



News Release

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Bluefin to Build Four Spray Gliders for Woods Hole

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Bluefin Robotics has received a contract from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) of Woods Hole, Massachusetts to build four Bluefin Spray Glider vehicles. Bluefin licensed the glider technology from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 2003 and has leveraged its fifteen years of experience in autonomous underwater vehicles to bring the Spray to the commercial market.

The buoyancy-driven vehicle utilizes a battery-powered hydraulic pump to vary volume and glide through the water in a saw-tooth pattern for durations of up to four to six months. Data on the profile of the water column are collected through a variety of oceanographic sensors measuring conductivity, temperature, depth, fluorescence, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and altitude. The Spray Glider measures 200 cm in length, 20 cm in diameter, weighs 51.8 kg and typically operates between 200 and 1000 meters in depth.



Bluefin Spray Glider off the coast of New Caledonia
C. Maes (c) IRD

Dr. Brian Abraham, CEO of Bluefin Robotics expressed, "We are delighted to have the opportunity to continue to support the world class research programs at Woods Hole. It is exciting to have a hands-on role in the evolution of the Spray. From its development under Professor Russ Davis (Scripps) to commercial manufacture, distribution and support under Bluefin, the Spray has and will continue to serve as a valuable tool for oceanographic research".

The contract is an excellent opportunity for Bluefin to complete the technology transfer from Scripps to in-house manufacturing in order to offer the oceanographic and academic market a cost-effective research vehicle. WHOI owns two Spray vehicles which supported an ocean observation project in the Gulf Stream. Projects utilizing the new glider fleet have yet to be disclosed. Delivery is scheduled for November of this year.

About Bluefin Robotics Corporation

Bluefin Robotics is a global leader in the design, development and fabrication of autonomous underwater vehicles. Headquartered in Cambridge, MA, Bluefin is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Battelle Memorial Institute and specializes in engineering and commercializing durable, reliable, and user-friendly Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (UUVs) and derivative products, including navigation, propulsion, communication, power and adaptive behavior driven systems.

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