

## CFE DREDGER



SEAJET Systems (SJS) has signed a manufacturing partnership with Soil Machine Dynamics (SMD) to build a Controlled Flowed Excavation (CFE) tool. This is useful for the burial or de-burial of seabed structures.

The tool is normally deployed by over the side of a vessel and positioned at a specific height over the seabed, typically around 2m. Powerful rotors create a column of water which can be varied in volume and pressure depending on the seabed condition.

Upon contact with the seabed, this water begins to excavate the sands and even clays. By use of a multi-beam sonar being able to image in real time, it is possible to steer the excavator while removing spoil to a precise depth.

The technique provides two advantages. At no time is the tool in

physical contact with the seabed and in particular, subsea assets. This means that is suitable for work near subsea architecture. The other is that there is no need to dispose of spoil. It is normally possible to deploy these systems from small vessels which improve the economics of the project.

These are devices are normally provided as part of a turnkey service is which a subcontractor will not only provide the equipment but also operate it.

In many cases , the ability to provide this service is valuable to the client. The subcontractor knows how best to use the tool, understands its limits and can maximise its efficiency. This, however, comes with a commensurate cost and the client might already have its own in-house expertise.

This prompted a new company, Sea Jet Systems the ability to own and operate CFE technology.

The company has signed a manufacturing partnership with Soil Machine Dynamics (SMD), the world's largest independent designer and manufacturer of specialist subsea intervention equipment.

The partnership will see SMD exclusively build, test and commission what they claim is the most advanced fleet of CFE equipment available in the market by introducing advanced hydrodynamic properties suitable for a wide range of applications and variable seabed conditions.

SJS also offers a tailored aftermarket support package to inspire client confidence to own, operate and maintain their own CFE equipment.