

MTS Connects with Spain at OCEANS'11 IEEE Santander

MTS recently exhibited at OCEANS'11 IEEE in Santander, Spain as part of the Society's ongoing commitment to strengthening its global presence. The conference was held on June 6–9. Besides this conference, MTS has supported the Oceanology International conferences in London, and the OCEANS conferences in Japan, Germany, and Australia.

"There are great benefits for our members in expanding to other countries," said **Rich Lawson**, MTS executive director, who attended the conference with Member Groups Manager **Mike Hall**. "We help our business members find new partners and customers, and we increase opportunities for sharing interesting research developments and new technologies. We introduce new professionals to the Society, and they discover ways to assist each other."

Helping was the U.S. Commercial Service and MTS members **Carme Parareda** and **Carlos Barrera**. The U.S. Commercial Service connected Lawson with a professor at the Universidad de Cantabria; with marketing consulting firm Avanze; and with the Sodercan Group, which supports business development in the state of Cantabria in northwest Spain where the conference took place. Parareda is the chief operating officer at MTS member company **Ictineu Submarins**, and Barrera is with PLOCAN - Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias. They provided Lawson and Hall with a steady flow of companies and individuals to meet. Ictineu, located in Barcelona where it is developing a manned submersible, is the only Spanish company that is a member of MTS, a situation Parareda and Lawson would like to change.

"Carme was incredibly generous with her time, and we are continuing to build on the relationships she helped us to develop," Lawson said.

While technical papers at the OCEANS'11 IEEE Santander Conference covered a broad range of topics, a large number of the Spanish exhibitors were focused on marine renewable energy. The Universidad de Cantabria (whose employees made up the conference organizing committee), its Instituto de Hidraulica Ambiental (Environmental Hydraulics Institute) and several other organizations have created a research/business cluster, the Sea of Innovation Cantabria Cluster, which "aims to integrate all the actors that

operate in the offshore wind and marine energy sector in Cantabria." The Instituto de Hidraulica Ambiental provides research and testing facilities for marine renewable energies. Lawson and Hall joined other MTS members in an interesting conference side trip to the institute's new wave pool.

The next international OCEANS conference is slated for May 21–25, 2012, in Yeosu, Korea. ■



Carme Parareda, COO of Ictineu, (right) visits the MTS booth and Executive Director Rich Lawson.



Taking advantage of a conference side tour, MTS member Shinichi Takagawa pauses by the new wave pool at the Instituto de Hidraulica Ambiental.

MTS Exhibits

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provided an opportunity for an objective review and discussion of the current state of potentially polluting wrecks, as well as offered considerations to address the problem. MTS member, **Michael Barrett**, who was a fellow from Duke University at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute at the time of the research, presented "State-of-the-Art Research on Wrecks." MTS member, **Capt. Richard Habib**, of Titan Salvage, presented "Wreck Remediation—Case Studies." ■

OCEANS'11 MTS/IEEE Kona

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A special tour of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) will be offered as an optional activity. At NELHA's 870-acre site, various organizations explore alternative energy production, solar-based energy techniques, aquaculture, marine biotechnology and coldwater agriculture systems.

Exhibitors at the OCEANS'11 trade show include leading ocean technology and engineering companies from around the world. For information on how your company can exhibit, contact Exhibits Chair Ty Aldinger at exhibit@oceans11mtsieeeekona.org.

One of the missions of OCEANS conferences is to foster and encourage participation by undergraduate and postgraduate engineering or science students enrolled in degree programs at accredited university or engineering schools around the world. Students are encouraged to attend the conference for the purpose

of interacting with leading technical experts and to develop contacts for future employment opportunities. The OCEANS Student Poster Competition has been a long-standing opportunity for students to be recognized. The posters are judged by experts, given awards, and displayed during the conference. Students who were accepted for the poster program will receive a travel allowance and complimentary registration, and their work will be included in the IEEE Xplore digital library. ■

CORRECTION: The photo caption on the front page of the May/June *Currents* enthusiastically said the amount the Houston Section raised at its Sporting Clay Tournament was \$980,009. The actual amount, as noted in the article on page 8, was \$98,009, still an impressive amount and a record breaker.

REDIRECTION: The March/April issue of *Currents* listed a URL for the new MATE ROV website. While the URL is accurate, it is a little challenging to remember. Use www.materover.org instead.