Claims

1. A module for adjusting the position and/or orientation of a submersible assembly, wherein:

the module is detachably dockable to a docking point on a submersible assembly;

the module has an actuator; and

the module is arranged to dock with the submersible assembly and transfer motive power from the actuator to the submersible assembly to adjust the position and/or orientation of the submersible assembly.

2. The module according to claim 1, wherein the motive power is transferred from the actuator to one or more of:

anchoring means;

variable buoyancy devices; and/or

hydrodynamic surfaces;

for adjusting the position and/or orientation of the submersible assembly.

3. The module according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the module transfers rotational motive power to the submersible assembly; optionally wherein the actuator comprises a motor; optionally wherein the rotational motive power is transferred to a winch which is mounted on the submersible assembly; optionally wherein the actuator comprises a plurality of motors, each motor transferring motive power to a respective winch which is mounted on the submersible assembly, to alter the tension in a plurality of mooring lines, each connected individually to a different one of the winches, the winches being spaced apart from one another.

4. The module according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the module further comprises a hydraulic pressure system, wherein the module is arranged to operate hydraulic machinery on the submersible assembly by transferring hydraulic pressure to the submersible assembly while the module is docked with the submersible assembly; and/or wherein the module is further arranged to supply electrical power and/or control signals to the submersible assembly.

5. The module according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the module further comprises locking means to selectively secure the module to the submersible assembly.

6. The module according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the module transfers power to the submersible assembly via an interface, and the interface is moveable between a retracted position and an extended position.

7. The module according to any of claims 1 to 6, further comprising an imaging system; optionally wherein the imaging system comprises a camera and/or sonar system.

8. The module according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the module is manually and remotely controllable to align the module with the docking point on the submersible assembly and/or wherein the module further comprises an automatic guidance system to guide the module to the docking point on the submersible assembly; and/or wherein the module comprises means for coupling to a passive guidance system to guide the module to the docking point on the submersible assembly.

9. The module of any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the module further comprises an interface on its lower surface for transferring power to the submersible assembly, and optionally further comprises attachment points on its upper surface for connecting support cables; and/or wherein the module

further comprises protective struts positioned at its exterior to prevent damage to the module; and/or wherein the module further comprises an interface for transferring power to the submersible assembly, and a fairing which tapers towards the interface; and/or wherein the module further comprises an interface for connecting the module to an umbilical cable for providing power or control signals to the module from a remote location; and/or further comprising means to determine whether the module is aligned with the docking point prior to engaging the actuator; and/or further comprising variable buoyancy means for adjusting the buoyancy of the module.

10. A submersible assembly, comprising a docking point for receiving a module for adjusting the position and/or orientation of the assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

11. The submersible assembly of claim 10, having an interface for receiving motive power from the module; optionally wherein the interface includes means to cooperate with corresponding portions of the module, to allow the module to determine whether the module is aligned with the docking point.

12. The submersible assembly of claim 11, further having a door biased towards a closed position, in which the interface is covered, and moveable to an open position in which the interface is uncovered, in response to the module; optionally wherein the door is moveable to the open position by the module contacting the door and pushing it to the open position.

13. The submersible assembly of any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the submersible assembly has variable buoyancy, the variable buoyancy being controllable by the module.

14. The submersible assembly of claim 13, wherein the buoyancy is variable by selectively flooding or emptying ballast tanks.

15. A method of adjusting the position and/or orientation of the submersible assembly of any one of claims 10 to 14, comprising the steps of:

docking the module of any one of claims 1 to 9 to the submersible assembly;

adjusting the position and/or orientation of the submersible assembly by actuating the actuator of the module; and

detaching the module from the submersible assembly.