In direct response to demand from our customers and after many months of rigorous field trials and testing, we have now brought to market a new handheld portable UHF radio for marine emergency and onboard communication.

The TRON UHF has been designed for ease of use and follows the same style as our existing TRON TR20 and TR20 PLUS VHF radios. The radio features an illuminated key board and backlit graphical display, so popular on the existing VHF radios, with the nine control buttons configured for one hand operation, even whilst wearing gloves. Two of the control buttons are programmable to different capabilities. The unit incorporates analogue and signal coded squelch systems.

Waterproofed to IP 57 and internationally approved (ETS 300 086 and ETS 300 720).

Arne Berdal, Product manager of Maritime Communication, commented, “The growth in demand for UHF radios generally is due to the superior sound quality they allow with additional frequency modulation and this new product combines this with the very latest technology in an ergonomic design. The unit is aimed primarily at the commercial market but is equally at home on vessels of any size in both the leisure and commercial sectors.”

A new free-float bracket for our TRON 40S and TRON 40GPS EPIRBs is now available from stock, after passing the required tests for the MED product certification (ETS 300 066 & IMO A-810 (19)).

This new FB5 bracket has a distinctive protective cover which offers greater environmental protection for the EPIRBs than the existing FB-4 bracket. Whilst the standard colour for the cover is white, alternative body colours are available on request. Mounting is easy with four bolts in the same arrangements as for FB-4 enabling an easy change of brackets using the same fixing. The hydrostatic release unit is the same as for FB-4, but with a different support bolt.

In May our current Quality Assurance (QA) certification for ISO 9001:1994 expired so that during April and May we have been audited by Nemko Certification to gain our new certification. However, we also took the opportunity to change the compliance standard to ISO 9001:2000, requiring several internal changes to be made and new documentation produced.

JOTRON have been audited and certified by Nemko according to ISO standards since 1993, but even with our experience, it has been a challenge to successfully get the new standard in place. New QA standards will require all companies which are certified to the old standards, to convert to the new one by end of this year.

When The Beacon went to print we were still awaiting the new certificate to arrive, but we expect interested parties should be able to retrieve this from our web site in June. Due to this delay we received a month extension to the current certificate, in order to have a ring certificate in place during the whole process.
A new Digital Radio concept is now being introduced by JOTRON for both UHF, VHF, and combined UHF/VHF wave bands. The 3000 Series (Civil use) and 4000 Series (Military use) equipment is highly modular with a construction designed for rugged conditions. These radios support multimode operational requirements including AM/FM narrowband voice and wideband data. The radios are prepared for AM (Amplitude Modulation), FM (Frequency Modulation), D8PSK (Differential 8 phase Shift Keying) and MSK (Minimum Shift Keying). The military version is also prepared for Have Quick II operation, and is compatible with Link 11 and Vinson. This is a digital radio system, based on LAN (Local Area Network) operation, or RS232 data line.

3000 Series

For remote access to interconnected radios in a system for several airports in an area, JOTRON has developed an unique Remote Access and Control System called RACS. The program is designed to run on Windows or NT, and gives complete remote access and control of all operating parameters of radio units connected to the different sites via LAN, leased lines, dial-up, satellite or any other communication lines capable of transferring modem signals. All information for the design of maps and connecting sites is easily edited for personal preferences, including access level codes.

Ground to Air

In April, JOTRON (UK) Ltd supplied the 7000 VHF/AM equipment that has been purchased by the UK NATS (National Air Traffic Services). This 2.12 million NOK contract was won against severe competition.

The 7000 series equipment supplied is 50 watt transmitters and receivers all operating on 8.33 kHz channel spacing. This is the first major contract with the UK NATS (National Air Traffic Services) to replace their current 25 kHz channel spacing equipment at various locations in the UK.

This contract comes after a major sales effort into replacing aging equipment at airports throughout the UK and we have now been successful at more than 10 Airports.

AQ-4 in World Record Ice Dive

If ‘free diving’ wasn’t hazardous enough as an extreme sport, a group of enthusiasts, and yes, we have to admit, many are Norwegian, have taken the danger levels up even further by free diving under ice!

Fortunately, safety equipment is on hand in the shape of our own AQ-4 Emergency Marker Light, as demonstrated in February this year by Croatian diver, Kristijan Curavic, who broke the world record by diving down to 46m under the ice without breathing apparatus.

The AQ-4 powerful strobe light allows his support team or rescuers to easily spot his location should things go wrong as indeed they did in 2001 when his last attempt almost ended in tragedy. After making it down to 45m he surfaced unconscious and needed emergency oxygen treatment at nearby Ullevaal Hospital to successfully revive him.

Undeterred, Kristijan came back to Bunnefjorden, close to Oslo, to make his record attempt on February 11th. Assisting divers had attached a marker light to the guiding line at 46m which he then brought back to the surface after 80 cold seconds underwater in the pitch black to claim the world record.

As to what’s next in this extraordinary sport, Kristijan and his supporting divers, including the Norwegian adventurer and polar explorer, Bjørge Ousland, intend to travel to the North Pole to try and improve his record under the ice, as he explained, “The North Pole has the most extreme conditions. Many have crossed the icy North Pole surface, but I want to be the first one making a record to dive under the ice where I will be aiming for 50-55 meters.”
**BODØ to host Cospas Sarsat Joint Committee**

The week-long annual Cospas Sarsat Joint Committee meeting, traditionally held in London, will this year be hosted by Norway in the town of Bodø from the 18th to the 25th of June. Over 120 delegates from 35 countries and from international organisations as ICAO and IMO are expected to attend the meeting which will include demonstrations by Search & Rescue (SAR) forces and social events.

Bodø is situated in northern part of Norway and is the location of one of the two JRCC’s in Norway with distress signals from the C/S system being directed to Bodø. A new LEOLUT will be placed at nearby Svalbard this summer, covering all LEOSAR satellites whilst a GEOLUT will be installed in the region this year.

As one of the “oldest” companies working with products directly related to the C/S system, Jotron has been invited to participate and profile our company. The next issue of The Beacon will have further details of the conference.

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**FOCUS ON:**

**The MARITIME DEPARTMENT**

**Jotron Maritime Communication** is our marketing and sales department, consisting of area Sales Managers, who are responsible for separate countries, and in-house personnel for support activities.

We are responsible for sales, required service and exchange of products for all vessels by being represented in nearly all countries worldwide. Our maritime product range is now well represented in more than 60 countries by more than 250 dedicated and authorised agents who have all completed our training course. They have many years of product knowledge and experience from working with Jotron and other vendors and are capable of serving the needs of their local market with our products and service.

We have recently strengthened our department with the appointment of Fred-Ivar Tallaksen. He has several years of experience with our products after working in Jotron’s R&D department and is a welcome addition to our team.

For several years our department has offered GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress Safety System) specified emergency radio equipment that fulfils IMO (International Maritime Organisation) requirements. The GMDSS product line includes emergency position-indicating radio beacons, portable VHF transceivers and radar transponders.

The Maritime department also carries a wide range of multipurpose marking and emergency light products designed for various applications such as personal safety, fish farms, lifeboats, etc.

We also have great hopes for our new product, the Tron UAIS and expect that it will increase our activities in the time to come. The portable UHF radio, Tron UHF, will also complement our range of portable voice radios.

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**New era for the Waverley**

A Phontech PA system, SPA 1500, has been specified for the £3 million refurbishment of the paddle steamer Waverley, the only remaining seagoing paddle steamer in the world. Originally built on the Clyde in 1947, the 56 year old vessel is currently in dry dock at George Prior Engineering at Great Yarmouth in the UK, one of the few shipyards able to undertake the restoration of such a ship.

The SPA 1500 system, installed by Marconi Marine, consists of a central bridge console with 40 remote speakers of various sizes, including a roving microphone for the ship’s entertainer, enabling the crew to address the ship as a whole or in zones, including the engine room. The system also includes all mandatory alarm bells and signals and has over 720 watts of amplifier power.

The work will enable the Waverley to comply with all relevant marine safety legislation before returning to service, restored to her original 1947 splendour, to the delight of day trip passengers on the Clyde and surrounding areas.
P hontech was established in March 1987. The main activity during the first years was the design and manufacture of Internal Communication Equipment to merchant shipping, the Royal Norwegian Navy and to the expanding North Sea oil drilling market.

We signed an important contract with the Norwegian Navy for delivery of Secure Voice Communication System for all its existing vessels and the Norwegian ULA class submarines under construction at the Thyssen yard in Germany. The contract lasted over four years and made a solid foundation both technically and financially for the company. This equipment was based on fibre optic technique and was developed in close co-operation with the Navy.

Additionally, we faced a big increase in our order book supplying the North Sea with big Public Address systems to its newly developed fields, among them the Ekofisk where nearly 100% of the platforms use Phontech equipment.

Following this contract most of the Statoil and Norsk Hydro platforms also placed orders for our equipment and we are now one of the main producers in the world of PA systems.

After the decline in the offshore drilling market some years ago we made a great effort to increase our market for merchant vessels and since 1996, when we joined the Jotron group of companies, we have increased our turnover for such equipment from 4 million NOK to 26 million NOK.

The development of the TRON UAIS has focused on four vital issues that we know are important to our customers – the equipment should be easy to operate, it should offer flexible solutions for bridge integration, it should be compatible with existing systems and should be able to be quickly and easily installed.

The design of the TRON UAIS has more than satisfied these requirements and, due to its compact design which offers a complete solution, a key feature of this new product is the ease with which it can be quickly installed whether retrofitted or on a new building.

Other key features:
- Table top or flush panel fitting.
- Low weight only 1.9kgs.
- High visibility display.
- Night vision adjustments.
- Cast aluminium chassis.
- Alphanumeric display.
- Multifunctional keyboard with backlight and audible keys.
- Innovative menu structure.
- Worldwide service network.
- MED and IMO class A compliant.
- Thorough testing in the field with approval pending.

AIS UNDER APPROVAL

As this issue of The Beacon is being printed, we are getting ready for the 19th Nor-Shipping trade fair. Nor-Shipping 2003 will be held at the new venue at Lillestrøm, some 15 minutes northeast of Oslo by train.

Prior to this exhibition we have also invited all our main agents to participate in a two day seminar to be held in the county where Jotron Electronics a.s. is located. From the number of replies we received to our invitation, the event is obviously eagerly awaited and we’re looking forward to welcoming both old and new friends during the seminar.

Anita Stokkan, Editor

And finally...