



News Release

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Bluefin Awarded NAVSEA Contract to Demo Hovering Autonomous Underwater Vehicle

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Last month Bluefin Robotics was awarded a contract valued at \$161,677 to demonstrate the Bluefin Hovering Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (HAUV) as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Hull Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Localization System (EOD HULS) for the US Navy. The overall objective of the EOD HULS program is to detect and classify targets on the hull of ships with precise navigation.

Originally developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the prototype Bluefin HAUV offers autonomous operations for rapid and close-range hull inspection with little to no human intervention. It is equipped with a Doppler Velocity Log, Inertial Measurement Unit, compass, GPS, and high resolution DIDSON imaging sonar. Furthermore, lithium-polymer battery technology provides the vehicle with over three hours of dependable endurance.

“The HAUV is an ideal platform for performing ship hull inspections in support of Naval force protection and commercial harbor security missions,” said Scott Willcox, Chief Technology Officer. “Bluefin is very pleased that our Navy has recognized the HAUV’s existing capabilities and future potential with the award of this contract. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Navy to deliver this important new tool to Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Coast Guard operators.”



Bluefin HAUV Project Manager, Jerome Vaganay launches HAUV for testing

As the contractor, Bluefin will have the opportunity to demonstrate the HAUV's capability to detect and classify targets, but specifically to perform Pre-mission Set-up, Launch, Search, Recovery, and Post-Mission Analysis. Successful completion of this contract has the potential to lead to several other contracts for the production, delivery, and ultimately support of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Hull Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Localization Systems. The demonstration is scheduled for August 2007 and will be held at the SPAWAR Systems Center in San Diego, CA. The contracting office is NAVSEA Indian Head Division.

About Bluefin Robotics Corporation

Headquartered in Cambridge, MA, Bluefin is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Battelle Memorial Institute and specializes in engineering and commercializing the most durable, reliable, and user-friendly Unmanned Undersea Vehicles (UUVs) and derivative products, including navigation, propulsion, communication, power and adaptive behavior driven systems. Bluefin has exclusive licenses with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

For more information, visit www.bluefinrobotics.com or contact Deanna Abraham at (617) 715 7080 or at dabraham@bluefinrobotics.com.