



SSA thinks outside the box

Subsea Solutions Alliance continues to expand its portfolio of services, using innovative ideas.

As well as conventional hyperbaric hull repairs, the global Subsea Solutions Alliance (SSA) has successfully developed some new, alternative repair solutions that have been employed by various customers throughout the world.

According to Rick Shilling, business development manager: "We pride ourselves with coming up with repair alternatives that incorporate the vessel's trade route and itinerary. By thinking out of the box, we are able to minimise off hire time and maximise the revenue generating capability of the vessel in question while successfully executing the required repair."

SSA has performed several jobs over the past year that have required creative solutions. For example, SSA divers have extracted large azimuthing thrusters from semi-submersible vessels without the need for external support equipment. Additionally, the group has performed the extraction of fin stabilizers on a passenger vessel while the vessel was still in service in the Mediterranean, again without any external support equipment. "Both of these jobs highlight the innovative thinking and

detailed planning the Subsea Solutions Alliance incorporates into its repair processes when working closely with a client," adds Mr Shilling.

SSA continues to invest heavily in the training of its divers, using two dedicated facilities in Miami, Florida, and Long Beach, California. These training centres are also the "proving ground" for new hyperbaric habitats and repair processes that can be incorporated in the ever changing world of underwater shiprepair.

Other investments involve the strategic distribution of support equipment. By placing the necessary specialist equipment and dive spreads in key locations throughout the world, SSA is able to react quickly and cost effectively to emergencies, wherever they might occur.

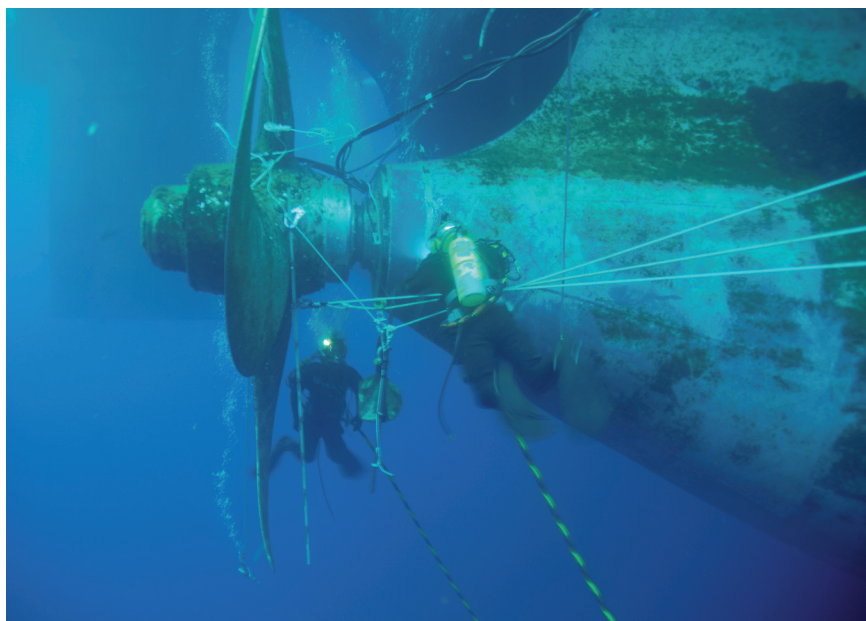
As an important additional service for its clients, SSA has recently announced a new Fuel Management Program, which incorporates hull cleaning and propeller polishing at strategic ports of call throughout the world. Through fleet agreements, SSA manages the condition of the hull and propeller by automatically performing hull cleaning when it is

required, based on inspections and data received from the vessel. "By having these agreements in place our clients have been able to maintain their fuel consumption close to the after dry dock condition. This process and management plan allows customers to avoid the costly spikes in fuel consumption that are typically experienced under normal ship operation and hull maintenance plans," explains Mr Shilling.

SSA has also reached agreements with major equipment manufacturers in the marine industry. By having these agreements in place, SSA claims it remains the only approved service provider that is factory trained to perform approved repairs to aft propeller shaft seals, tunnel thrusters, azimuthing thrusters, controllable pitch propellers, rudders and stabilisers for major equipment suppliers like Blohm + Voss Industries, Rolls-Royce and Wärtsilä.

In another important initiative, SSA, which has a staff over 120 divers / technicians globally, has strengthened its presence in the Caribbean by opening dive facilities in both Panama and Curacao. The group is also establishing facilities in Singapore and Dubai so that it can react quickly to customer needs in these regions as well. "Our growth strategy remains in line with our customer demands and we will continue to focus our development activities in the Far East and Middle East in the coming year," says Mr Shilling.

The Subsea Solutions Alliance (SSA) is a consortium of underwater shiprepair specialists including All-Sea Enterprises, Miami Diver, Parker Diving and Trident. Through a common shared system of dive equipment, specialist tools, and dive personnel, the SSA can mobilise quickly anywhere throughout the world with divers and factory trained service technicians for most OEM equipment. *SRCT*



The SSA team preparing to perform seal repairs onboard an FPSO.

