
Submersibles search for oil

Unmanned submersibles designed and manufactured in Port Moody, British Columbia, are rapidly becoming the workhorses of the offshore oil exploration industry.

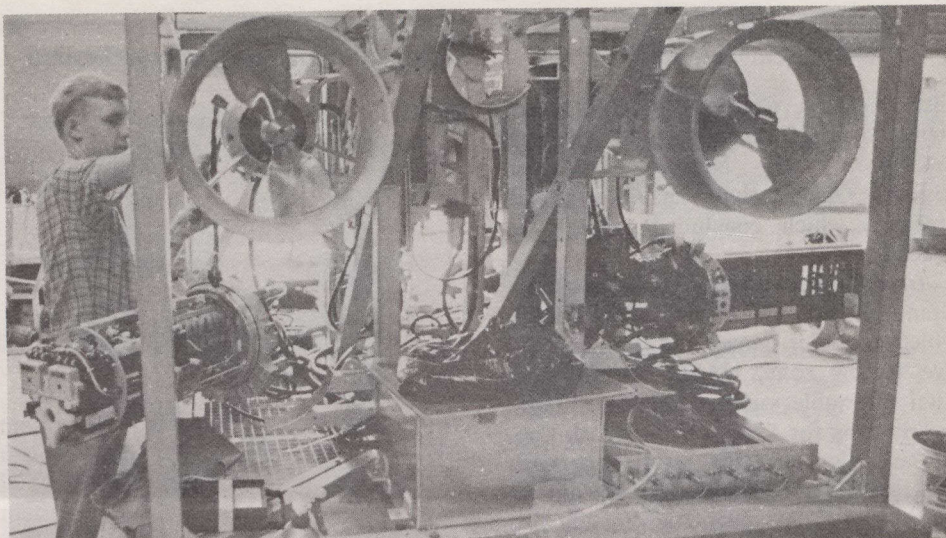
International Submarine Engineering Ltd. (ISE), located in the Vancouver suburb, builds unmanned tethered remote control vehicles equipped with television cameras and a variety of manipulator systems. The submersible is able to perform a wide variety of underwater tasks such as inspection, survey and support.

And ISE is now developing a submarine, the *Wrangler*, which will be manned by one person. The machine should be ready for testing in the coming months.

Works like diver

"We feel that up to 70 per cent of the jobs that once required a diver now can be performed by these vehicles," says Hari Sharma, ISE vice-president, finance. "These units can inspect pipelines, drilling platforms, undersea cables, repair and recover articles, work under the ice caps — all at up to 3,000 feet below the surface," he says.

The submersible is controlled by an operator, sitting at a control panel on the oil rig or support ship, using the tele-



Technician installs electronic components on a TROV.

vision camera as the operator's eyes and the manipulator to do the actual work.

ISE designs and manufactures three of the most popular submersibles; the large one- to three-ton *TROV*; the intermediate 450-lb. *TREC* and the *DART*, a 100-lb. deep access (1,200 feet) reconnaissance television camera.

The first *TROV* sale was to the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters, in September 1975. The ten other sales have been to American, French and British oil industry servicing companies. Their most recent sale, to the United States Navy, is

in conjunction with their Underwater Recovery System. This *TROV* will recover test torpedoes on the bottom of undersea testing ranges.

The *TREC* has been sold exclusively to foreign buyers. A *TREC* for instance, was used to photograph the underwater damage caused by the June 1979 oil well accident in the Gulf of Mexico.

ISE's latest development, the *DART*, has just completed testing, and the first unit has been delivered to the Singapore-based Kalatec Seatronics for underwater cable inspection.

Visitors from overseas set new records

A record two million visitors from overseas countries visited Canada in 1979, the Canadian Government Office of Tourism (CGOT) has announced.

A total of 2,010,632 visitors came to Canada from countries other than the United States between January and December 1979, an increase of more than 18 per cent over the 1,706,207 overseas visitors who travelled to Canada in 1978. The number of overseas visitors increased from one million to two million in six years. In 1973, Canada recorded 1.1 million visits from overseas countries.

Milestones were set in three areas in 1979. The number of visitors from Britain, Canada's major source of overseas visitors, exceeded 500,000 for the first time; visitors from West Germany totalled more than 200,000 while visitors to Canada from the Netherlands exceeded 100,000.

The year 1979 was also the first year

that the number of visitors to Canada from overseas countries exceeded the number of Canadians going to these countries.

All seven countries which form CGOT's overseas market showed substantial increases in the numbers of visitors to Canada in 1979, as compared with 1978. The number of visitors from France increased by 17.9 per cent, West Germany by 26 per cent, the Netherlands by 18.9 per cent, Britain by 18.4 per cent, Japan by 24.1 per cent, Mexico by 17.7 per cent and Australia by 13.7 per cent.

While Canada recorded a total of 31,191,590 visitors from the United States in 1979, the total was down 3.1 per cent from the same period in 1978.

Reasons cited for the decrease included problems with the price and availability of gasoline, which kept many Americans at home during the summer of 1979.

Genealogy conference

The American-Canadian Genealogical Society will hold its spring conference May 3, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

This year's program will consist of a series of speakers and workshops designed to help Americans of Canadian ancestry in doing their genealogical research.

Conference speakers will include: Patricia Kennedy, pre-Confederation Archivist, who will speak on the resources and research in the Public Archives of Canada; Rev. Julien Deziel, president of La Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française, who will speak on genealogical research in French Canada; and Dr. David McDougall, a member of the Quebec Family History Society, who will present a program on "English Quebecers in the Gaspé Peninsula, the Eastern Townships, Trois Rivières and Quebec City".

The society has an enrolment of over 1,300 members from the United States and Canada.