

"Multibeam Echosounders: Trends of the Hydrographic Industry"

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Decreasing quantity of experienced multibeam users juxtaposed with the increasing demand for qualitative and quantitative multi-layered (i.e. bathymetry and backscatter information, benthic composition, watercolumn imaging) multibeam sonar data results in a growing demand for a comprehensive and efficient system for acoustic sonar mapping. This paper explores, through discussions with multibeam sonar industry experts, the increasing demands for acquisition of "more/faster/better" sonar data through status quo or limited hands-on operator experience. Future generation multibeam sonars must be geared for high efficiency; a mantra for robust common-goal solutions.