

SHIP



Issue No 70 November/December 2017

MANAGEMENT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



Female sexual abuse at sea
How many are suffering in silence?



Dr Carl Stephen Patrick Hunter

CEO, Coltraco Ultrasonics

A former Greenjacket Officer in the British Army, Dr Carl Hunter is fiercely patriotic and his belief that British companies and UK Research are among the best in the world has prompted him to become an Ambassador for UK Business, not only in maritime but in industry as a whole.

Indeed, the whole focus on being 'home-grown' has enabled the CEO of Coltraco Ultrasonics to extend the ethos into plucking and nurturing talent from the highest branches of Physics at Durham University – something for which he has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science.

Dr Hunter set up the company with his father Eric – who was a submariner in the UK Royal Navy – in 1990 after they saw a gap in the market for two types of testing equipment – a monitor to check ships' CO2 suppression systems and later an indicator to trace leaks and faulty

seals in hatch-covers, compartment doors and multiple cable transit areas between watertight bulkheads. It took them years.

“The number one occupation on my mind in the marine industry is that we get those two core areas right. The watertight integrity monitoring of the ships, because sinking remains the number one reasons for ships loss - which we forget - and secondly, fire remains the number two reason for ships loss at sea. We are the only company in the world that understand that the 600 CO2 extinguishing cylinders onboard ships are the pressurised equivalent of handling 600 grenades. Perfectly safe if properly maintained but subject to leakage if not.

“Still the message has not got home. Extinguishers are going to go pop if inadequately maintained and they are seeping and leaking. Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) reports say the CO2 system

discharged and the fire was not extinguished and the only scientific reason that can happen is that there was not sufficient CO2 to extinguish the fire. And the only reason that could be happening is because it's been discharging during the voyage and between the annual service intervals.”

Coltraco now manufactures over 20 ultrasonic and acoustic resonance marine products and constant monitoring systems including the world's first portable ultrasonic liquid level indicator, the Portalevel MAX Marine, to enable crew members to check the contents of every CO2 cylinder, be IMO SOLAS FSS code compliant in the process and Portascanner Watertight for hatch-covers.

The growth has been enabled by a dedicated team including a growing number of undergraduates who work for the London-based company through a graduate scheme run in conjunction with Durham University.

“I’m immensely proud of the programme”

Under the scheme – the largest undergraduate programme at the university – Coltraco has 25 undergraduates employed part-time at any one time, all of them cherry-picked from over 100 applicants, with scientists joining the Research & Development department and non-scientists going into business roles. Summer internships are also offered to a select few and the company offers full-time employment to one lucky graduate each year.

“I’m immensely proud of the programme,” said Dr Hunter, who also runs an entrepreneurship and mentoring module for around 200 students at two of Durham’s colleges and UCL London.

The chance for promoting ‘home-grown’ talent is just part of his bid to sing the praises of Britain and he is encouraging of the work by the UK Government’s Department for International Trade and proud to be part of the country’s strategy through its commitment to global trade in the shipping and marine sector.

“What I’m really interested in is the application of fundamental physical principles in ultrasound into areas of shipping which have never been done before. The challenge though, with shipping, is then the IMO might have a regulation but we have a very low implementation track record in shipping.

“If you want us to become a Global Britain on EU exit, then the two areas I recommend could enhance the brand of Global Britain would be higher implementation rate of the regulations at the IMO and the welfare of seafarers around the planet. They would be relatively low cost and

high impact and greatly support the notion of Global Britain.”

Coltraco exports nearly 90% of what it makes and now covers 20% of the world fleet.

It’s an exciting time for Dr Hunter, who admits he would love to branch out into the political arena. He is also now on the governing councils of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects and British Naval Equipment Association.

“It all seems to be knitting together. I’ve never been busier and I’m having the time of my life,” he said.

“However, I’m also very mindful that this lovely company of mine, a British manufacturer doing its Science in the UK, exporting 89% of its output to 108 countries, is innovating its Safeship technologies and its success depends on our people and I’m very protective of them, their morale and their wellbeing.” ●

Brasil | Argentina
Uruguay | Colombia



SENAT
G R O U P

On/Off Hire
Condition Survey

On/Off Hire
ROB Bunker Survey

On/Off Hire
Condition and ROB
Bunker Survey

For services request:
senatdobrasil@senatgroup.com

SENATGROUP.COM