



HYPACK
a xylem brand

Sounding Better!

Letter from General Manager

By Harold Orlinsky

Springtime is here. We made it through another winter. (For folks that don't experience the snow, the shoveling, or the snowball challenge with the kids—the politically correct expression, as we don't have snowball fights any more—you're not missing much.)

Springtime is when survey work gets going, and we face another set of challenges—not with snowballs, but with new technology being thrown at us again. We can say it's making the work better, but what it is really doing is challenging us to find another solution for an old problem: surveying quickly, and easily without spending a lot of money. At HYPACK, we're doing our best to help.

With the release of HYPACK® 2018 complete, the challenges we face this year are keeping up with the latest sonars coming into the market, updates to existing ones (inevitably with new formats), and the use of the sonar systems on board autonomous vessels (ASVs). I'm seeing the resurgence in the beam count with these sonars, as manufacturers compete to claim the highest beam count in the industry. I recall ("in the olden days"...) my first multibeam ship had just 16 beams, then we started seeing those with 60 beams. We are now getting more than 1000 soundings per ping (twice with dual head). HYPACK® will keep up with it this year, removing the 1440 count that was implemented 20 years ago, with the rationale that no sonar will need to do more.... We were wrong.

The ASV market is seeing an influx of new boats on the market – faster with longer endurance and more autonomy (with obstacle avoidance), and collecting data in areas where traditional survey vessels can't go. Updated drivers for running these boats were added for the HYPACK® 2018 release, and we continue to work with manufacturers as they advance the features of these vessels.

As HYPACK continues work on the programming side. Support and Sales, the unsung heroes, are sometimes those that never get mentioned. It is time for me to give a big "Thank You" and a "job well done" to Donna and Linda, who get everything in place for our clients. Anyone who has called in to HYPACK has spoken to them. Next time you call, let them know how much their work is appreciated. Many nights when I leave after 5, they are still here, making sure your package will be delivered by the next day.

-Harold