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REAL-TIME CURRENT DATA FOR OPTIMISING OUTFALL PERFORMANCE

Fugro GEOS has won an extension to their real-time oceanographic monitoring programme for Huntsman Tioxide that is helping to improve the local marine environment off the coast of South Africa.

Huntsman Tioxide South Africa own and operate a marine effluent pipeline at their Umbogintwini site, just south of Durban in KwaZulu Natal. To gather information about it, Fugro GEOS installed a real-time system in June 2003 for Huntsman on a one-year trial basis. The system comprised an Aanderaa CMB 4280 Data Buoy and four Doppler Current Sensors (DCS) measuring current speed, current direction and water temperature at 10m intervals through the water column. The buoy is serviced every two months to allow for removal of any fouling that may have occurred, and a complete spare buoy system is on hand to give minimum disruption in case of instrument failure.



Data buoy on board for servicing and cleaning

Data are transmitted via VHF radio link to an onshore receiving station at the pump house, allowing conditions at the end of the pipeline to be monitored 24-hours-a-day in real time.

The data are used for fine tuning the computer model that sets threshold limits for effluent discharge rates.

PRESS RELEASE

Preliminary results have been good and have led to Huntsman renewing the contract for a further year.

Fugro GEOS is a specialist consultancy with over 25 years experience in data collection, analysis interpretation and forecasting services for ocean engineering and marine environmental applications. The company provides meteorological and oceanographic consultancy services world-wide that range from developing design criteria for oil and gas projects to weather forecasting.

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Fugro collects processes and interprets data related to the earth's surface and soil composition and provides advice based on the results. As an extension to these activities Fugro provides services such as precise positioning, construction materials testing, reservoir engineering and data management. Fugro's operations have been organised into three divisions: Geotechnical, Survey and Geoscience.

Fugro is listed on Euronext N.V. in Amsterdam and is included in the Amsterdam Midkap index. Fugro has over 250 offices, about 7,000 staff and a permanent presence in almost 60 countries.