# Aker Solutions Crowned Company of the Year by Subsea UK

*(L to R) David Benison and Matt Corbin of Aker Solutions*

Aker Solutions was recognised as the best subsea company of the year at the recent Subsea UK Awards, presented at this year's Subsea Expo in Aberdeen.

In addition to receiving the top honour, the company with over 3,500 employees based in the UK also won the award for Innovation & Technology for its Vectus Subsea Electronics Module.

David Clark, Regional President of the UK and Africa, Aker Solutions, said: "We have invested significantly in our UK business in the last two years, specifically in infrastructure, technology and skills with a view to becoming a champion of responsible operations. To secure two such important awards is recognition of the hard work and commitment we have shown towards finding ways to unlock energy safely and sustainably for future generations, despite the challenges the industry is seeing, and I am very proud of everyone who has played a part in it."

Neil Gordon, Chief Executive of Subsea UK, commented: "The past 12 months have been extremely challenging for subsea companies, however in times like these it's more important than ever to celebrate success. Some impressive achievements, technological breakthroughs and industry firsts have been recognised at the awards, which proves how resilient and pioneering our sector is. All entrants demonstrated the innovation, talent and leadership that's needed to hold on to the UK's world-leading position in subsea."

David Bloom, Global Business Development Director for Subsea 7, received the Outstanding Achievement Award; Robert Weeks, lead engineer at JDR Cable Systems, scooped the award for Young Emerging Talent; Fathom Systems was crowned the Small Company of the Year and also won the Innovation for Safety Award, while the Global Exports Award went to JDR Cable.

# F4E Vacuum Vessel Forgings Are Progressing


*A forging being machined. Photo © F4E*

Within the framework of the contract between F4E and the AMW consortium (Ansaldo Nucleare S.p.A, Mangiarotti S.p.A and Walter Tosto S.p.A) for the fabrication of 7 vacuum vessel sectors for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility at Cadarache, in the south of France, stainless steel forgings, which will be used in the manufacturing of these sectors, are currently being produced.

Three sub-contractors, Rolf Kind GmbH (Germany), Acciaierie Valbruna (Italy) and ThyssenKrupp (Germany), have carried out the task of producing different kinds of forgings which will be used on the first three of the seven sectors (out of the total nine) that Europe is contributing to the ITER project (the two other sectors of the vacuum vessel are supplied by Korea). For the first three sectors, around 1,000 forgings will be produced in various different shapes and sizes. The total of different forgings will weigh around 300 tonnes per vacuum vessel sector.

The forgings consist of big blocks of 316 LN ITER grade stainless steel (a type of steel which is made up of a low carbon and high nitrogen content). These blocks have been produced by mixing pellets of materials such as chromium, nickel and, of course, steel. While the blocks are being produced by sub-contractors, the first available blocks will be shipped to the Mangiarotti S.p.A and Walter Tosto S.p.A premises for machining. Following completion of machining, they will be welded in order to create parts of the vacuum vessel segments.

# Raccortubi Receives Elite UK-Italy Business Award

*Luca Pentericci, President of Raccortubi Group, being presented with the award*

During the 9th UK-Italy Business Awards at Palazzo Mezzanotte in Milan, Raccortubi Group received the Elite Award for excellence and entrepreneurship in its field.

Hosted by Borsa Italiana, Italy's main stock exchange, Raccortubi Group was awarded the prize thanks to its recent expansion in the United Kingdom, with the establishment of Raccortubi UK near London in July 2015 and the acquisition of Norsk Alloys in Aberdeen, Scotland, now Raccortubi Norsk, in October 2015.

By extending its local presence and distribution network to the United Kingdom, Raccortubi has managed to enhance its efficiency in terms of cutting times and costs for customers in the region. While Raccortubi Norsk concentrates on the stockholding and distribution of pipes, fittings and flanges in stainless steel and special alloys, Raccortubi UK focuses on providing EPC contractors, fabricators and blue chip companies with a dedicated service for the complex order management and project handling of piping materials.

Both Raccortubi Norsk and Raccortubi UK are supported by Group headquarters and integrated production mills in Italy in the composition of package orders. With additional stock material and on-demand manufacturing at their disposal, they can ensure that requests are fulfilled quickly and effectively.

# Suraj Awarded API 5LC

Suraj Limited was recently accredited by the API with a 5LC license. The company, which is based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, has manufactured stainless steel pipes, tubes and U-bends since 1994. Its products are manufactured and tested to international standards under the supervision of qualified and experienced experts to meet the demands of industrial users for various applications, sizes, grades and specifications as per ASTM and other international standards such as ASME, DIN, EN, NFA, and JIS.

Suraj Limited is an Export House recognised by the Government of India. The company sells its premium products in India and abroad, exporting them to more than 70 countries around the world.