

oxygen compatible

Oxygen is an essential element in today's high-tech diving business. That's why oxygen



safety is so important.

The simple fact is that lubricants are the most vulnerable and easily ignited component in any high-pressure gas system.

Fortunately it's one problem that's easily corrected. That's why a growing number of professionals are switching to CHRISTOLUBE O2 lubricant.

Like its mil-spec counterpart, CHRISTOLUBE is a non-toxic, oxygen-compatible lubricant that's designed specifically for scuba applications.

A perfluorinated polyether, CHRISTOLUBE is less corrosive than chlorofluorocarbons making it compatible with plastics, rubber and elastomers and it provides optimal lubrication even when cold.

Oxygen handling always involves risk. Our goal is to help you reduce it.

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Like the Johnny Appleseed of rebreathers, British entrepreneur Peter Readey has traveled around the world putting the masses under pressure on the Prism, his semi-closed rebreather, working out the bugs, collecting data from logged dives, and building interest. In mid-1995, Readey hooked up with Cochran Undersea Technology to design the modular Prism II, that can be used in semi-closed and closed-circuit mode, as well as open-circuit for bailout modes. The unit will incorporate front-mounted counterlungs and a unique floodable scrubber design that lets you ditch the water out, and naturally employs Cochran's Nemesis hoseless computer technology. The 38-40 lb. unit is expected to sell for between \$5,500 and \$7,000. Test units that will be diveable at tek. They are expected to be on sale around the end of 1996. We asked him about his experiences on the road and his concerns about safety.

You've devoted the last few years of your life to rebreathers. Why?

I've spent the last three years with the Prism, and before that, with Dräger, Oceanic, and Carmellan.

I started in 1990 because I like diving quite deep and found using open-circuit heliox was too expensive. I was spending £300 a month! I saw that the military guys used Mk 15s, and that was really the way to go.

I got involved with Stuart Clough [of Carmellan Research], and he taught me the rudimentaries of rebreathers. I have a lot to thank him for. He warned me that I would spend more time and money than I wanted...and he was right.

What have you learned from putting 1,500 people through a "rebreather experience?"

We were an R&D company doing a "dog and pony" show, traveling around the world putting people in the water to prove that there was a market, and to collect data. I was the first to put people in the water, at tek three years ago. We took 83 people. We went out and created what

we felt was a viable market.

Most of the rebreather manufacturers have slipped their schedules. Why has it taken everyone so long to deliver product?

No one really thought there was enough money in it to get into tooling up and making mass quantities of equipment.. One thing you need to bear in mind is that re-breathers are

very easy to build badly. We spent years testing data, logging dives, and getting all the systems working correctly. They're very insidious. Things happen slowly. It's not like open-circuit. It can lure you into a false sense of security. Hypoxia is a real concern. You're making a life-support system. If it fails, you die. We had to make it safety.

Why'd you get hooked up with Cochran?

We were not capable of making a mass-produced system. We came to Cochran because of their manufacturing capability to replicate what we put together as a prototype. Plus, we could use their computer technology to go with our

knowledge on the rebreather technology. The Prism II is very different from the first unit. We learned a great deal hawking that thing around the world.

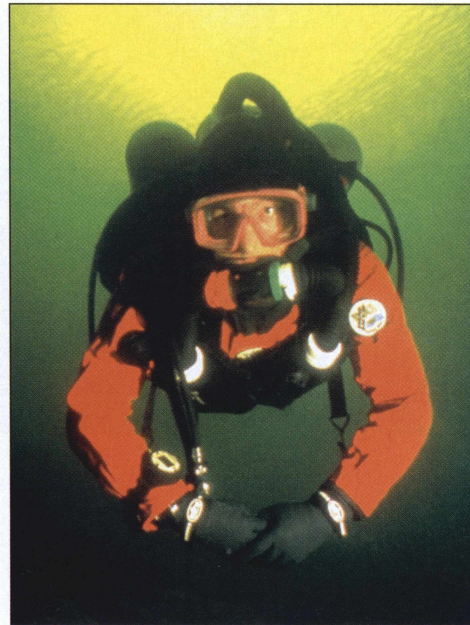
What's your biggest fear?

Training. Many people treat rebreathers too lightly. They are not difficult to use, just very different. There's a mindset that if you're a deep diver already operating at 200 to 300 feet [60-90 meters], you don't want to go back to square one and retrain. We'll set up training for the various agencies, with key people in different countries testing the units.

Who is your target customer?

We're aiming at the recreational diver who likes diving on nitrox. Initially, we will not be selling the unit to go beyond 130 feet/40 m. It will have the electronics to go beyond, but the software won't be in. You'll be able to upgrade at a later date.

We're ready when you are.



Dan Burton

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YOU ARE