SPECIALIST SUPPORT TO THE OIL & GAS SECTOR

Although historically a military deliverable, the disposal of UXO items offshore by commercial companies is now well proven. Ramora UK have been delivering such services since 2005 and have undertaken more UXO disposals in the past five years than their military counterparts. The techniques used are far more technologically based and allow greater flexibility alongside client cost-savings. Additionally, advancements allow for the removal of personnel from the risk, thereby enhancing the safety profile of such operations. Alongside a team of former Royal Navy specialists, Ramora UK offers clients access to reactive bomb disposal services, including the Remote Explosive Ordnance Disposal System (REODS), which can be deployed against UXO targets using the majority of ROVs in service today.

Where handled incorrectly, or due to lack of understanding surrounding risk, UXO related incidents can result in significant unnecessary costs (Σm). Recent incidents have highlighted the



importance of adequate risk assessment and verification of the UXO contractor's capabilities to enable them to undertake this work. Increasingly, some maritime contractors offer this as a bolt-on service derived from a scratch team. with minimal quality or safety assurance and track record. This trend has been acknowledged by a number of larger operators, hence comprehensive vetting measures have been introduced

to ensure more extensive levels of competence and expertise.

Historically, those who initially invest wisely, and entirely, in a UXO solution will reap financial and reputational reward in the longer term. Whereas, those who choose to ignore the potential for UXO discoveries, by neglecting risk management, will invariably encounter significantly elevated costs and risk as a consequence.

