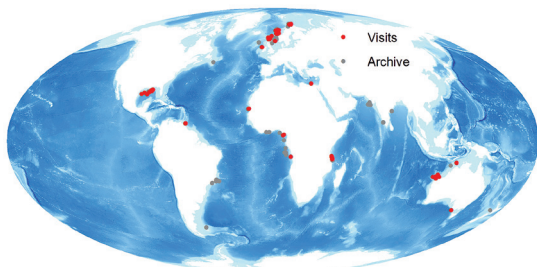

The SERPENT Project (Scientific & Environmental ROV Partnership using Existing Industrial Technology)



About the project:

The SERPENT Project (www.serpentproject.com) is a collaborative programme between scientific institutions and companies associated with the oil and gas industry. SERPENT is hosted at the National Oceanography Centre, UK (NOC), one of the world's largest research and teaching organizations specializing in deep-sea science and oceanography. SERPENT encompasses a scientific network of

academic partners across the world (Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Australia), linked to a network of major oil and gas operators and contractors. The project centres around the opportunistic and ad-hoc use of ROVs (Remotely Operated Vehicles) in operational settings during periods of non-essential use (stand-by time) and the utilization of data collected as part of routine offshore work and previous environmental assessments.



To date SERPENT has carried out projects on a range of offshore installations, from FPSOs, Drill Ships, Semi-Submersible drilling rigs and support vessels to mono-hull construction vessels in a range of locations around the world at water depth ranging from 100m to 3000m. SERPENT brings world-class expertise in the fields of deep-sea ecology, impact assessment and monitoring together with infrastructure only available through collaboration with industry for the mutual benefit of both parties.

The deep-sea environment represents the largest ecosystem on earth yet it is largely uncharted. Working in partnership with oil and gas companies means the knowledge base about the deep sea can be increased. This is of particular value in countries that do not have a history of deep-sea science and exploration.

Data gathered through the SERPENT Project can enable better informed decisions about the impacts of offshore exploration and how to monitor these impacts can be made with more certainty and sound science-based data. These data are then used for:

- 1) Knowledge exchange through workshops, exhibitions and presentations to educational, scientific, industry and public audiences,
- 2) Dissemination of information online in a publicly accessible web site and associated media database
- 3) Exchange of ROV environmental sampling technology and deep-water assessment and monitoring methods with industry;
- 4) Peer-reviewed scientific papers and popular/industry press publications.



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