

STEPHANIE MERRY, PhD, CEng



PROFILE

A resourceful project manager and engineering consultant, with substantial breadth of expertise in marine technology and fluid dynamics. Effective leadership and communication skills, with the ability to motivate through personal energy and enthusiasm, have been demonstrated when directing a team of 8 professional engineers. Impressive track record of implementing innovative projects and facilitating collaboration, particularly in an international arena. Has successfully managed a multinational European research project, utilising language skills in French and German.

CAREER SUMMARY

Focus Offshore Ltd: Director and Technical Consultant

June 2003 – present

Recent Contracts and Projects:

- Contracted by HM Royal Navy, to organise logistics, equipment and staff for sales of the official Trafalgar 200 souvenir programmes to on-water spectators at Her Majesty's Fleet Review on June 28th 2005.
- Contracted by MTMC for a world-wide audit of hydrodynamic test facilities, on behalf of QinetiQ Haslar.
- Contracted by MTMC for a market survey of commercial opportunities for the NaREC (New and Renewable Energy Centre) marine test facility at Blyth.
- Market survey on behalf of Hi-Store, to investigate commercial opportunities related to out-of-town retail parks.
- Contracted by Envirolink Northwest, to identify companies within the engineering and offshore sectors of Northwest England for the supply of parts and services required for the deployment of tidal current turbines and to analyse the companies' capabilities.
- Contracted by the Rating Office of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, to measure offshore racing boats for the IRC rating system.
- Member of Marine Renewable Energy Panel of the Engineering Committee on Oceanic Resources (ECOR).
- Representative at the Public Examination of Proposed Alterations to Regional Planning Guidance (SE) on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

QinetiQ (previously DERA) Haslar**1996 – 2003**

(The Defence and Evaluation Research Agency – DERA- was a government agency providing independent technical advice and research services to the MoD)

Oct 2002 – June 2003: Business Development Manager, Marine Renewable Energy

Tasked to develop a new area of business during the transition of QinetiQ from the public sector (primarily serving the MoD) to public–private partnership.

Key Achievements

- Negotiated and managed QinetiQ’s first contract in marine renewable energy, for £170k from the North West Regional Development Agency.
- Conducted a PhD viva as external examiner at St Johns University, Newfoundland

2000 – 2002: Project Manager, Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Group

Managed projects (~£1.5M) for the MoD Corporate Research Programme and small commercial CFD projects. This role encompassed the management of a team of 6 technical staff, technical overview of the projects, financial management, customer liaison, reporting and project delivery.

Key Achievements

- Managed and delivered a successful £750k collaborative research project between MoD Research Institutes in the Netherlands, Italy, France and UK.
- Negotiated, managed and delivered the first external contract for CFD analysis let by the GBR Challenge Americas Cup consortium.
- Provided technical consultancy and appeared on the BBC TV programme “Building the Impossible”, covering the reconstruction of the historic Van Dreibel submarine.
- Organised the GBR Challenge Schools Competition (for teams of school children to design, build and test a model Americas Cup yacht).

1997 – 2002: UK representative to EUCLID CEPA 10

(European Cooperation for the Long Term in Defence, Common European Priority Area 10 – Underwater Technology and Naval Hydrodynamics).

The MoD representative for UK naval interests in the EUCLID research forum, representing the UK position at biannual Steering Committee meetings.

Key Achievements

- Proposed and coordinated the formation of 3 collaborative research projects
- Composed the first EUCLID CEPA 10 Strategy Document

1996 – 2000: Principal Engineer, Submarine Hydrodynamics Group

Invited to join a team of 12 research scientists and engineers, specialising in submarine hydrodynamics and control. Tasks included the technical conduct and management of hydrodynamics applied research and naval project support for the MoD, plus “blue skies” research. This role involved the management and supervision of 8 technical staff, theoretical research, computer based theoretical predictions, model experiment planning, conduct and analysis, technical report production and liaison with the MoD customer.

Key Achievements

- Led a consortium of 4 European nations (France, Norway, Eire and UK) applying for EU research funding under Framework IV
- Specified, implemented and delivered a £175k experimental project to define acceptance procedures for the autopilots of HM submarines.
- Conceived and led a team to develop the “Eurosub 2000” project – an international competition for underwater vehicles to be conducted in the Ocean Basin at Haslar.
- Appeared on the television programme “Scrapheap Challenge”, as judge and technical commentator.

University of Southampton

1990 - 1996

1994 – 1996: Lecturer, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research

Appointed to coordinate research activities between the Engineering Faculty and the new Southampton Oceanography Centre (SOC). Other duties included teaching and supervision of research projects.

Key Achievements

- Established an engineering research centre at SOC, comprising 8 post-graduate students and researchers.
- Won £130k grant from the Science and Engineering Research Council for research into propulsion and control of remotely operated underwater vehicles.

1990 – 1990: Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Appointed as the Conoco Lecturer in fluid mechanics. Duties included teaching and supervision of Conoco-funded research projects (total £410k).

Key Achievements

- As Chair of the Southampton Group of the Women’s Engineering Society (WES), implemented the WES Bursary Scheme to solicit bursaries (~£48.5k) and placement opportunities from local engineering companies for women engineering students.

- With support from the Marine Technology Directorate, launched “Marinetech S&W”, a consortium of universities and institutes from the South and West of England, to conduct collaborative research in marine technology.
- Supervised and raised £43k sponsorship for a 3 year student project to design and build the human-powered submersible “Submission Impossible”, which competed successfully in the 3rd International Submarine Races in Florida, USA.
- Served as International Judge in the Nagisa Design Ideas Contest, for design solutions to improve the marine environment in Yokohama Bay.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

1986 – 1990 Florida Atlantic University, USA – Lecturer in Ocean Engineering

1980 – 1986 University of Southampton

1985 – 1986 Consultant engineer, Wolfson Unit for Marine Technology

1982 – 1985 Research Fellow, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research

1980 – 1982 Research Assistant, Department of Mechanical Engineering

HIGHER EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1986 CEng, Institution of Mechanical Engineers

1976 - 1979 PhD Mechanical Engineering, University of Southampton

1972 - 1973 MSc Oceanography, University of Southampton

1968 - 1972 BSc Metallurgy with German, University of Surrey

PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

Approximately 50 technical publications and reports on aspects of fluid dynamics, submarine hydrodynamics and control.