

## **Multibeam processing – the end to manual editing?**

**Duncan Mallace**, Managing Director

**NetSurvey**, The Office, Astell Farm, Claydon, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 1QA, UK  
T: +44 1295 690 007 E: duncan@netsurvey.co.uk

**Lindsey Gee**, General Manger

**IVS3D**, 1500 A Lafayette Rd, PMB 379, Portsmouth, NH 03801, USA  
T: +1 603 431 1773 E: lgee@ivs3d.com

Over recent years the sheer volume of data that shallow water multibeam systems are collecting has been threatening to overwhelm the survey data processor. NetSurvey acquired 1.8 billion soundings in a 30 day period in 2003 on a single project. Fortunately computing power has evolved to match the volumes and recently automated processing routines have been developed to use the computing power rather than human interaction. These automated processing tools have been ratified by charting authorities and have resulted in previously unheard of ratios of forty days acquisition to one day processing.

Where does this leave the survey data processor? What does he have to do now – if anything? Can this paradigm shift be easily taken up by survey companies and charting houses?

This paper attempts to evaluate the new processing methodologies and how the authors feel that it will enhance the quality of the final products, allow for more complete and integrated products to be completed on board the survey vessels and make the hydrographic surveyor more of a hydrographer and less of an offshore surveyor.