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Kongsberg Discovery

Major upgrade to echo sounder & ADCP systems

Kongsberg Discovery, a world leading supplier of underwater acoustic solutions announces today that they have released several updates and innovations to their echosounder (SBES) solutions. The updates will bring new functionality and improvements to the user experience, but also have practical implications providing an upgrade path for existing EA640 users.

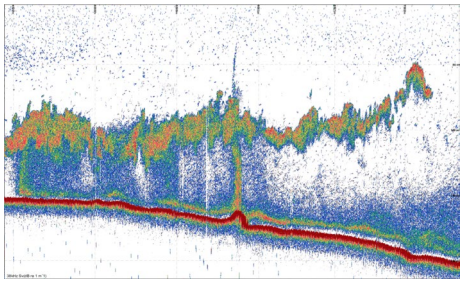

Image: EK80 screenshot showing seafloor detection, a natural gas seep in the middle, and fish schools spread out midwater.

The best of two worlds

The most substantial part of the update is the merging of the EA640 hydrographic SBES and the EK80 scientific echosounder and ADCP system into one solution, providing a single product capable of supplying high quality data for seafloor and water column surveys. The merging of these two products enables quantitative measurements of seafloor properties as well as supporting biological, physicals, and environmental research and monitoring. Specific EA640 functionality for hydrography such as bottom detection algorithms, real time sound velocity input and other are added to the EK80 software that will continue as the acquisition and data storage solution for the combined product. The EK80 system is already the de-facto world standard for fishery research and ecosystem surveys and has recently also added ADCP functionality, lowering the complexity and cost of sourcing and maintaining the combined echo sounder and ADCP systems.

Going forward Kongsberg Discovery's SBES users will have the option to select between split beam licenses allowing them to collect calibrated backscatter data or more traditional single beam licenses focusing on bottom detection. If coupled with a split beam capable transducer, the single beam license can be upgraded to split beam through licensing at a later stage. The EK80 WBT uses all four transducer channels to produce 2 kW transmission signals which, when combined with the split beam capable ES18-11 MK2 and ES38-7 transducers, enables superior performance for users who require full ocean depth performance.

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The new ES18-11 MK2 wideband transducer launched in 2024 is a vital piece in the new product strategy. This broadband low frequency transducer provides substantial improvements for biomass surveys, enabling broadband measurements at ranges unreached by other systems. The transducer covers a wide frequency spectrum, from 10kHz to 30kHz, with peak range performance at 14 kHz. In addition to fishery research, the ES18-11 MK2 has also shown great promises on other applications, including water masses mapping, sub bottom profiling and gas seep detection and quantification.

Maintaining the EA440 as a versatile and cost-efficient hydrographic system

The EA440 SBES is used by a wide range of users worldwide as an easy to use, cost efficient solution for bottom detections. The system will share hardware with EK80, but other than that the system will be continued and sold as before.

Obsolescence and reduced complexity

The existing High Power wideband transceiver (WBT) is discontinued and replaced by the standard WBT used across EK80 and EA440 systems going forward. The features of the EA640 software have been added to the EK80 software and while the EA640 software is available it will not be updated any further. The HP WBT will be supplied for existing delivery backlog and a small number kept as service units. A technical and commercial EK80 upgrade path for existing EA640 HP WBT users will be offered through dedicated campaigns in 2025.

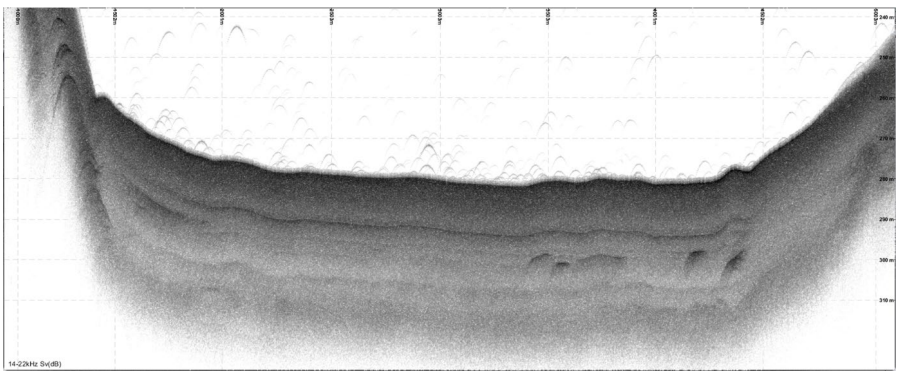

Image: Sub bottom profiling results from EK80 using the ES18-11 MK2 transducer with good penetration and resolution.

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