Rapid Response Service Goes Operational in Northern Norway



ollowing the successful demonstration in September 2010 of the rapid response SeaSonde for oil spill response, The Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies (NOFO) and the oil company ENI NORGE AS have initiated a pilot service for monitoring surface currents in the Barents Sea around the Goliat oil field, 60 km off the pristine coast of the county of Finnmark.

Under the management of CodarNor A/S (led by Anton Kjelaas), three Low Power SeaSonde Remote Units, each consuming less than 210 W average, have been integrated into durable, lightweight shelters with autonomous, off-grid power supplies consisting of a combination of fuel cell and solar panels.

In September of 2012, all three shelters were delivered to remote locations on offshore islands via helicopter. With a crew of four and a helicopter pilot, all three units were installed and operating in a little under 10 hours, including transit time, with no more than 2.5 hours on the ground at any of the sites. Built by Power Controls A/S, each shelter's power system can be remotely monitored and controlled in real-time via CDMA wireless data modem. SeaSonde data products are also being provided in real-time via wireless communications to NOFO and the Norwegian Meteorologic Institute for incorporation into coastal ocean circulation and oil drift models. These SeaSondes and shelters will be used in a six-month campaign for the Goliat field with other deployments planned afterward. At any time they can be rapidly relocated in case of a spill in a different area.