

## OCTANS forms the basis for better offshore access



Ampelmann gangway for personnel safe access to offshore platform.

Leading offshore access specialists, Ampelmann Operations B.V. has placed the OCTANS gyrocompass and motion sensor at the heart of its latest self-stabilizing offshore access system.

Ampelmann produces stabilized platforms that are designed to be fitted to the deck of a ship in order to provide a sound, reliable support for a gangway between the ship and a neighbouring offshore installation. This might be an offshore oil and gas production facility or the foundation structure for a wind turbine.

The transfer of personnel and equipment via a gangway from a supply or support vessel to a fixed structure over the open sea presents significant hazards. This is simply because of the wave-induced motion of the ship, which can render the process impossible in heavy seas. Ampelmann overcomes this problem by providing a platform that continuously compensates for the motion of the ship using a series of computer-controlled, hydraulic cylinders. A vital component of the system is the motion sensor that provides the information with which to constantly adjust the platform's position and attitude.

Ampelmann performed a series of qualification tests before it selected OCTANS to provide the information on which its latest systems rely. OCTANS is an IMO-certified gyrocompass and motion sensor that provides real-time data related to the six motions of a vessel at sea: true heading, roll, pitch, heave, surge, sway. In addition, the unit outputs speed, acceleration and rate of return with minimum latency even in extreme sea conditions. Ampelmann-designed software uses this data to control the motion compensators and keep the platform steady.

"OCTANS perfectly suits our needs," said Jan van der Tempel, Ampelmann CEO. "It gives us independent and accurate motion data constantly, which helps us to make offshore access as easy as crossing the street!"

The use of Ampelmann access systems is growing worldwide. The technology was developed by the Delft University of Technology, and Ampelmann was formed specifically to commercialise it. The company describes the systems as based on reverse flight-simulator technology, in combination with the latest developments in real-time motion measurement.

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### About IXSEA

Formed in 2000, IXSEA designs and manufactures navigation and positioning systems based on its state of the art Fibre Optic Gyroscope technology, along with a complete range of seafloor mapping solutions for the scientific, offshore and defence industries.

IXSEA has more than 400 clients on five continents with a turnover of €35 million in 2009.

To learn more about IXSEA, visit the company's web site at [www.ixsea.com](http://www.ixsea.com).

**About Ampelmann**

The Ampelmann company is a high-tech offshore company focusing on the development, construction, lease and sale of offshore access solutions. The core technology is the Ampelmann system, a motion compensation platform that allows easy, fast and safe access from a moving vessel to offshore structures, even in high waves. The technology was developed over 5 years within the Delft University of Technology, with sponsoring and participation of several international offshore players.

To learn more about Ampelmann, please visit the company's web site at [www.ampelmann.nl](http://www.ampelmann.nl).

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