

# Unique Bulletin

Special Edition | 2023



**30 YEARS STRONG**

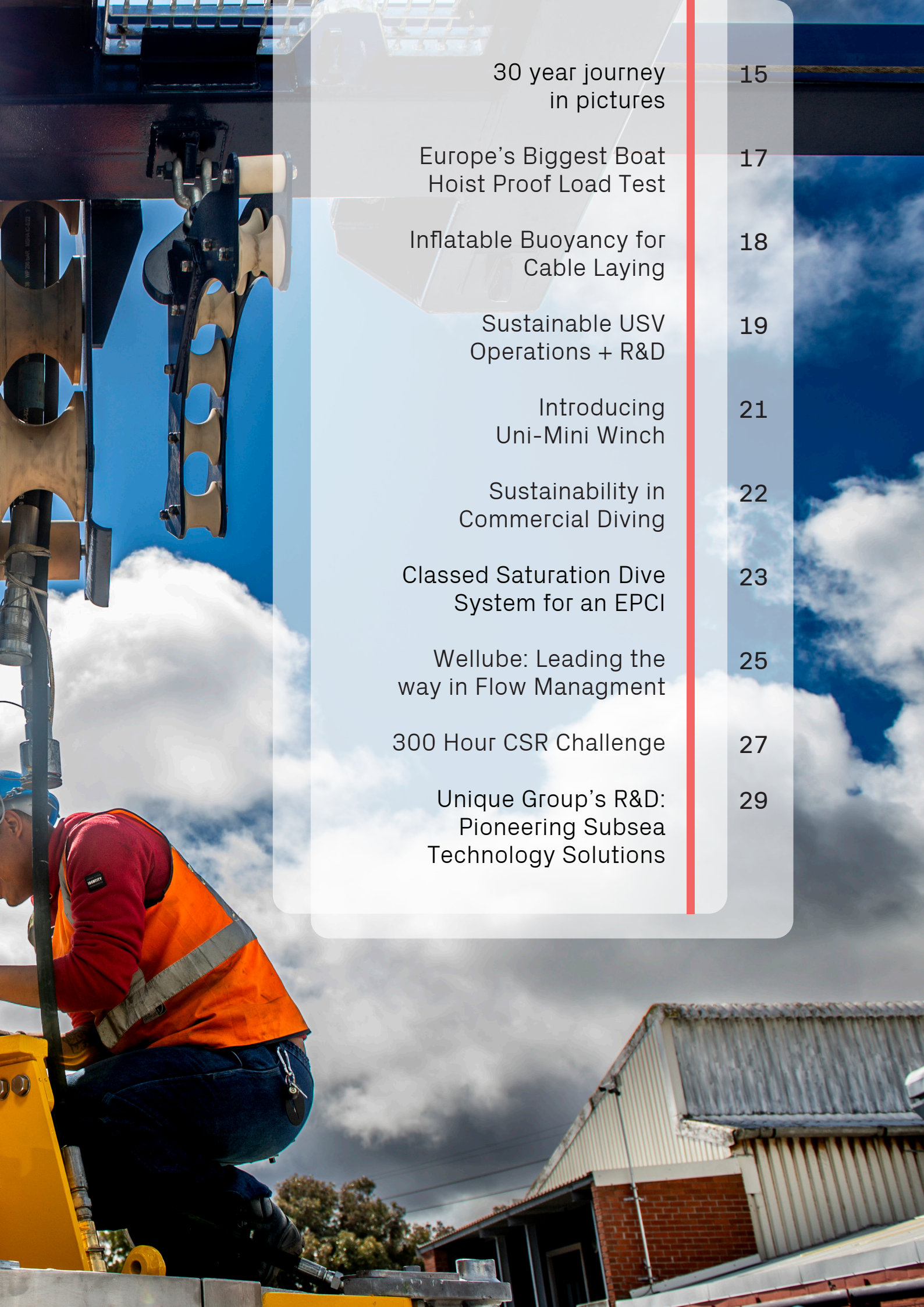




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# 30 years: Leading the way in subsea solutions

1993

From a garage in Sharjah, UAE, with just 3 employees, Harry Gandhi founds Unique Group.



1995

The Group signs its first agency agreement to service the marine and subsea market sector.



2006

Unique Group moves to a new 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> purpose-built facility in Hamriyah Freezone in Sharjah, UAE.



Unique Group acquires Hydra Marine and expands its presence to Cape Town, South Africa thus leading the way in manufacturing and supply of diving and life support solutions.



2009

The company expands into new geographies with offices in Aberdeen, Scotland and Mumbai, India.



Unique Group acquires Seaflex, specialists in airlift buoyancy bags and water load test weights.



2014

Unique Group partners with Blue Water Energy, to bring in strategic capital investment for enabling further growth.



The Group acquires Wellube and expands its footprint across the oil and gas industry with hot tapping and line stopping capabilities.



2015

The Group acquires GSE Rentals and Oceanwide Safety at Sea.



Unique Group launches Medical Technology Solutions such as Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy



2019

Unique Group ventures into unmanned solutions with the launch of its own Unmanned Surface Vessel: Uni-Cat (now known as Uni-Max).



Unique Group acquires Water Weights and strengthens its load testing capabilities globally.



The Group crosses the 500 employee.

2020

The Group acquires Western Advance's Marine Division in Australia.



Unique Group launches its COVID-19 Pressure Ventilator System in Africa.

The company bolsters its footprint in Asia with a major project for the Indian Government.



2023

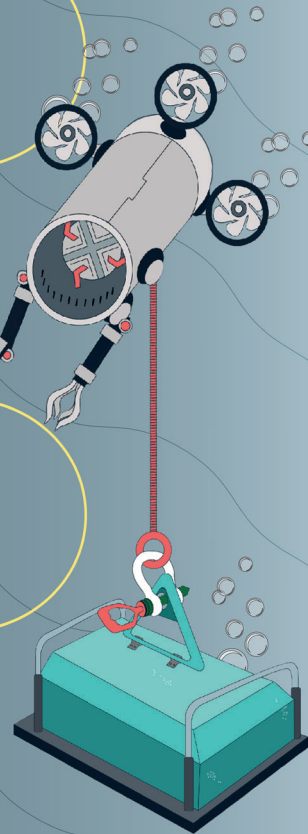
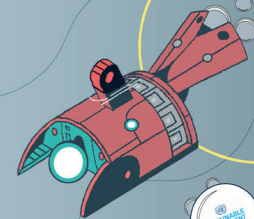
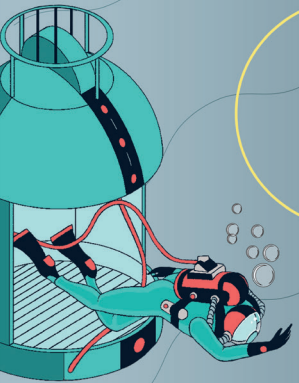
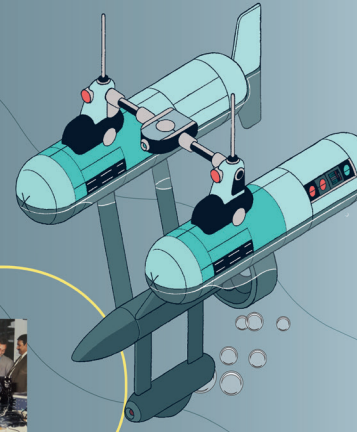
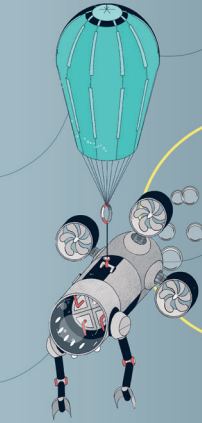
Sahil Gandhi appointed as CEO and Harry Gandhi takes on the role of Chairman of the Group.



Unique Group unveils its new brand identity featuring the new corporate logo and website to reflect its strategic vision and ambition.



2022





# Welcome to our 30<sup>th</sup> year special edition magazine

## Message from the CEO

Dear esteemed Partners,  
Clients and Suppliers,

As Unique Group celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am humbled and proud to reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought us to this milestone. From our modest beginnings as a small company with just three individuals, we have evolved into a global powerhouse in subsea technology and engineering, boasting a dedicated team of over 600 professionals.

I am thrilled to introduce our special edition magazine - Unique Bulletin accompanying this milestone, which encapsulates our 30-year journey. It delves into our culture, showcases our incredible people, provides industry insights, and presents compelling case studies that highlight our evolution.

This milestone could not have been achieved without the unwavering trust and support of our esteemed partners and clients. Your belief in our vision has fuelled our growth and inspired us to continuously push boundaries.

Our commitment to excellence is evident through our global footprint and three decades of industry expertise. We stand as a premier player, offering comprehensive equipments solutions spanning Survey, Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV), Diving + Life Support, Buoyancy + Water Weights, and Lifting + Mooring, touching every corner of the world.



This year marks a pivotal transition in our leadership as I take on the role of CEO, succeeding my father, Harry Gandhi. It's a privilege to lead the charge towards a new era of growth and innovation, alongside our valued employees and partners who have been integral to our success. Looking ahead, our excitement continues to build with the upcoming launch of our revolutionary AI solution "Aquila Subsea" - an industry first. We invite interested companies to join us on this transformative journey by securing their spot as the first users.

Additionally, our investments in the Survey and USV division have unlocked enhanced capabilities, reinforcing our dedication to innovation. Our commitment to excellence is further amplified with the inauguration of a new facility in KSA, enriching our Lifting + Mooring services and amplifying value for our clients.

As we celebrate our achievements, let us together embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to the next chapter of innovation, collaboration and success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Sahil Gandhi". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sahil Gandhi  
CEO, Unique Group



# Celebrating Three Decades of Leadership



## An Exclusive Conversation with Founder & Chairman, Harry Gandhi

For over 30 years, Himanshu Gandhi, fondly known as Harry, has guided Unique Group with a visionary zeal that transformed a modest startup into a global industry leader. As Chairman, his unwavering commitment has expanded the company's footprint across continents, while his deep-rooted values have inspired initiatives that reach far beyond business. Join us in an exclusive interview as we explore the legacy of Harry's 30-year journey—a saga of innovation, perseverance, and a lasting impact on the subsea and maritime domain.

### **How did it all start?**

My UAE story started in 1986 when I moved here from Singapore. The Middle East represented the perfect place to set up an organization. Hence, in 1993, I decided to establish my own company, this is when Unique Group was created. We started as a small company with less than 10 people. The focus at the time was to build an electronic equipment company catering to the wider subsea industry with a major focus on Oil & Gas.

We started building the business in the Middle East, as we grew over time and became more suc-

cessful, we started expanding to other global markets implementing the same business model.

### **What was your motivation to found Unique?**

My motivation to find Unique Group was driven by the desire to create a well-rounded service organization in the UAE and the Middle East. I envisioned a company that would stand out for its commitment to excellence, innovative products, and long-term client relationships. My dream was to establish a business that would not only succeed but also make a positive impact in the industry



and the region. I wanted to bring together a team of like-minded individuals who shared the same passion for providing exceptional service and who would work together to turn this vision into a reality.

**Tell us some difficulties you have faced along the way?**

Undoubtedly, there were challenges along the way. We navigated the complexities of regional legislations and regulations, ensuring compliance and maintaining a knowledgeable team to support operations across multiple countries. Finding the right talent was another hurdle, but through investment, acquisitions, training, and fostering a positive work culture, Unique Group attracted top talent and ensured a commitment to quality and technical expertise.

**What kept you going during times of crisis?**

During challenging times such as during the COVID pandemic, what kept me going was the unwavering support of my team and the belief in our collective vision. The dedication and loyalty of our employees, who I consider part of the Unique family, served as a constant source of strength. We faced obstacles and hurdles along the way, but the resilience and determination of our team helped us overcome them and emerge stronger.

**You have met a lot of people along the way. What would you like to tell them?**

A special appreciation goes to Mr. Barry Evans from CCC and Majed Abu Shaker from NPCC, whose instrumental roles helped kickstart the incredible journey of Unique Group. Richard Eldridge, our esteemed partner and chairman, whose guidance and commitment have been the bedrock of our achievements. John Allison, our partner for Wellube, whose collaboration and dedication have been instrumental in our shared successes. Our strong partnership with

Kongsberg, since the inception of Unique Group, has been a testament to the strength of the alliances we've built within our extended family. Vipul Gandhi, my esteemed brother and an inseparable companion in this entrepreneurial odyssey, has been the cornerstone of our success story. To our clients and partners, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering belief in Unique Group. Your trust in our services and products has been the driving force behind our success.

To our colleagues, especially those who have been with us since the very beginning, I want to extend my sincere thanks for being an integral part of Unique Group's journey. Your dedication and hard work have been invaluable, and you have played a significant role in our growth and success. You make Unique Group truly "unique".

Very importantly, I also want to give special recognition to those who have stood by me through thick and thin – my wife, my family, and our loved ones. Your unwavering belief in me has been the anchor that keeps me grounded and the driving force behind my aspirations.

**What are you proud of today?**

One of my proudest moments was witnessing the company's expansion into new markets and geographies. Seeing our products and services make a significant impact in the industry brought immense satisfaction. Additionally, successfully integrating acquired companies and developing innovative products that shaped the industry were also notable high-

lights. Each of these milestones reinforced our commitment to our vision and showed that we were on the right path.

Another point, I am proud of is our "people culture". We have a family-like culture here at Unique Group. We had a shared vision when we started as a small company with less than 10 people; therefore, the relationships are very close. We have many colleagues in the organization who have been with us for 20, even 30 years. Loyalty is incredibly important to us; we do the best we can to take care of our people and their families and that's what has fueled our growth.

**You retired earlier this year from your role as CEO, what is next for you?**

Retiring from my role as CEO marked the end of an incredible chapter in my life. You will probably see me a bit more at the Golf course from now on (laughs). My passion for innovation and the industry remains undiminished. While I may step back from the day-to-day operations of Unique Group, I will continue to stay involved in an advisory capacity and contribute my insights and experiences whenever needed.

**“What kept me going over the years was the unwavering support of my team and the belief in our collective vision. The dedication and loyalty, we are all one big Unique family.”**



(L-R) Sahil Gandhi, CEO and Harry Gandhi, Chairman at Unique Group's Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) facility.



# UNIQUE PROJECTS

## Uni-Pact USV Finalises 36" Inshore Pipeline Survey



Modus



The Netherlands



2022

### Summary of the Project

Unique Group successfully supported a client with the 12 km section, nearshore to beach landing of a pipeline survey measuring the cathodic potential, field gradient and depth of burial of a 36" pipeline in extremely shallow waters using our Uni-Pact USV.

### Client Requirement

The client was contracted to carry out a survey of an existing 36" pipeline, along a 177km route. The inshore portion of the survey was in extremely shallow water and had proved difficult to survey by traditional inshore survey vessels. The main scope of Unique Group's solution was to measure the cathodic potential, field gradient and depth of burial of the pipeline inshore of Rotumeroog Island using the Uni-Pact USV.

### Challenges Faced

The tidal restraints, and varied water depths between 0.6 m and 3.0 m along the 12 km nearshore section of the pipe, meant vessels had failed to gather CP and Depth of Burial data since installation over 20 years ago. Simultaneous data acquisition of the full suite of survey sensors in a single pass was critical to complete the scope of work in a timely manner.

### Unique Solution Offered

As traditional survey vessels could not be used due to the shallow depth, Unique Group proposed to equip the Uni-Pact USV with the required sensors and to use it to perform the survey. Based on the client's requirements, the following sensors were installed on the Uni-Pact:

- TSS HydroPACT 660E Subsea Cable Tracking System
- Norbit Winghead Multibeam Echo Sounder
- FIGS Cathodic Protection (CP) system



The flexibility of the Uni-Pact's architecture and hull allowed all three sensors to be fitted for simultaneous acquisition in a single pass mission. The TSS 660E Cable Tracking System was installed on a raft that was pushed ahead of the Uni-Pact. The Force Technology FIGS CP system was mounted across the deck, to provide an accurate measurement of the electric fields surrounding the pipelines, thus providing us with the status of the cathodic protection (CP). The Norbit Winghead Multibeam Echo Sounder was fitted to Uni-Pact's retractable survey pole. Integration of the three sensors, which was the first time that such a configuration had been attempted, took a week, from designing the raft, engineering and testing the setup. On site mobilisation was performed in under two hours.

The Uni-Pact's autopilot coped very well with the addition of the raft and the additional weight of the Pipetracker. The Uni-Pact has an onboard PC dedicated to running the survey software and sensor applications (in this case it was running Eiva Navipac). This makes it easy to reconfigure the Uni-Pact when different sensors or survey packages are required. In addition, this also ensures that the vessel control software and autopilot are unaffected should anything untoward happen to the survey PC. The flexible architecture of the control systems on the Uni-Pact enabled, an additional PC to be added to the network onboard the Uni-Pact and accessed over the remote telemetry link. This permitted Force Technologies to use their own laptop, preconfigured with the necessary software for the FIGS CP system.

Overall, the client was very pleased with the results collected, and they were able to gain valuable data regarding the condition of their pipeline.





**AQUILA  
SUBSEA AI**

By Unique Group

**UNIQUE EXPERTISE**

# Revolutionizing Subsea Surveys: Introducing “Aquila Subsea” The First Generative AI Chat Solution

In a remarkable leap forward for the subsea survey sector, Unique Group has unveiled an innovation that promises to reshape the way professionals in the field interact with data and information - Aquila Subsea. As the industry’s inaugural generative AI chat solution, Aquila Subsea has been meticulously developed to address the unique challenges faced by survey engineers and researchers.

The driving force behind Aquila Subsea lies in its ability to provide instant, precise, and insightful responses to a wide array of queries. The solution empowers professionals to effortlessly navigate manuals, troubleshoot issues, and access critical information, significantly enhancing operational agility and informed decision-making.

Aquila Subsea’s strength is further underscored by its in-house development, a testament to Unique Group’s commitment to driving innovation. By bringing this advanced technology to the forefront, the company is setting a new precedent for the subsea survey industry.

One of Aquila Subsea’s standout features is its extensive database, curated with meticulous care to house a wealth of technical resources. This robust repository allows the AI-powered platform to tailor its responses to the specific queries posed by users. Through this adaptive approach, technical challenges can be addressed within seconds, marking a

significant advancement in efficiency. Unique Group is proud to announce limited signups for those who wish to gain early access to the Aquila Subsea solution. This exclusive opportunity allows industry professionals to be among the first to experience the transformational capabilities of this innovative technology.

Aquila Subsea’s unveiling reflects Unique Group’s commitment to pushing the boundaries of what’s possible within the subsea sector.

By providing a solution that offers quick, accurate, and insightful responses, Aquila Subsea has the potential to redefine how survey engineers and researchers approach their work.

Be among the first to experience the transformative potential of this game-changing technology. Register under

[www.aquilasubsea.ai](http://www.aquilasubsea.ai)



## Instant + Accurate Technical Support

Tired of sifting through manuals and spending hours troubleshooting? Aquila has you covered. Say goodbye to delays – our AI solution instantly responds to your technical queries, providing concise and accurate answers anytime and anywhere.

## Cost-saving Through Increased Up-time

With Aquila’s outstanding ability to answer technical questions for a wide range of survey equipment, it not only helps you save time for your operations team, but also immense savings in your cost.

## 10,000+ Survey Equipment Knowledge Base

Imagine having an extensive library of manuals, data sheets, and manufacturer information at your fingertips. Aquila’s knowledge repository ensures that you receive the most relevant and up-to-date solutions, all with a few taps.

## Powerful Training Tool For Your Team

Aquila not only helps solve technical problems for your operations team, but also supports in training your team - technically experienced or not. With this, you can hire less technically experienced personnel, which translates into savings.



# NOW AND THEN

In this special section, we turn our spotlight on these remarkable employees, bridging the gap between “now” and “then” as we journey through the evolution of our company alongside those who have been its pillars for decades. Join us as we celebrate their incredible journeys, reflect on the transformations witnessed, and gain insights into the collective wisdom that only comes from years of dedication.

Meet **Mike (Michael) Warner**, from in England, UK, his journey led him to the UAE in 1993 after a stint in the UK. Embarking on a professional journey, he found his way to Unique Group in February 2000, marking the inception of a remarkable chapter.

His voyage through Unique has been one of growth and evolution, culminating in his current role as the Head of the Diving Division for APAC, stationed in Singapore. Mike’s journey is a testament to the transformative power of dedication and the incredible destinations it can lead us to.

## **What motivated you to join the company, and what has kept you here for so many years?**

Back in 2000, my journey with Unique began not just as a professional step, but as an alignment of visions. It was the visionary outlook of Harry Gandhi that drew me in, a shared perspective of establishing and nurturing a Diving Division to cater to the unique needs of contractors in the Greater Middle East region.

Unique was already renowned as a rental powerhouse for survey and subsea inspection equipment, but Harry’s foresight sought to enrich our offerings. He saw the untapped potential in supplying diving equipment, and remarkably, he believed I could play a pivotal role in turning this vision into reality. Luckily for me, he had faith that I could assist in realizing his vision.

Being part of the ever evolving and growing Diving business over the years has been instrumental in providing the longevity that I have enjoyed and experienced with the company to date.

## **What has been the most rewarding aspect of working with the company for such an extended period?**

Again, being part of and bearing witness to the incredible organic growth and development of Unique over the years into a world force in our field.

Over the years I have enjoyed forging robust working relationships with personnel within the organization and have taken pleasure in observing the evolution of employees that I have worked alongside

## **What advice would you give to new employees or those starting their careers in this company?**

Unique Group is a progressive and ever evolving company which values the importance of employee contribution in the quest for achieving its goals.

If employees can demonstrate the desired work ethic, ability and will to succeed then every assistance will be provided to enable them and in turn the company, to achieve success and develop a sustainable future for both.



Work hard, learn, communicate and exercise integrity.

## **Can you share some significant milestones or events that have shaped the company’s growth during your time here?**

Very significant was the move from being purely a seller of diving equipment to becoming a manufacturer of diving systems and equipment. This started with the acquisition of Hydra Marine in South Africa an existing producer of diving equipment and thereafter the establishment of a manufacturing facility in the UAE to cater for increased demand for new build diving systems.

Increasing global coverage with the birth of new operations in Europe, the Americas, Asia, APAC and Africa positioned Unique firmly on the world stage as a global player, opening up new opportunities to provide our offerings to a far wider audience.

As I reflect on this extraordinary voyage, I can’t help but feel excitement about what lies ahead.



Meet **Claudine Mannoe** who is part of our team in Cape Town. Her journey began in 2008 as a Sales Administrator and has evolved into her current position as a trusted Customer Support Advisor. Beyond her professional role, Claudine finds joy in warm hugs and cherishes the presence of God in her life. Her two daughters radiate as her sunshine, infusing happiness, and courage, while her faithful dog adds an extra dose of bravery to her days.

**What motivated you to join the company, and what has kept you here for so many years?**

It feels like yesterday, even though time has passed. Back then, the Cape Town branch was known as Hydra Marine, or just Hydra for short. I used to see the Hydra building every day on my way to my old job. I'd gaze at it with awe, feeling like it had a place for me. It pulled me in, and that feeling didn't go away. So, I mustered my courage and called them. I spoke to Patrick in HR, telling him I was interested in working there but unsure if they had a spot. Luckily, they had an opening for a Sales Administrator. I sent my CV, had an interview the next week with Patrick and Mike Iles, and got a job offer the following week!

**Can you share some significant milestones or events that have**

**shaped the company's growth during your time here?**

Transforming the business strategy and welcoming innovation has played a pivotal role in shaping the company's expansion.

In earlier times, Hydra's focus centered on crafting diving and life support equipment tailored for the oil & gas sector.

Over the years, the Group's growth has been remarkable, branching out to encompass diverse trade avenues. Notable examples include the dive support Daughter Craft vessel, which empowered the MMO division in Cape Town to directly provide diving and offshore gas solutions to the African market. Another noteworthy stride involved designing and delivering the purpose-built Uni-Life 100 medical device, aimed at aiding high-risk cases amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.



“I used to see the Hydra building every day on my way to my old job. I'd gaze at it with awe, feeling like it had a place for me.”

**What has been the most rewarding aspect of working with the company for such an extended period?**

This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year with the company, and the journey has been astounding, extraordinary, unique. The years have been and still are educating me in growth, to adapt to challenges, being steadfast in adversity, learning from others and sharing what I know. The most rewarding aspect are the opportunities I have had and the support I have received from my friends, colleagues, mentors, and superiors.

**What advice would you give to new employees or those starting their careers in this company?**

In conclusion, Thank you for allowing me to share a glimpse of my journey. I hope that my experiences can inspire others to embrace their careers with positive focus and dedication.





# UNIQUE EXPERTISE

## *Driving Operational Excellence + Continuous Improvement within Unique Group*

### Achieving \$1.5 Million in Savings by Third Quarter 2023

By Martin Charles

In today's competitive business landscape, achieving Operational Excellence is paramount for organizations aiming to thrive and grow. Unique Group, a global leader in integrated subsea and offshore solutions, has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering operational excellence, with a significant boost from the enhancement of our ERP System, Microsoft Dynamics 365, into new application areas. Standardization and process automation through Dynamics 365 have been key focus areas. Through a systematic approach and a keen focus on initial key areas, Unique Group has not only improved its overall performance but also managed to achieve substantial savings of \$1.5 million by the end of the third quarter. In this article, we will delve into these core areas and explore the measures Unique Group has put in place to drive operational excellence.

#### **Optimizing Asset Management**

One of the cornerstones of operational excellence at Unique Group has been optimizing asset management for our Survey business

line. By implementing improved pricing strategies for high-profile, long-duration projects, we have not only enhanced profitability but also ensured transparent and speedier access to fleet analysis data, resulting in labour hours saved across creation and fulfilment processes. This collective drive has resulted in a substantial Quarter LHR (Lost Hire Revenue) improvement, with a Year-to-Date (YTD) run rate average of 10.6%. This achievement is particularly noteworthy as it signifies progress toward our Key Performance Indicator (KPI) target of 15%.

#### **Enhancing Asset Maintenance & Repair Times**

To further improve asset maintenance and repair times, we are dedicated to reducing maintenance costs and implementing additional measures. By implementing a more consistent approach across all regions and optimizing equipment availability and cost recovery. These new measures include standardized fleet management and maintenance rules worldwide and a digital approach to track inspections

and maintenance services via Microsoft Dynamics 365 ensuring that best practices are consistently implemented, regardless of location.

Through our integration with Dynamics 365, we can create a centralized platform for recording, monitoring, and analyzing maintenance data. With the help of the Service Maintenance App integration, we can further optimize our process, as this provides real-time insights, facilitate proactive maintenance, and enhance our ability to identify areas for improvement. These initiatives reflect our commitment to achieving greater efficiency, reducing costs, and maintaining the highest standards of asset maintenance and repair.

#### **Implementing a Manufacturing Lean Focus**

Efficiency in manufacturing is crucial, and Unique Group is on track to realise significant savings by evaluating and selecting new material suppliers, establishing a program to re-engineer product designs to reduce waste and apply Lean principles, while working with the team and 3rd

Applying LEAN principles in our workshop and manufacturing facilities by working with a third party expert earlier this year.



A Digital Timesheet from our Seaflex Manufacturing Plant as part of the Continuous Improvement & Digitalization efforts.



party expert support to streamline processes for our Buoyancy + WATER Product Lines. Seaflex manufacturing has undertaken a transformation by adopting a cost center business mode establishing focus at the Isle of Wight factory (UK) to enhance efficiency and product quality. This approach involves thorough cost analysis, isolating manufacturing dynamics, and fostering team development, with plans to implement Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for tracking productivity, product cost, and quality. Alongside these activities, an ongoing initiative seeks to fully integrate the Microsoft Dynamics 365 production module into the factory from order to invoice paving the way for a full digital production process. Efforts to ensure data accuracy include the implementation of iPad stations on the factory floor, streamlining data input and reducing formatting time. Collaborating with the South West Manufacturing Advisory Service (SWMAS), Seaflex Manufacturing is conducting Value Stream Mapping (VSM) workshops to optimize workflows, eliminate inefficiencies, and cultivate a culture of continuous improvement.

### Reducing Cost of Poor Quality & Driving Continuous Improvement

The implementation of MANGO, a cloud-based solution available as App & for Desktop, has streamlined quality, health, safety, and environmental management systems. With all systems in one place, Unique Group has reduced paperwork, saved time, and maintained compliance. The automat-

ed reporting system has raised over 1,910 improvement tickets year-to-date with a closure rate of 66%.

### Eliminating Safety Incidents

We are proud to have made significant progress in improving safety incidents by raising observations and reducing incidents and accidents by 29%. However, We cannot be complacent and our target is to reduce annual LTI's to Zero.

### Securing Supply Chain Management Efficiencies

Efficient supply chain management is crucial, and Unique Group has centralized its focus on purchasing for diving with extended focus in Buoyancy + Water Weights, lifting + mooring, and survey key projects and capex. The result has been improved vendor pricing, improved T&C's and positive results in SCM (Supply Chain Management) for the Diving Line of Business and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) marine order execution. Further focus on vendor OTD and Quality Performance is underway as we look to build partnerships with key vendors who can meet or beat our values and expectations.

### Streamlining Logistics

Savings in logistics has been driven by a focused approach to shipments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). This targeted strategy has contributed to overall cost reduction. Dedication to operational excellence across these key areas has not only led to significant savings but also bolstered the company's overall performance and compet-

itiveness. By continually seeking opportunities for improvement and fostering a culture of excellence, we anticipate an overall cost saving of 2.35 million USD by end of this year.



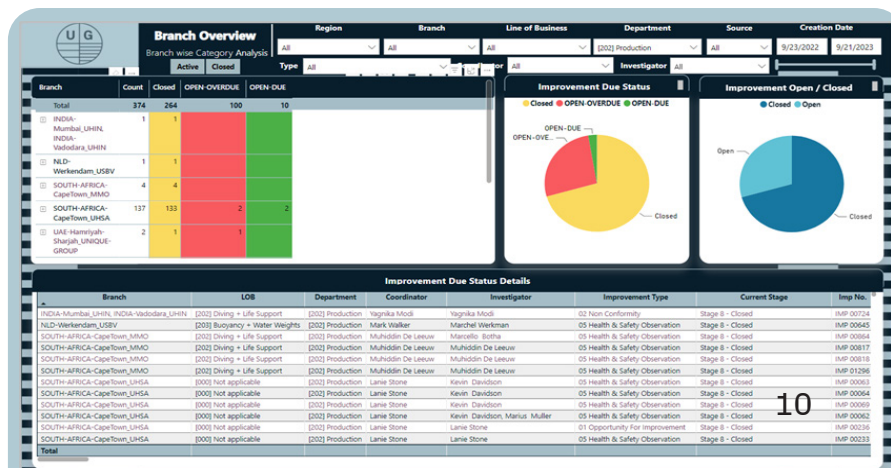
This article was written by **Martin Charles**.

Martin who assumed the role of Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Unique Group in 2022, is a seasoned industry leader with over 38 years of experience in the global subsea and energy sector. Martin is responsible for driving operational and commercial excellence globally at Unique Group, emphasizing customer service, innovation, and sustainability.

Facilitating training sessions to both workshop and office team members on LEAN Principles and 5S



Implementation of MANGO globally: A cloud-based reporting system for QHSE improvements, with a sample dashboard below.







Engineering solutions  
to every challenge

Lifting + Mooring



# MEET OUR PEOPLE

## Meet our Project Manager, **Petra Gress**, from Unique South Africa



**Could you provide insight into your role as a Project Manager with Subsea Tech at Unique Group? What does your daily routine encompass?**

The life of a Project Manager is anything but ordinary. As we kick off projects, our days are filled with setting up schedules, defining project budgets, compiling reports, and crafting execution plans. Collaborating with engineering and design teams, we ensure a seamless handover of design scopes. Engaging with every department within the company is crucial. Moreover, we're in direct communication with clients, suppliers, subcontractors, and third-party surveyors, rendering our role dynamic and engaging. When projects shift into production phase, our presence on the workshop floor amplifies. Working closely with production teams and subcontractors during system construction becomes our focus. As Project Managers we are also problem solvers, stepping in whenever innovative solutions are called for.

**Many people imagine engineers sitting in their offices and making calculations all day. What are the biggest misconceptions people have about your job?**

There's a lot more to being an engineer!

Sure, you've got the design engineers who craft 3D models, intricate drawings, and tackle those essential design calculations. They're the backbone of our field, no doubt. But as a project engineer or project manager our days are far from monotonous screen time.

I'm not just glued to a computer screen all day. In fact, half of my time is spent in action. I'm on the workshop floor, getting my hands

dirty as systems come to life. I'm liaising with skilled subcontractors, overseeing the system's construction from the ground up. I'm on the phone and in meetings, collaborating with stakeholders to ensure a seamless project journey.

You'll find a vibrant tapestry of roles within the engineering realm. It's this very variety that makes our profession an exciting mosaic of possibilities.

**Finally, what do you wake up looking forward to? What is the most exciting thing about your job?**

Every morning, I wake up with a genuine sense of anticipation. The thrill that keeps me going is the excitement of crafting these incredible diving systems.

**What's next for your career?**

As for what's on the horizon for my career, I've recently rejoined the Unique Hydra family in February after an adventure of over 2 years, living aboard a sailboat with my family. For now, I'm fully engaged and content in my role as a Project Manager. With the successful completion of the Uni-FlowX, our new Controlled Flow Excavation system, I'm eagerly looking forward to embarking on the next remarkable project.

“ Every problem has a solution. I've learned both from my time at Unique Hydra and my seafaring journey: It's a mindset that's proven itself time and again, and it's been my guiding light both in engineering and life at sea. ”

**What sparked your interest in engineering / Subsea tech? Can you describe the moment you realized this was a field you'd like to pursue?**

Back in Germany, I was initially studying Business Administration and doing internships at a company that dealt with diesel engines for ships and trains. But something amazing happened during those internships – I found myself way more drawn to the engineering side of things. There's just this magic in being part of building something real. It hit me then and there – I wanted to be right in the middle of that action. So, that's when I made up my mind to switch gears and study mechanical engineering. And I've never looked back since!





# UNIQUE EXPERTISE

## *Safe and Reliable Crane Operations: A Quick Look at Wire Ropes*

By Jim Jota

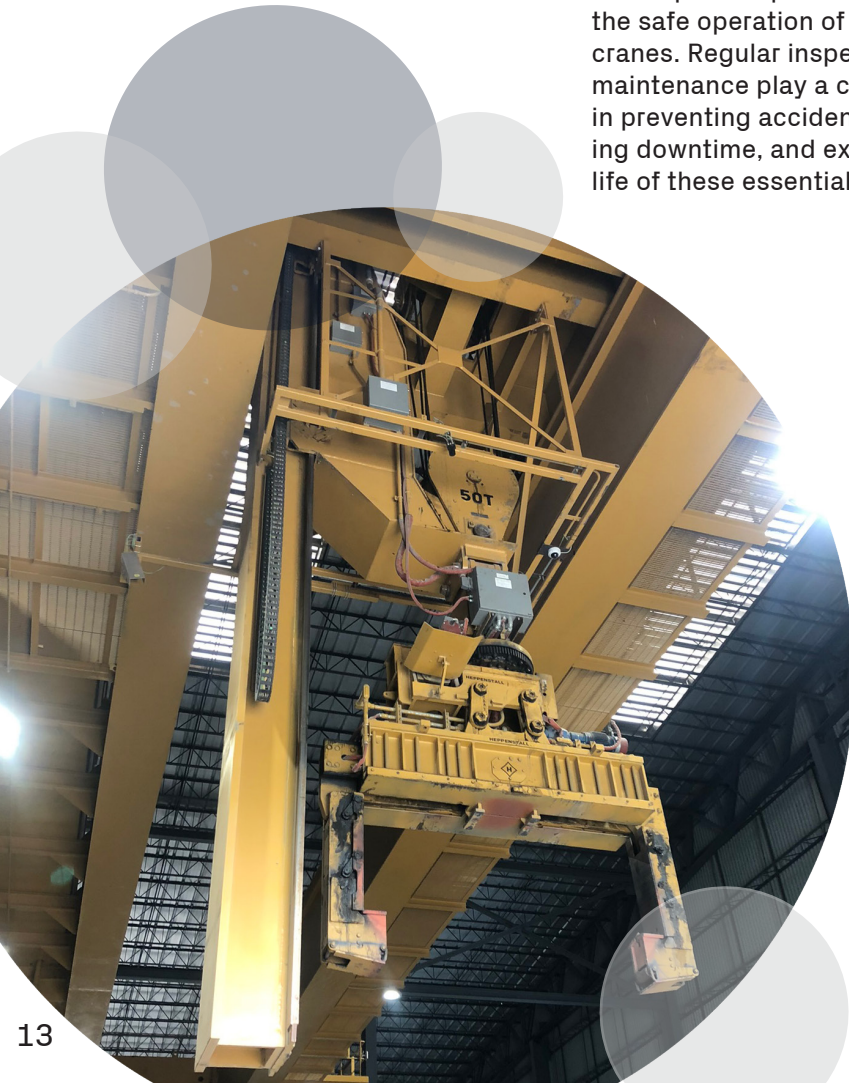
Cranes are integral to a wide range of industries, including oil and gas, energy, and general manufacturing. To maintain safety and efficiency, it's crucial to prioritize the inspection and maintenance of critical crane components, especially wire ropes. Following are the key aspects of wire rope inspection, safety regulations, and the innovative approach to crane maintenance and testing, including Magnetic Resonance Testing (MRT) capabilities from Unique Group's Water Weights®, for enhanced safety and reliability. The durability and reliability of wire ropes are paramount for the safe operation of industrial cranes. Regular inspections and maintenance play a critical role in preventing accidents, minimizing downtime, and extending the life of these essential assets.

Periodic Inspections are comprehensive examinations conducted at regular intervals, such as monthly or quarterly depending on the crane's duty cycle. Any new or altered cranes, especially on load bearing components require thorough inspection of the wire rope as part of the compliance process.

Wire rope inspections involve a combination of visual and physical assessments. Visual inspections examine the entire length of the wire rope for visible signs of wear, damage, or corrosion, while physical or touch inspections examine the wire rope by running hands along its length to detect abnormalities. Understanding wire rope strength and classifications is essential during compliance inspections. Wire rope strength or its ability to withstand loads is typically expressed as breaking strength, the maximum load a wire rope can bear before failure. Wire rope classifications are categorized based on factors like construction, diameter, and material. Common classifications include 6x19, 6x37, and 8x19, reflecting the number of strands and wires in each strand.

Regular wire rope maintenance is crucial for several reasons:

- **Safety:** Prevents accidents by identifying potential issues.
- **Productivity:** Maintains efficiency and minimizes downtime.
- **Cost Savings:** Extends wire rope lifespan, reducing replacement costs.
- **Regulations and Safety Critical Points**



# Largest load test in the UK & Europe completed using 110 T Water Weights® bags



Smulders Projects UK



Newcastle, UK



May 2020

## Summary of the Project

Unique Group's Water Weights® team in the UK were recently contracted by Smulders Projects UK to load test a triangular spreader frame which will be used to lift 55 wind turbine jackets from quayside to vessel for a major offshore development. Using 9 x 110 t heavy lift bags and 5 x 55 t bags, a load of 1,178.4 t was applied to the spreader frame as specified by the client under the careful watch of four Water Weights® technicians who performed the task safely and incident free in line with a COVID-19 enhanced risk assessment. The project is by far the largest load test undertaken by the Water Weights® division in the UK and Europe using the 110 t bags.



## UNIQUE PROJECTS

Safety regulations are essential for safety in crane operations. Regularly inspect wire ropes for wear, damage, and corrosion. Compliance with industry standards such as ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) and ISO 4309 is crucial for wire rope inspections. Other aspects of importance include:

- Hooks and Fittings: Ensure these components can safely handle loads.
- Load Monitoring Systems: Accurate load monitoring prevents overloading.
- Boom and Structural Components: Inspect for cracks, deformation, or weakness.
- Electrical Systems: Check controls and wiring for faults.

### Magnetic Rope Testing (MRT) from Unique Group's Water Weights® .

In addition to visual and physical inspections, our holistic approach to crane maintenance and testing includes advanced technologies like Magnetic Resonance Testing (MRT) from Water Weights®. MRT capabilities allow inspectors to see inside the wire rope's core, detecting issues that are not visible externally.

The software that provides the operating backbone for the tool itself also allows the user to track faults over time and chart or graph the faults. A manufacturing engineer could relate the appearance of faults to environmental and operational factors that may be influencing the rope's lifespan.

By utilizing Water Weights® bags, MRT capabilities, and integrated load measurement technologies, crane operators and maintenance personnel can conduct inspections and testing effectively, meeting regulatory requirements, and enhancing overall crane compliance, safety, and reliability. Our holistic approach encompasses an ever-growing technological list of solutions as part of a toolbox for customers. The suite of tools in the box offers a comprehensive solution for crane testing, ensuring enhanced safety, and reliability in various industries and sets the company apart from other load testing providers.

This article was written by **Jim Jota**.

**Jim** is a valued member of the Unique Group Team in the US, specializing in the field of Water Weights® and Load Testing. He also plays an active role within the Crane Certification Association, contributing his expertise to ensure safety and compliance in the industry.







Welcome to a visual voyage through

# 30 YEARS

of Unique Group's extraordinary journey.





From humble beginnings to global excellence, these images encapsulate our evolution, milestones, and the spirit that defines us.

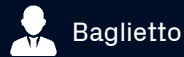


Join us in celebrating our unique story – a tribute to our past, present, and the inspiring chapters ahead.



# UNIQUE PROJECTS

## Europe's Biggest Mobile Boat Hoist Proof Load Test in Italy



Baglietto



Italy



2020

### Summary of the Project

Unique Group successfully completed a 1400 t proof load test using Water Weights® proof load test bags on a Cimolai mobile boat hoist at the La Spezia Shipyard in Italy.

### Client Requirement

The client, Baglietto, wanted to perform a proof load test on their mobile boat hoist as a part of their scheduled inspection. Water Weights® proof load testing was chosen as using water bags is easier and more cost-effective than transporting massive solid weights.

### Unique Solution Delivered

Unique Group in partnership with ATS in Italy, executed the 1400 t load test using twelve of our massive 110 t capacity Water Weights® load testing bags. In addition to assisting with the load test, the team also provided rigging, load test diagrams and load test plans as part of the work scope.

The natural teardrop shape of the Water Weights® proof load bags ensured that the load test was smooth and balanced in comparison with using a barge. Our team increased the load gradually to perform the test to enable safe operations.

Specially designed spreader beams from Cimolai weighing a total of 80t were used to evenly distribute the Water Weights® proof load bags. The entire project was completed within 3 days. This is another achievement for Unique Group as this was the largest mobile boat hoist proof load test completed in Europe.

### Benefits Delivered

- › Timely completion of project and within the client budget.
- › Experienced technical team provided necessary on-site support.
- › The test was carried out in a safe and controlled environment.
- › Cost saving for the client owing to reduced logistics.



Graham Brading  
VP Buoyancy +  
Water Weights



# Inflatable Buoyancy For Efficient And Safer Subsea Cable Laying Over Traditional Methods

By Graham Brading and Rakesh Bangera

The subsea and offshore industries pose significant challenges due to the unpredictable environments in which they operate. The traditional methods of cable laying often involve large equipment and specialized vessels, which lead to high project costs and time-consuming processes. Inflatable buoyancy devices, which provide improved efficiency, safety, and sustainability for subsea cable installation, have, nevertheless, emerged as a game-changing alternative.

Inflatable buoyancy systems demonstrate their sustainability by reducing the environmental impact associated with cable laying. When compared to alternatives such as steel tanks or solid foam buoyancy modules, the compact and light-weight design of inflatable buoyancy systems significantly reduces transportation costs and carbon footprint. Furthermore, their reusability, assuming no damage occurs during deployment and recovery, further enhances their eco-friendliness and cost-effectiveness.

The development of inflatable buoyancy solution was based on the feedback from various EPC contractors on the difficulties they were facing during the installation process with the existing methodology.

Based on this study, three solutions were designed as below:

- **Mono Buoyancy Units**
- **Dual Boom Buoys**
- **Tubular Buoyancy Solution**

## Dual Boom Buoys (DB)

Dual Booms, as the name suggests, consist of two buoyancy tubes or pillows joined together with either fabric or webbing straps, allowing the cable to nestle safely in between. One single attachment point is used with Mono Buoyancy Units, usually a choked polyester round sling which forms a soft connection point.

## Mono Buoyancy Units (MBU)

Mono Buoyancy Units are typically used when the cable is being pulled through a conduit installed between the substation and predetermined location offshore. As the cable is floated ashore, the cable typically runs across the deck of a multicat / barge where the MBUs are removed before the cable drops over the edge of the multicat (through a shute) and down into the conduit.

## Tubular Buoyancy Solution

The most cable friendly inflatable buoyancy system uses 50 m or 100 m lengths of inflatable tubes which can be attached to the cable using 25 mm webbing ties at 1.2 m centers. **When packed for transport, Inflatable Buoyancy, typically weighs 1% of the buoyant force it generates when in use and is 25 times less in volume. This leads to vastly reduced transport costs and carbon footprint when compared to steel tanks or solid foam buoyancy modules.**

With the global energy industry continuing to advance towards a sustainable future, taking control over cable installation operations will reduce the risk of damage to the cable and will allow end users to safeguard their personnel and maximise efficiency of their operations.



This is a synopsis from the paper which will be presented at the ADIPEC Technical Conference 2023.

Rakesh Bangera,  
Head of Sales - ME



# UNIQUE EXPERTISE

## *USV for Nearshore Survey*

### **Small, Lightweight Unmanned Solution Offers Flexibility**

By Chris Blake

Modern seafloor engineering has undergone significant advancements. These improvements can be attributed to the integration of advanced technologies such as ROVs, AUVs and robotic systems that have revolutionized the field. These cutting-edge tools enable precise inspections, maintenance and installation operations even in challenging underwater environments.

Advancements in the field include the utilization of remote sensing and mapping techniques. Modern methods employ high-resolution sonar systems, such as multibeam bathymetry, and satellite imagery to accurately map the seafloor. These technologies enable suitable locations for infrastructure placement and potential hazards to be identified; the optimization of design choices; and the minimizing of environmental impact. Modern seafloor engineering takes a proactive approach to environmental sustainability. Projects now prioritize the least ecological impact; protection of marine habitats; and implementation of measures for waste management, noise reduction and emissions control. By considering these environmental factors, the industry strives to maintain a balance between engineering progress and the preservation of our delicate ocean ecosystems.

#### **Small and Light USV**

Unique Group, a company of Utilizing over 30 years of experience to build the best-in-class unmanned survey solutions, the development of Unique Group's USV technologies has been instrumental in

creating more opportunities to remove personnel from high-risk environments and dangerous offshore conditions by enabling remote monitoring operations to be managed from onshore.

Uni-Pact, one of Unique Group's leading USVs, is a small and light unmanned solution (length 3 m, beam 1.6 m, draft 0.45 m and weight 412 kg) that is adaptable for various applications. It can be used to support a wide variety of nearshore projects, such as hydrographic surveys, data harvesting, UXO (unexploded ordnance) surveys, coastal and harbor monitoring and mapping, habitat mapping, seabed mapping and classification, data harvesting, and survey of freshwater reservoirs where the use of petrol and diesel engines is prohibited.

Designed and developed in house by a specialist team of engineers, the Uni-Pact's compact, versatile and stable nature enables it to complement larger, traditional manned survey vessels. These vessels are typically longer than 35 m and ideally have a small crane capable of deploying the Uni-Pact quickly and efficiently on site. The Uni-Pact can also work in conjunction with a small traditional manned survey vessel, and it can act as a force-multiplier with any traditional manned survey vessel so as to double the survey coverage and reduce time on site. Uni-Pact is designed to operate in locations where conventional platforms struggle to perform. With a survey speed of up to 4 kt., the USV can operate over Wi-Fi, mesh radio or 4G without the need for costly satellite communication.







The Uni-Pact offers several advantages in seabed engineering. Survey time is significantly reduced, compared to traditional methods, resulting in cost savings for clients. The USV is environmentally friendly. It operates using electric engines, generating zero noise and emissions. This eco-friendly approach minimizes disruption to the aquatic ecosystem and aligns with sustainability goals. Another benefit is its autonomous and remote capabilities, enabling surveyors to monitor projects from a distance. This feature enhances both safety and efficiency in the surveying process. Additionally, the Uni-Pact USV offers quick and easy deployment. Its lightweight and user-friendly design simplifies surveying, making it an accessible solution, especially for nearshore projects.

### Bathymetry Survey in Australia

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) partnered with Unique Group to perform a carbon-conscious bathymetric survey at Cape Ferguson in April 2022 for an upcoming jetty extension project. The goal was to acquire bathymetry data for seabed modeling. Unique Group's Uni-Pact USV was selected as the autonomous survey vessel to meet the client's requirements.

The project encountered several challenges, including managing tidal swings, scheduling battery recharge based on tide conditions, and dealing with patchy 4G coverage. Unique Group's Uni-Pact USV, equipped with the NORBIT iWBMS (wideband, high-resolution multibeam) and a sound velocity probe, proved to be the ideal solution for the project. The USV, although capable of over-the-horizon navigation and sensor control via its 4G connectivity, was operated on site via its Wi-Fi and mesh radio links. The 4G connectivity did enable remote monitoring from Brisbane, over 900 km away.

The project's success showcased the time-saving, cost-efficient and eco-friendly nature of the Uni-Pact USV, earning high praise from the client.

### Conclusion

Unique Group remains committed to innovation and efficiency, continually developing its USV technologies to provide greener surveying solutions. With electric motors that enable the capability to conduct nearshore surveys without emissions or noise, these USVs contribute to sustainable operations and help reduce the industry's carbon footprint.

Commitment, curiosity and consciousness are the values that remain at the forefront of operations at Unique Group. The aim is to approach every project with safety, quality, innovation and environmental consciousness. In line with the company's values, its highly skilled in-house R&D department has enabled the development of USV technologies to provide a greener approach to survey applications. The company's vision is to drive sustainable operations for itself and its clients. Year over year, the company is making a 4 percent improvement to reduce its carbon footprint.

As the industry moves toward a greener future, innovative USV technologies such as Uni-Pact will continue to drive advancements in seafloor engineering and survey, supporting the growth of renewable energy projects and ensuring efficient data acquisition for various marine applications.

*Chris Blake is the Vice President of Survey at Unique Group.*





# UNIQUE EXPERTISE

## Introducing Uni-Winch

### Empowering USVs and Aerial Drones with Unmatched Control and Versatility

Unique Group's Uni-Winch Mini, Tether Management System is a network controlled lightweight marine spooling winch particularly suited for USV operations (Unmanned Surface Vessels). As control is through a web interface it lends itself to simple integration on a wide range of platforms and applications.

With a weight of only 20 kg, it is capable of a continuous pull force of 47 kg-80 kg (depending on the amount of tether on the drum) and can therefore deploy sondes or other environmental monitoring instrumentation. There is a spooling gear that can manage cables from 4-13 mm in diameter and provides feedback on the length deployed.

The deck footprint is only 220 mm by 603 mm, with a height of 355 mm ensuring that it is well suited to utilisation on very small USV's. The winch has also been designed to withstand total immersion and it can therefore tolerate being mounted in the splash zone on USVs with very low freeboards. A significant advantage of this

winch is its capability to tether aerial drones. By supplying power via the tether, the aerial drone will no longer have its endurance dictated by the capacity of its on-board battery pack. This can significantly increase the capability of the aerial drone on a vessel. Survey tasks such as Lidar data acquisition or photography will no longer be time limited to a relatively short battery capacity. Telemetry of data can also be improved as the drone will be able to increase the height of vessel mounted telemetry antenna.

The winch runs on 24 V DC at a rated 20 A with a peak current demand of up to 50 A. Eight-way slip rings are fitted providing six communication lines rated 2 A @ 24 V DC, and two power lines rated 10 A @ 400 V DC.

The Uni-Winch Mini is an innovative solution which will play a crucial role in transforming how underwater and aerial operations are conducted, making them more efficient, safer, and more cost-effective for various industries, including oil and gas, defense, and oceanographic research.

**Alan Cameron,**  
Group Technical Authority  
(Survey) at Unique Group.





# How is Sustainability Shaping the Commercial Diving Industry?

The commercial diving industry has grown over the years, with a record number of newly trained divers accepted into the industry across the globe servicing a wide range of offshore and subsea projects. Over the years, there has been a greater demand for diving systems, particularly air dive systems, for offshore operations relating to the servicing of subsea oil fields on the shallow continental shelf or deepwater FPSO support. Whilst most of these systems available on the market offer efficient operations, there have been growing concerns from diving bodies about the hydrocarbon footprint and overall environmental impact relating to these subsea activities.

The pressure on the commercial diving industry is constantly on the rise with the surge in ecological concerns relating to the subsea environment. The majority of the coral reefs worldwide are at risk as climate change lingers and the temperature of the earth continues to see a rise.

As a result, diving systems are gradually evolving to be more sustainable without jeopardising diver safety and control of resources. Diving systems used within the offshore oil and gas industry, have evolved over the years through the development of high-tech equipment (including any submersible pressure vessels) that are less reliant on hydraulic operation and thereby provide safe disposal of waste without having an impact on the oceans. The ergonomic design also reduces risk and increases safety of divers in underwater habitats and ensures diver functioning in ocean depth high-pressure environments.

As for many industries, the commercial diving industry is rising to the challenges presented by adopting environmental-friendly practices to facilitate the desired safety and ecological change. These are not just in relation to systems and equipment but also general awareness such as sensitising divers about carbon emissions and best practices to follow when underwater. Awareness of marine litter is sacrosanct to ensure no offshore diving operation contributes to additional waste in the form of microplastics and hazardous chemicals. Commercial divers must also be equipped with the skills to perform delicate maneuvering at the seabed in order to maintain and disassemble pipelines & rigs depending on the operations involved, with minimum unnecessary negative environmental impacts.

At Unique Group, quality, safety and functionality are key parameters that have shaped our diving systems over the years. Our air dive and saturation systems are manufactured in accordance with industry standards which, in turn, guarantees that our customers receive finished products compliant with the latest, stringent and updated IMCA certifications. In line with our commitment to the UNSDGs in protecting the environment with each passing year, we are evolving to meet the changing dynamics of the commercial diving industry. Our team is arduously working on an eco-friendly range of containerized air diving systems aimed to support sustainable and eco-friendly diving operations. Powered using solar hybrid technologies, the systems can be customised to include an additional option of wind energy. Watch this space for more updates.





# UNIQUE PROJECTS

## *Classed Saturation Dive System Manufactured and Delivered*



Key EPCI client



APAC



2020

### Summary of the Project

Unique Group's Diving and Life support division built and delivered a DNV classed 12-man 300 msw rated customised saturation diving system for a key EPCI client. The completed system includes SAT and dive control modules, self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboat (SPHL) and all other associated components.

### Client Requirement

The client wanted a DNV GL approved modular saturation dive system which they could use for subsea offshore operations at 300 msw depth. As the saturation dive system is a multi-million-dollar worth complex technical product, manufacturing and delivering the system requires expertise and technical knowledge which Unique Group is well known for in the industry, hence we were awarded the project.

### Challenges Faced

The COVID-19 pandemic caused considerable difficulties in the manufacturing and logistics of the project; it directly affected the supply chain of the materials along with resource attendance.

### Unique Solution Offered

As part of the contract, Unique Group designed, manufactured and dispatched a DNV classed 12-man 300 msw rated customised mobile dive system with a 6 m<sup>3</sup> Diving Bell. The chamber complex consisted of 3 x dual compartment chambers and an SPHL. All control rooms and machinery spaces were containerised in 20ft offshore DNV approved containers. Also included in the scope of supply of the dive system was an HP Gas Storage and Gas Transfer & Management equipment which will be integrated into the lower decks of the vessel. The system, and its components, fully comply with DNV and IMCA guidelines.

The Diving Bell LARS used in this system was an A-frame type Launch and recovery system with Active Heave compensation that allows the system operator to recover the bell in conditions up to 5m significant wave height. This is unique in the industry.

A synopsis of the components of the saturation dive system are as follows:

- Gas distribution and management system
- Diving bell through moonpool interface cassette
- SPHL & Davit
- 3 x Twinlock deck decompression chambers
- Launch and recovery systems
- Dive control, life support and saturation control modules

The chamber complex comprises of 3 x Twinlock chambers thereby making it one of the largest mobile systems available on the market providing increased functionality and diver comfort.

### Benefits delivered

- Compliant with DNV GL requirements
- Designed, manufactured and delivered during COVID-19
- Customised equipment based on client requirements
- Proven design which has been deployed on multiple vessels







Unique Group

# Conscious

“

We are conscious about the impact we make on our environment and our people.





## *Leading the way in Flow Management*

With over 25 years of experience, Wellube is leading the way for reliable, efficient, and safe flow management and intervention solutions to manage asset integrity. As a global solution provider and pipeline maintenance expert, Wellube works with the top players in the oil and gas industry, and has supported all leading national oil companies across the UAE, Qatar and India.



### **Assess, seal, deliver.**

A recent project for a leading national oil company in Qatar required the repair of a flare line with multiple sections indicating corrosion, utilising a 2.9 m 24 in. enclosure. After performing an inspection of their pipelines, the client found large, corroded sections of the flare line and during operation, the leak from the piping system could have led to the escape of line medium into the atmosphere, potentially leading to an unplanned and costly shutdown. Criticality of this level could have catastrophic repercussions for both the operation and the environment if it had gone undetected.

The client then approached the team at Wellube to provide on-line leak sealing to repair the corroded area with no interruption to operation. After thorough assessment and discussions with the client, it was agreed that the installation of an enclosure was the preferred solution to repair the damage. From the beginning of production to repair the pipeline, there were a series of challenges faced, one of which being multiple changes in the geometry of the pipe which needed to be encapsulated to contain the leak within the enclosure. Due to its size, fabrication of a clamp of this scale proved challenging, and being installed at a high elevation meant there was risk of damaging pipelines below and surrounding the damaged section during instal-

lation over a live plant. Based on the specifications of the site requirements, Wellube's team of experts engineered a large 2.9 m sectional 24 in. enclosure, weighing around 2 t, to be installed onto the flare line. Manufactured in line with ASME standards, the clamp was designed to withstand temperatures of 390°F (198°C) and pressures of 0.7 MPA. With the requirement for a quick turnaround due to the risk of causing any delays to operation, the clamp was fabricated in a short priority lead time and successfully installed within schedule. Sealed in place with 100% seal on the enclosure, the client was able to continue operation of the line without a costly shutdown.





### Pipe Freeze At The Burj Khalifa

Possibly the UAE's most instantly recognisable building, the Burj Khalifa is without a doubt one of the exceptional structures of the past 25 years.

An enormous undertaking of engineering the many systems that operate behind the scenes to keep a building of such size and stature running smoothly are myriad. A building of 828 meters height, home to businesses, hotels, and residential accommodation alike, the number of world records notched up are extensive. Air conditioning is a crucial element of the building, and the potential ramifications of any breakdown are unquestionable. So, when a faulty valve was detected in the system, the potential for disruption was significant. Wellube undertook the pipe freezing

project to repair the valve whilst maintaining the smooth running of the building.

The scope of work involved the isolation of a 12" chilled water line by the pipe freezing method to replace a faulty valve on a 25-bar line. The process enabled the client to run the other part of the cooling plant without any interruption. Pipe freezing is a proven isolation technique used to modify pipelines, replace defective valves, or add new ones. The technique eliminates the need for expensive fluid discharging and recharging and minimises system shutdown time.

Wellube also offers pipeline services such as Hot Tapping and Line Stopping, On-Site Machining, Under Pressure Leak Sealing, and On-Line Valve Maintenance among many others.





# 300 Hour CSR Challenge

## A Global Commitment to Give Back for a Brighter Future

Unique Employees dedicate 300 hours to local communities around the globe.

In an earnest pursuit to create a better tomorrow, the “300-Hour Challenge” springs to life—a resounding global commitment to uplift communities. At Unique Group, our ESG initiatives are anchored in the three pillars of Health and Safety, Social Empowerment, and Sustainability. Guided by the Triple Bottom Line Approach and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), we’ve set our sights on targeted goals and tangible progress.

Marking our 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, we’ve pledged to contribute 300 hours of volunteerism to communities worldwide. It’s a testament to our belief that social projects form an invaluable bridge to give back to the very communities we serve. Collaborating closely with nonprofit organizations, our focus extends to educational, health, environmental, and empowerment projects—a dynamic manifestation of our unwavering commitment to social responsibility.

In various corners of the globe, we’ve taken meaningful steps:

- February: Our team rallied for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, collecting winter clothing, blankets, and non-perishable food items.
- April: Ramadan saw us distributing food boxes to laborers in the Hamriyah Free Zone, United Arab Emirates.
- June: We hosted two Blood Donation Camps in India with 47

donors overall, uniting employees, vendors, and nearby offices for a noble cause.

- July: Our South African Team supported two Welfare organizations, embracing their needs by collecting and delivering cherished donations.

TEARS, a haven for animals in need, strives to end suffering in our communities through medical care, education, and rehoming. Our contribution included blankets, feed, toys, and items for their store.

Unique Group volunteers also visited Leliebloem House, a haven for 60 children from troubled families. Our gifts of groceries, bedding, toys, and more aimed to brighten their lives.

Meeting TEARS, Leliebloem, and these young hearts left us humbled and grateful.

This is just the beginning. As we venture into Q4, more transformative initiatives await such as Coastal Clean-up Campaigns taking place in the USA, UK & Singapore to raise awareness on the alarming amount of plastic waste entering our oceans.

The evolving sustainability journey of Unique Group is a beacon of change. ESG isn’t a mere strategy; it’s our ethos, propelling us to create a tangible impact in the world. Every action, whether individual or collective, is a steppingstone towards the profound transformation we ardently strive for.



Jolanda Koning Community Outreach, Mar



Duchenne Awareness, The Netherlands



Heroes of Hope Campaign, Zakat, Beach C



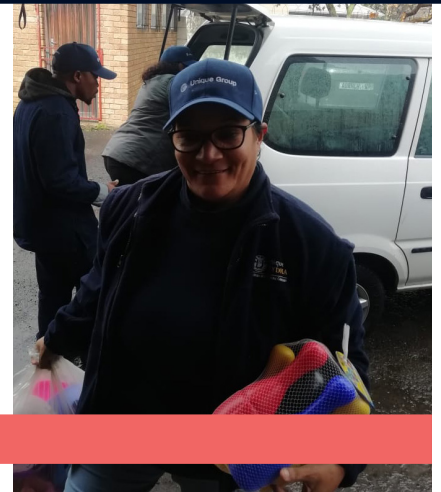
Blood Donation Camp, India



# m: A Spotlight on our Corporate Citizenship Journey in the Recent Years



ndela Day, Leliebloom House visit, South Africa



Walk All Over Cancer Campaign, UK



Costal Clean-up, Singapore



Clean-up, United Arab Emirates



At Unique Group, our ESG initiatives are anchored in the three pillars of Health and Safety, Social Empowerment, and Sustainability. Guided by the Triple Bottom Line Approach and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), we've set our sights on targeted goals and tangible progress.





# UNIQUE EXPERTISE

## Unique Group's R&D: Pioneering Subsea Technology Solutions

In the realm of subsea engineering solutions, Unique Group has emerged as a pioneering force owing to our relentless pursuit of innovative technology. The strategic goal of the company is to push the boundaries of what's possible and the development of new technology. At the heart of this innovation is our dedicated Research and Development (R&D) department. This globally placed team of engineers has been working tirelessly to spearhead advancements in Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs), Survey Equipment as well as Diving + Life Support Solutions.

Unique Group's R&D department embodies the company's vision to be a front-runner in technology solutions. Their unwavering commitment to solving industry challenges, driven by a spirit of innovation, has resulted in safer, more efficient, and sustainable solutions for subsea operations in the renewable energy and maritime sectors.

### Uni-USVs: Efficient and Adaptable

One of the significant milestones achieved by the Unique Group's R&D department is the development of our own fleet of USVs which range from a small (man portable system) Uni-Mini, to medium sized Uni-Pact and larger sized Uni-Max units, providing the end client with flexibility and the ability to scale the system to the individual project task.

The Uni-USVs have been designed to cater to the growing demand for agile and cost-effective survey vessels. Their

### Overview of Unique Group USVs



### Uni-Mini



### Uni-Pact



### Uni-Max

### Legend :





Uni-Mesh



compact size allows them to navigate in confined spaces while their efficiency and adaptability make them suitable for various survey tasks. The USVs have proven invaluable in both shallow and deepwater applications, marking a significant shift in the industry's approach to surveying.

### Value-Adding Survey Technology

Unique Group's innovation extends beyond USVs, the R&D department has also designed and manufactured cutting-edge survey solutions that significantly enhance marine survey operations worldwide. These tools are built to improve accuracy, efficiency, and safety, aligning with Unique Group's mission to set new industry standards.

We have developed and launched the industry's first AI chat solution Aquila Subsea, you can read more about it on Page 6 of this

rock dump, and clays. The system can be effectively utilized from small, economic vessels, making it a versatile tool in subsea engineering solutions. This innovation in seabed excavation exemplifies Unique Group's dedication to pioneering technology that enhances efficiency and safety in underwater operations.

### Collaborations for Industry Challenges

We believe in collaborating with other leading technology providers to create solutions, in 2023 we teamed with Hybrid Robotics Inc., to develop our own Uni-Winch Mini, Tether Management System, to support its in-house developed Unmanned Surface Vessels (USV) program. It has a small footprint, low weight, remotely operated winch (web interface & API), suitable for USV operations. The system is the culmination of 12 months' detailed development work where Hybrid Robotics have re-developed its system to meet Unique Group's needs.

Unique Group also partnered with OTAQ Offshore to build customised seabed landers with inspection products, such as very high-resolution stills cameras, Eagle IP video cameras, OceanSENSE leak detection system and Dragonfish laser measurement systems. Two models are in line to be produced; a shallow-water version rated to 300 m and a deep-water version rated to 4000 m.

### Robust Pipeline and Sustainability

The R&D team at Unique Group is deeply attuned to the challenges faced by customers in the subsea engineering and marine survey industries. Our focus on solving real-world problems through innovative technology solutions has earned us a reputation for excellence. Several innovative solutions are ready to be launched in the coming months, keeping the

magazine. To meet the demand for increased back deck survey equipment, we developed the Uni-Sheave which is a reliable and accurate system for measuring the cable passing over the wheel. Developed to help Oceanographers, Hydrographers and Surveyors who require an accurate measurement of deployed cable in conjunction with applications including Side Scan Tow Fish, Magnetometers, ROVs etc.

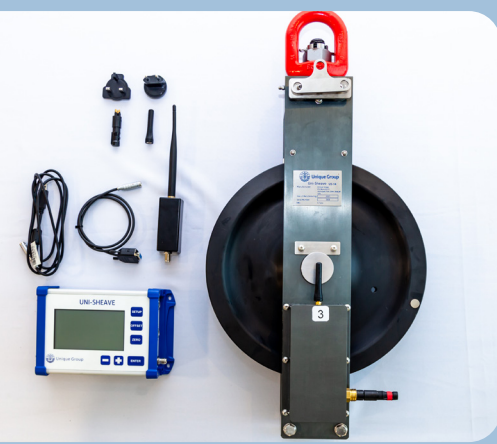
Unique Group also developed the Uni-Mesh to complement autonomous survey vessels used for survey, in addition to also supporting marine and offshore operations which require a long-range MESH radio ranging from 8 to 12 km. The Uni Mesh can be combined in a fluid self-forming, self-healing mesh containing up to sixteen radios. The Uni Mesh radios within the mesh exchange data on a single frequency, thereby simplifying frequency management.

### Diving and Life Support Excellence

With decades of specialist experience in this field, Unique Group has designed and manufactured bespoke, multi-place hyperbaric oxygen treatment chambers (HBOT). These chambers are meticulously crafted with patients in mind, providing a safe and efficient environment for hyperbaric therapies.

In addition to hyperbaric chambers, Unique Group has developed the Uni-FlowX mass flow excavation system, a groundbreaking solution that has re-defined seabed excavation. The Uni-FlowX system offers numerous benefits, including no physical contact with the seabed or seabed assets, real-time sonar imaging of the work site and progress ensures precision in excavation, and its continuously variable power allows it to adapt to various substrates, such as sand,

Uni-Sheave







company ahead of the curve and ensuring that their clients have access to the latest and most advanced technologies.

In line with global trends towards sustainability, Unique Group is actively engaged in research aimed at developing sustainable and efficient solutions. These inno-

ventions have applications across multiple industries, reflecting our commitment to making a positive impact on the environment and society as a whole.

Unique Group's R&D department is the driving force behind the company's pioneering subsea engineering solutions. With a strong focus on

customer challenges and a robust pipeline of innovations, Unique Group is well on its way to shaping the future of subsea technology and marine survey operations. Through sustainable and efficient solutions, we continue to be at the forefront of technology, offering a beacon of hope for a more sustainable and advanced world.



Uni-FlowX



**Scan and WIN !**



We are thrilled to announce that as part of our 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration, we have created an exclusive landing page that promises to be a treasure trove of special content!

Not only does it showcase our remarkable journey, but it also features exciting content about our people, most iconic projects, the best moments in our 30-year history and much more.

But that's not all – we're turning up the excitement with a thrilling **"Test Your Knowledge"** quiz.

This quiz isn't just any ordinary quiz; it's your chance to prove your expertise and win some incredible limited-edition merchandise. Get ready to embark on a journey of nostalgia, achievement, and fun as you explore our special contents and take on the challenge of the "Test Your Knowledge" quiz. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

**DEEP**  **IMAGINATION**

Scan the below QR Code to join right in:





# Get in touch for end to end Subsea Solutions.

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SCAN ME

<https://www.uniquegroup.com/>

Imagine your possibilities and together let's accomplish them.  
Together for a sustainable tomorrow.



# Unique Group

**Deep Imagination**

Leading the way in Subsea Technology & Engineering