



INNOVATIVE NEW DIGITAL PLB FOR OFFSHORE WORKERS AT OFFSHORE EUROPE 2009

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FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Offshore Europe 2009, 8-11 September, stand 1185 – The innovative Mobilarm V100 Digital PLB is being shown to the European offshore industry for the first time at Offshore Europe 2009. This follows field trials which took place in the North Sea during July 2009. The V100 is a fully automated Marine Survivor Locating Device, which transmits a man overboard (MOB) distress alert via VHF DSC and in a synthesized voice on the VHF emergency channel to all VHF radio equipped vessels and land based receivers within range, including the distressed mariner's vessel.

The pocket-sized V100 is attached to clothing or lifejackets and will automatically activate when the wearer has gone overboard, sending out the initial 'Mayday, Man Overboard' alert via DSC data on channel 70. As soon as a GPS lock is obtained by the integrated 20 channel GPS receiver, typically within 45 to 60 seconds, the device transmits the distress call again, complete with position coordinates. The message is repeated at regular intervals to update the rescuers on the current position of the person in the water, which continues until the device is deactivated; the Mobilarm V100 battery will support transmission for 12 hours in normal conditions. The device can also be activated manually and is secure against accidental activation. In addition the Mobilarm V100 incorporates a strobe light to assist in visual locating of the casualty.

"Man overboard is the single largest cause of marine fatalities and the time a casualty spends in the water is directly related to their chance of survival," says Lindsay Lyon, CEO, Mobilarm. "The Mobilarm V100 immediately alerts all vessels within VHF range so a quick and effective rescue by the people closest to the casualty can be made. As a stand-alone device which requires no specialist training either to use or to respond to, the Mobilarm V100 means any offshore worker can choose to secure themselves in case of a MOB incident, no matter where they are working."

Because the Mobilarm V100 uniquely uses the VHF band to raise an alert and transmit position coordinates, it does not require any new onboard infrastructure or equipment to provide enhanced personal safety. In addition to giving offshore workers a personal choice it also enables offshore operators to facilitate an easy roll out across their vessels and platforms. Additionally, since the V100 transmits on the VHF radio channels, there should be no interference with or suppression of other beacon transmissions, such as a vessel's EPIRB or a helicopter life raft's long range beacon, as has been experienced with conventional PLBs transmitting on 121.5MHz in the past.

The recent North Sea trials confirmed the V100's ability to deliver the following improvements over the older analogue 121.5MHz PLB previously in use, which will result in faster and more successful rescues:

- Spoken word GPS information understood at a range of 9nm
- Ability to select and home in on a single beacon if multiple beacons are selected to transmit on different channels
- Ability to display on a moving map the exact location of all beacons at a minimum range of 17nm at 3000ft
- Proven homing precision and 'fly-over accuracy'

In addition, the trials showed that DSC will give SAR assets better situational awareness.

"The field trials show the V100 Digital PLB is safe and suitable for carriage by North Sea Helicopter passengers and crew, and we are looking forward to further operational trials to confirm the maximum detection range of the V100 transmission," continues Lyon. "We're expecting the V100 Digital PLB to gain a good deal of interest during Offshore Europe following the results of these trials and due to the fact it is ideally suited for improving MOB safety aboard platforms and offshore vessels."

To find out more about the Mobilarm V100 Digital PLB, visit Mobilarm on stand 1185 at Offshore Europe 2009. To request the V100 Digital PLB reviewer's guide, which explains the background and concept of this revolutionary safety device in more detail, contact Saul Trewern on saul.trewern@saltwatercoms.com.

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Notes for editors:

Based in Perth, Australia, Mobilarm is the world leader in marine safety solutions that protect and save lives in the Oil & Gas, Defence and Commercial Marine markets. Available online and through a global network of dealers and distributors, Mobilarm's award-winning products are specifically designed to improve the workplace safety environment for anyone working on or near the water, by providing an instant alert to vessel and crew in the event of man overboard.

The company's Australian and International awards include two Australian Design Awards, the Seatrade Safety at Sea Award and the WA WorkSafe Award.