

SWIMMER: Hybrid AUV/ROV concept

Alain FIDANI
Innovative Projects and R&D Manager
Oil&Gas Division
CYBERNETIX SA, France





### **CONTENT OF PRESENTATION**



- 1. SWIMMER context and concept
- 2. SWIMMER background information
- 3. SWIMMER scope of work
- 4. SWIMMER system specification and main subsystems
- 5. SWIMMER key enabling technologies
- 6. SWIMMER development program
- 7. SWIMMER commercial IMR Services



## 1- SWIMMER Context-Concept

- ⇒ Nowadays, world energy demand continuously calls for the development of new offshore fields
- ⇒ Exploitation of hydrocarbon reserves is performed in increasingly difficult environment : deepwater, remote, and arctic fileds
- ⇒ Complexity of Subsea Production Systems is increasing with the introduction of Subsea Separation Units, Subsea Gas Compression, Subsea Boosting, and the like…
- ⇒ OPEX BUDGETS FOR SUBSEA INSPECTION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR (IMR) ARE ON THE RISE AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN THE NEXT DECADES



## 1- SWIMMER Context-Concept

Today, subsea IMR operations are conducted from Class-2 DP Multi-Purpose Support Vessel (MSV) equipped with 1 or 2 Work-Class ROV (WROV)

- Significant cost for the MSV
  - √ 90% of the total spread cost (typical)
- Availability of the MSV
  - ✓ Time for mobilisation
  - ✓ Weather conditions

... Is it possible to avoid this?

- Umbilical management in deepwaters
  - ✓ Increasing size / length (power supply)
  - ✓ Limitation to ROV operations (mechanical constraints)
  - ✓ Reliability (slip rings, connectors...)





**SWIMMER:** Subsea Work Inspection and Maintenance

with Minimum Environment ROV

(concept invented by Cybernetix in 1997)

Hybrid system: AUV shuttle deploys ROV close to subsea installations:

- Use of permanent subsea installations
  - ✓ Docking station positionned close to SPS
- No limitation on ROV tasks
  - ✓ Real-time controlled and powered up from the surface after connection to field umbilical
- No MSV-to-SWIMMER physical link
  - ✓ OPEX savings



#### **SWIMMER**

- ✓ Performs all light IMR operations that do not require a MSV
- ✓ Remains subsea for extended duration between maintenance

#### MSV+WROV

- ✓ Performs all operations requiring handling of heavy equipment & modules
- SWIMMER reduces the workload on MSV by performing all light IMR operations
  - MSV can be shared over neighbouring oil fields
    - Optimisation and reduction of overall OPEX...



2- SWIMMER background information

1. 2001 Technical feasibility













2. 2003 Technical & cost analysis (West Africa)

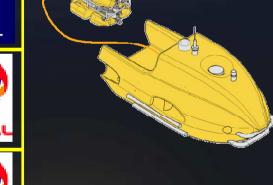


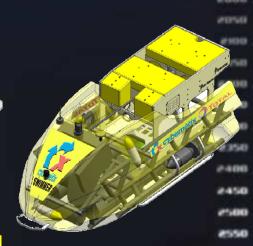
3. 2006 Technical & cost analysis on Nigerian field



4. 2006 Technical & cost analysis on Block 17







5. 2007-11 Development and qualification of a commercial SWIMMER





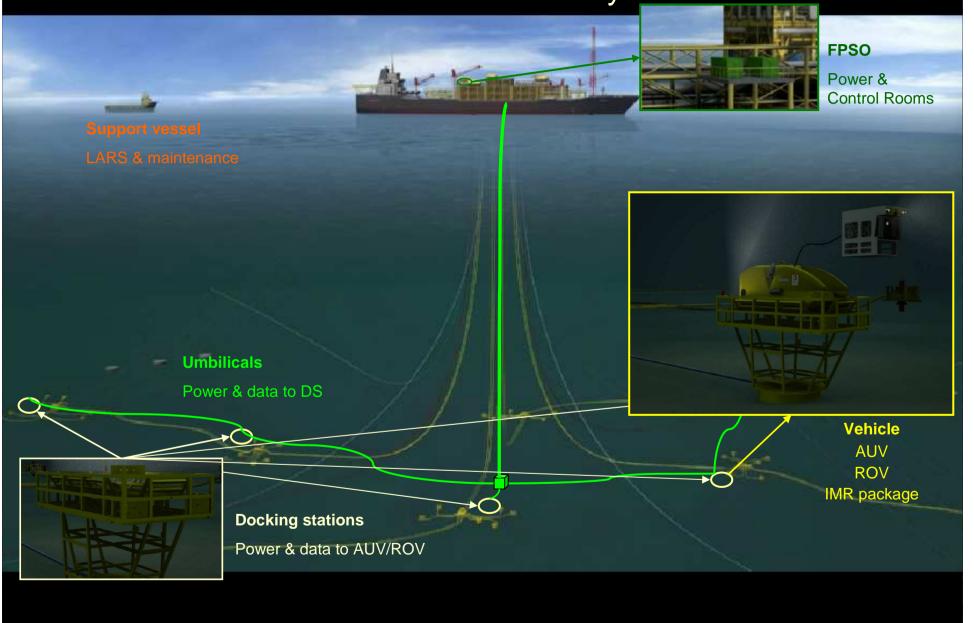
## 3 - SWIMMER Scope of Work

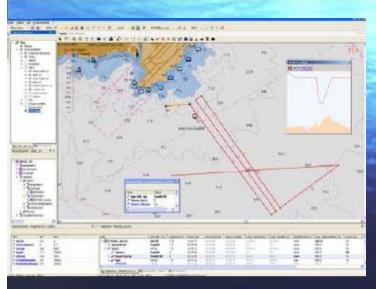
Perform light IMR tasks normally assigned to WROV

- Planned inspection
- ✓ Visual inspection (GVI, CVI, DVI, structure supporting, UFLR)
- ✓ NDT measurement (wall thickness, cathodic protection)
- **√** ...

- Planned intervention & maintenance
- ✓ Valve operation
- ✓ Chemical valve
- ✓ Data recovery
- ✓ Cleaning
- ✓ Sampling
- **√** ...

- Other tasks
- ✓ Support to electrical diagnostics
- ✓ Leak detection
- ✓ General failure diagnostics
- ✓ Disconnection of flying leads
- ✓ Pig command
- **√** ...
- Large spectrum of Inspection, Light Maintenance and Repair Tasks







**AUV SHUTTLE** 

- 1500msw
- 20-km range
- 1.0 m/s longitudinal velocity
- 4 DOF
- Redundant high-grade navigation sensor
- Acoustic tracking
- Acoustic positioning
- Obstacle detection
- Emergency functions







**ROV/TMS** 

## SWIMMER ROV specifications & IMR worklist

- → light WROV
- → All-electric (except manipulators)
- → Long-term deployment
- → Specific tooling package, with room for evolution

Selection of OCEANEERING TOMCAT
SWIMMER-specific WROV & TMS
system
OCEANEERING







ROV Tooling (1/2)

#### **Installed into ROV body**

- 7-F & 4-F Orion & Rigmaster manipulators
- HP water pump
- CP probe
- UT probe
- Ifokus 3Stab (hydraulic, electric, data) hot-stab tool











2550 2600 2650

Thursday, January 29, 2009, Stavanger





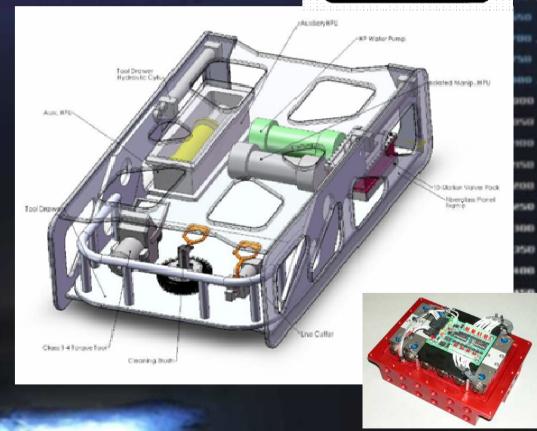
ROV Tooling (2/2)



#### Installed in sliding drawer

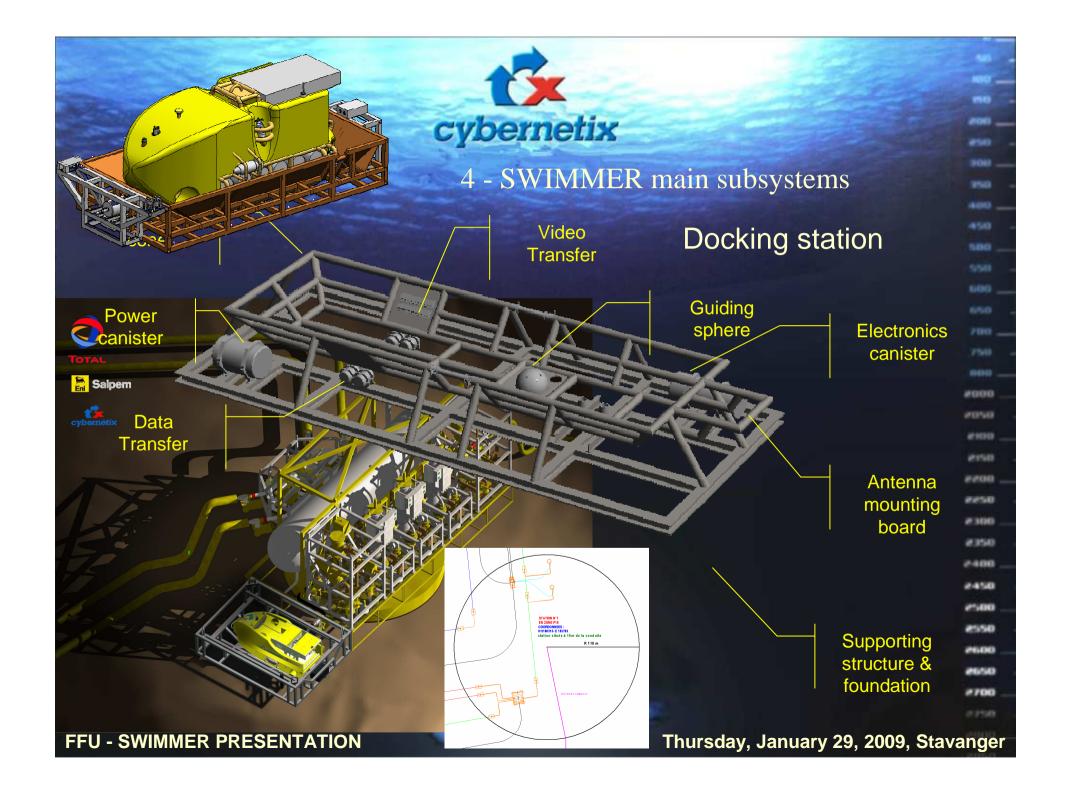
- Auxiliary HPU for tooling
- Isolated HPU for manipulators
- Class 1-4 torque tool
- Cleaning brush
- Wire cutter
- Room for additional tools





**FFU - SWIMMER PRESENTATION** 

Thursday, January 29, 2009, Stavanger





5 - SWIMMER key enabling technologies

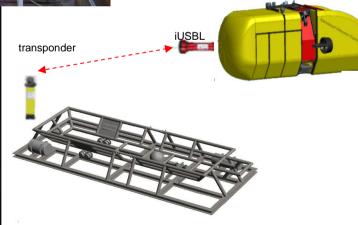


## AUV shuttle payload: Automated Docking

# Development of iUSBL-based guidance control Successful trials with Autonomous ROV in pool

- Global robustness
- Approach wrt to the field configuration
- iUSBL on-the-fly reconfiguration
- Coherence of the transponder measurements (with other transponder, INS data, rejection of aberrant measurements, filtering...)







5 - SWIMMER key enabling technologies

## AUV shuttle payload – Wireless communications with DS

Telemetry and video transfer systems provide real-time video & telemetry feed back to the operator through the DS, for ROV operations and AUV data upload/download

**TELEMETRY TRANSFER** Ethernet MIMO WIFI modem (2.4 Ghz) & directive antennas

**<u>VIDEO TRANSFER</u>** up to 4 simultaneous video signals AUV to DS & directive antennas

<u>Trials results</u>: In fresh water, the operating distance obtained between antennas was about 20 cm. In seawater, the operating distance obtained is decreased but compatible with the application (close distance between DS and AUV shuttle)









## 6- SWIMMER development program

- ✓ 2007-2009 : Specification and general design of commercial system
- ✓ 2009-2011 : Development and qualification of first SWIMMER unit
- ✓ 2012 : Commissioning on first offshore deepwater block. As of today, target is a west angola block operated by TOTAL (where STATOILHYDRO is a partner)
- ✓ 2012-20xx : Commissioning on other fields. STATOILHYDRO potentially interested for its own remote or arctic fields.



## 7- SWIMMER commercial IMR Services

In 2008, CYBERNETIX and OCEANEERING have launched a collaboration:

CYBERNETIX and OCEANEERING are combining their strength and experience into the framework of worldwide teaming agreement to provide Operators IMR services for deepwater, arctic, and long range offset fields.

CYBERNETIX and OCEANEERING are setting up an Integrated Services team to provide SWIMMER associated services. The work will be performed by personnel from the Integrated Services team from Cybernetix and Oceaneering.

Operations will be performed in accordance with a subsea assets' maintenance plan defined by Operator and/or SPS suppliers for planned intervention, and also on-demand in case of unscheduled requests.



## END OF PRESENTATION

