

# Living small, designing big

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## Instrument Concepts becoming leader in developing deep-ocean measuring systems

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GREAT VILLAGE — Mark Wood has the best of both worlds.

His company is on the leading edge of high-tech design and manufacturing, counting as clients some of the biggest companies in the offshore energy industry.

And he does it all in a place he loves.

"We live in a nice old home with a wonderful view of the water, and it's a great place to raise a family," said Mr. Wood.

His company, **Instrument Concepts**, has three employees and things are going so well, he's looking for more.

The engineer said during an interview Wednesday that with communication improvements over the last decade and the introduction of the Internet, he can do his job wherever he chooses to live.

"Every once in a while you have to get out and meet people, though, so I do go to a lot of technology conferences," he said.

He recently returned from the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas.

"Once your products get known and once your company is trusted and re-

spected, it doesn't matter where you live," he said.

Instrument Concepts has designed hardware and PC-based software for calibration of fibre optic sensors, seismic cable levellers and underwater compass/magnetometer calibration system.

"In plain language, we design and develop deep-ocean measuring systems," said Mr. Wood.

Sensor-based applications involve a constantly evolving technology. Instrument Concepts provides clients with specifications, design, software development, prototyping and testing.

The company has also designed electronic controls for furnace and ventilation systems.

"I decided some time ago we should work more with Nova Scotia companies because there are some great manufacturers here that could benefit from our experience in advanced measurement systems," Mr. Wood said.

In the past three years, Instrument Concepts has worked with eight Nova Scotia companies and Mr. Wood expects that number to grow.

"We're growing, expanding and it's really good to be able to say this company has a future here."

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Mark Wood of Instruments Concepts, an international company operating out of Great Village, Colchester County, shows the inner workings of a sensor device used to detect sounds underwater.

(MARY ELLEN MacINTYRE / Truro Bureau)