



Hydro-Lek Ltd

Press Information

October, 2012

For immediate release

Obituary – Chris Lokuciewski 1952-2012

Sadly Chris Lokuciewski passed away on 28th September, aged 59. Many would have known Chris as not only the MD and founder of specialist subsea tooling company, Hydro-Lek Ltd, but also as a leading figurehead in the deep sea submersibles industry.

Born on the Isle of Wight, Chris started his career at 17 as an apprentice for BOAC and continued to work for them until 1974. He then started a new career as a manned submersible pilot for Pisces V, Aquarius 1 and PC9 and it was here that his passion for all things underwater began. The following decade saw Chris working his way up to become an ROV pilot and eventually an ROV designer. His children will tell you tales of having ROVs in the back garden instead of climbing frames and going for a swim in the test tank rather than a municipal pool. There were many 'Eureka' moments where Chris would rush to commit his ideas to paper – such was his love of his industry.

In 1996 Chris set up Hydro-Lek to provide what he saw as a growing need for small but highly articulate subsea tooling and over the past 16 years he developed Hydro-Lek into a successful business with a worldwide reputation for simple, solid and cost-effective solutions for smaller ROVs.

Many of Hydro-Lek's customers will remember him as a charismatic character with boundless energy and drive to solve deep sea engineering problems – even if this meant hopping on to the next plane bound for the other side of the world! He was rarely to be found in his office but could always be found in the workshop, drawing office or in transit visiting customers. Indeed he was a very personable man who placed a high value on face to face contact. But beneath this indomitable spirit lay a very warm heart, as anyone who knew him well will testify. Chris had a remarkable sense of loyalty and duty to not just his family but also to his friends, staff and customers. To Chris, we were all his extended family.

Chris will be remembered by his staff as a great friend and mentor who would give them every encouragement to develop their potential. He had great faith in the abilities of his team at Hydro-Lek and always had their needs and livelihood at heart. When asked recently what is the most exciting aspect of his job, Chris replied:

“I would change exciting to rewarding. That is to say I am privileged to supply unique equipment worldwide and to provide employment to a good team of staff that I value immensely.”

Chris’s legacy lives on and Hydro-Lek, under the auspices of his only daughter Charlotte Mott, will continue to design simple, rugged and cost-effective subsea tooling products manufactured to customers’ specifications or available off the shelf.

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