

## **ASI GROUP ACQUIRES WORKING CLASS VESSEL FOR OFFSHORE INSPECTION SURVEYS AND DIVING SERVICES**

**ST. CATHARINES, ON, April 10, 2008 – ASI Group Ltd.** (ASI), based in St. Catharines, ON, Canada announces an addition to their fleet of offshore survey vessels for offshore inspection surveys and diving service. The growing requirement to monitor and inspect aging underwater infrastructure has led to ASI's procurement of the *ASI Clipper*. The vessel can easily be mobilized to all parts of the Great Lakes. The vessel requires a crew of two and can carry eight passengers. There are overnight accommodations for six personnel on-board the vessel.



The *ASI Clipper* supplements ASI's already extensive fleet of specialized work vessels. It is easily deployed, maneuverable and can accommodate most underwater survey and inspection tasks.

The *ASI Clipper* features include:

- Spacious aft work platform for staging operations
- Heated and air conditioned galley and accommodations
- Fully certified dive set-up including double lock recompression chamber, oxygen supply equipment and safety gear
- Bow thruster to assist station keeping
- Aft remote helm for increased maneuverability
- Transport Canada Safety Approved Vessel and Crew
- 3-ton HIAB crane for launch and recovery of ROV's and survey equipment
- Fuel efficient 400 hp diesel engine
- Computer work station area
- Anchoring capability

ASI's decision to acquire the *ASI Clipper* was based on its proven expertise in offshore underwater inspection surveys and installations for municipalities and utilities in the Great Lakes. The vessel is suitable for underwater mapping and bottom verification surveys; ROV launch and recovery for offshore tunnel and pipelines access; "open water" support for marine construction; and salvage operations.

ASI Group was founded in 1987 as Aquatic Sciences Inc. by technical professionals committed to providing engineering, marine and ecological services to industry and utilities worldwide. The Company is widely recognized for long tunnel inspections utilizing the *ASI Mantaro*, a long tunnel inspection ROV, tethered by a sophisticated 10 km umbilical that transmits sonar and video data real-time to the surface via fibre optic telemetry. ASI owns and operates a fleet of purpose-built inspection ROV's including a SeaEye Falcon and Seabotix LBV utilized in open water surveys at depths of 300 m and at speeds of 4 knots. ASI has recently been awarded a \$25 M contract to design and build an inspection class ROV for a large municipality in the US Northeast.

ASI employs a full time staff of one hundred engineers, technologists and commercial divers and is headquartered in St. Catharines, ON, Canada. Branch offices are located in Sarnia, ON and Orchard Park, NY.

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