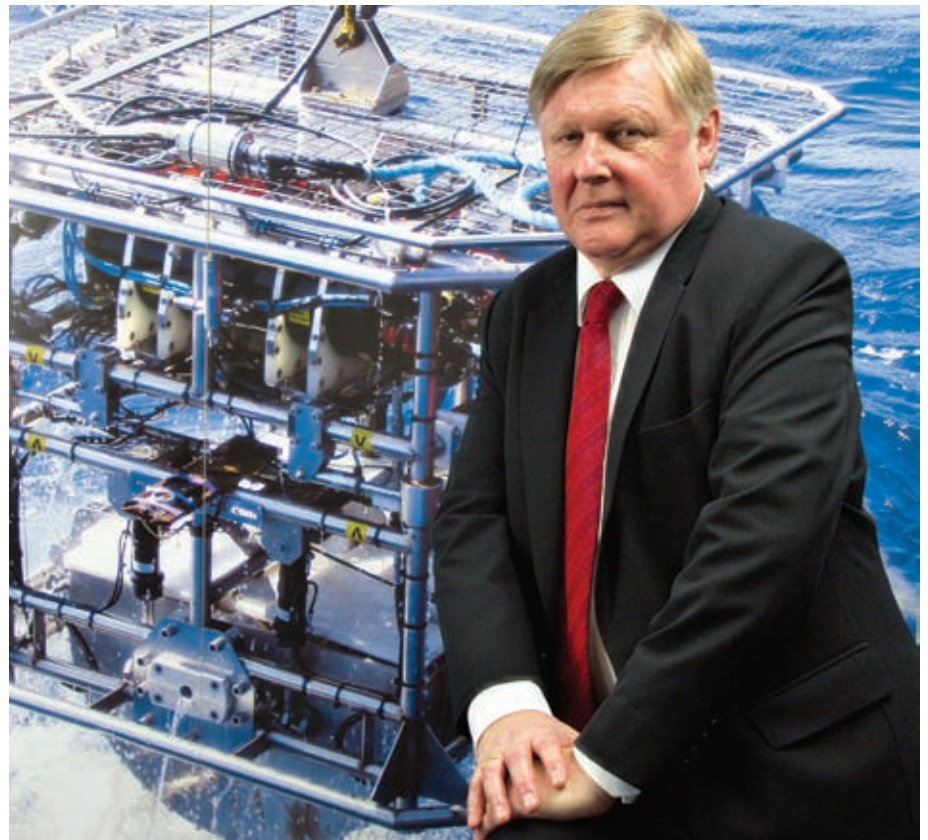
The answer to this belongs to a lot of people. However, if I narrow it down I would say Jim McFarlane Snr, president of ISE in Vancouver. I worked for Jim in the very early days of ROVs. Whilst I had been on manned sub ops for two years, his knowledge of design and concept from first principles has stood me in good stead ever since and has enabled me to develop my own company along these essential parameters.

IOS What has been the most embarrassing moment in your career so far?

I am too long in the tooth to get embarrassed about anything.

IOS What is the first thing you do when you get to work in the morning?

I arrive at work by 8.10am after an hour at the swimming pool. As the staff arrive between 8.10am – 9am I talk to them, not necessarily work related. Then at 9am my PA and I action all the overnight emails.



The day then begins in earnest.

IOS What is the most exciting aspect of your job?

I would change exciting to rewarding. That is to say I am privileged to supply unique equipment worldwide and to provide employment to a good team of staff whom I value immensely.

IOS And what do you least enjoy doing?

We all get a bit lethargic at times and look forward to the weekend, but if you run a

business then you should think positive and count your blessings, get on with it not complaining about difficulties.

IOS Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

Since the future of Hydro-Lek and myself are closely linked, I view my job as putting in place the next generation of designers and a management team to take the company off my hands so that I can look back and say "I started that, look how well it's doing now". ■

Career path

- 1992-** Designed range of offshore products. Formed Hydro-Lek in 1996
- 1990-1992** Operations Advisor for EMC (pipelines)
- 1988-1989** Sales Engineer for Jungheinrich
- 1986-1987** Injury
- 1979-1986** Started EuroSubmersibles on, building ROVs, manipulators, etc.
- 1977-1978** Operations Supervisor for BP SonarMarine ROV operation
- 1976-1977** Operations Technician for ISE, TROV ROVs in UK
- 1974-1975** Manned Submersible Pilot, *Pisces V*, *Aquarius I*, *PC9*
- 1969-1973** Aircraft Technician Apprentice/Engineer with BOAC