

My story – case study of an ...

# ROV SUPERVISOR



IMCA has been talking to a variety of offshore personnel about how they became involved in the industry and various aspects of their work.

In this article, we learn from Paul Leaman, an ROV supervisor/superintendent, who works with remotely operated vehicles – an ever more vital tool offshore.

Paul brought prior skills from the air force, wetting his feet in the fishing sector and on lifeboats before joining the offshore industry as a trainee ROV pilot and has progressed from there.

## ■ What attracted you to the ROV industry?

Mainly the variety of work. ROV work is not boring, as every day is different. I was able to travel the world previously with the Royal Air Force (RAF), so that was not important, but being in an interesting job was very important to me. As I said, a job where every day is different.

## ■ What work experience have you gained since joining the industry?

Plenty, really! I was able to build on the good experience which I gained in the RAF with what I've learned offshore. I would compare an ROV to a plane without wings in its complexity. I've really enjoyed working on wreck surveys – very interesting!

## ■ What was your first role when you started in the industry?

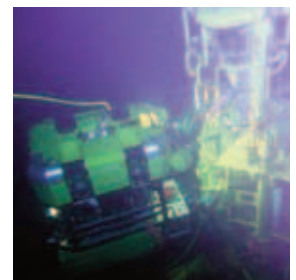
Trainee ROV pilot with Oceaneering. I worked on a drill support job on the Sedco 700 in West Africa. It was hard work, due to the fast-paced drilling programme, which included a full tooling suite.

## ■ What is your role now?

Supervisor/Superintendent. My latest job was in the southern North Sea doing inspection with a Mohican vehicle for Oceanteam 2000 off the Fennica. It was a very busy and hard job working in strong tides.

## ■ What do you like most about working offshore?

Each day is different – no two days are the same and you will see something new on the seabed every day. It's a constant challenge to keep the ROV operational in tough elements.





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### ■ Would you recommend the ROV industry to others?

Yes I do, constantly, but some people I speak to seem scared to go offshore. There are still memories of Piper Alpha. I've been offshore since 1996 and tell them to get out there and try it!

### ■ What have been the highlights of your career so far?

Travelling around the world – seeing different places, working on different ships and meeting different people. The money is great, but there are so many other rewards too!

### ■ Further information

IMCA members work at the cutting edge of remote systems technology and need a variety of skilled personnel to undertake their operations world-wide.

Find out more about the careers possibilities in the ROV sector by reading other factsheets in this series, our *in depth* articles and by visiting our website at [www.imca-int.com/rov](http://www.imca-int.com/rov)

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