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E-ROVen

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# D Y P

## Kjære leser!



Takk for sist! Endelig fikk vi muligheten til å igjen treffes fysisk på FFU-seminaret vårt. Det ble en flott dag med mange gode og innholdsrike innlegg. Seminaret er en fantastisk arena for å treffe gamle kjente og få nye bekjensheter. En stor takk til alle deltagere og utstillere, samt alle dere som bidro med planlegging og gjennomføring. Deres bidrag gjør at vi kan fortsette med vårt arbeid fremover og være en møteplass for fagmiljøet med nytt FFU-seminar neste år og gi ut medlemsbladet vårt DYP.

Det var fint å se så mange nye bransje-kolleger på årets seminar, det tegner ett bilde på at vi fremdeles er en bransje å regne med og at FFU seminaret er en viktig møteplass.

Her vil nye kloke hoder kunne hjelpe oss frem med å gjerne tenke litt annerledes og utfordre oss til å bli bedre. Et eksempel på en gjeng med slike kloke hoder kan du lese om i denne utgaven av DYP om studenter som er engasjert i Vortex på NTNU.

I disse tider, som er både omskiftelige og krevende for mange i bransjen, er det viktigere enn noen gang å tenke nytt og å bruke gode løsninger. Å ta felles ansvar fremover blir helt sentralt, dette vil vi alle kunne både bidra til og ha nytte av. Les mer om og bli inspirert av bærekraftige løsninger i flere av artikklene i denne utgaven.



Joar Bokn Haaland  
Styreleder FFU



Forening for fjernstyrt undervannsteknologi

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#### Annonser

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# Verdens første og eneste E-ROV er norsk

Tekst: Kristin Elisabeth Winther Jørgensen  
Foto: Equinor/Oceaneering

Den er unik, norsk og det finnes bare én av den i hele verden. Den er en ROV som kan jobbe uten å ha med seg et fartøy. Nå er det mange ute i verden som vil bestille den miljøvennlige og rimelige løsningen.

E-ROVen kan operere uavhengig av å ha med seg et fartøy hele tiden, og det skiller denne ROVen fra andre ROVer. Arve Iversen i Oceaneering forklarer.

- Det koster mye å ha et fartøy liggende ved ROVen. Uten et slikt støttende fartøy, blir løsningen rimeligere og mer miljøvennlig. Det er hovedtanken, sier Iversen.



Stril Herkules frakter E-ROVen frem og tilbake fra feltet. Kapteinen på Stril har en sentral rolle i koordineringen, og om bord er også en fra Oceaneering som sørger for vedlikehold av E-ROVen på stedet.

Som prosjektleder i SSR Operations Norway, kjenner han E-ROVen godt. Det var nemlig han og hans kollegaer i Oceaneering som i samarbeid med Equinor laget den aller første modellen av E-ROV tilbake i 2017.

#### Vant anbudskonkurranse

- Den gangen var det Equinor som hadde en idé om E-ROV og utlyste en anbudskonkurranse. Oppdraget var å lage en demo-modell av en ROV som kunne vise at det gikk an å ha en ROV som opererte alene. Bransjen var enig i at dette var mulig å gjøre, forteller Iversen.

Det var Oceaneering som vant anbudet da Equinor ville undersøke muligheten for en slik ROV.

- I Oceaneering brukte vi eksisterende teknologi og eksisterende ROVer, og vi klarte å lage en E-ROV. Det var stort, husker Iversen. Han forteller at suksessen med demoen ble avsluttet i 2018. Etter en ny anbudsrunde for å bygge et nytt system, vant Oceaneering også denne.

- Da hadde vi allerede erfaring fra forrige gang, og det var nyttig for oss. Så brukte vi et år på å bygge selve E-ROVen. Det er for øvrig ganske kort tid, da mange trodde dette ville ta et par-tre år i alle fall.



*Vi tror at konseptet blir enda bedre om man lager flere. Slik blir de billigere å drive med tanke på reservedeler, og vi kan utveksle erfaringer.*

#### Miljøvennlig farkost

Et av hovedargumentene for denne ROVen nå, er at den ikke har noen utslipp mens den er på jobb.

- Fordi vi ikke har med et støttfartøy som slipper ut CO<sub>2</sub>, er denne ROVen veldig miljøvennlig. Den fraktes dit den skal med beredskapsfartøyet Stril Herkules, og så henter skipet den igjen når den er ferdig med oppdragene.

- Stril Herkules er på felt hele tiden, uansett. Slik kan E-ROVen benytte seg av dette, sier Helene Sund Refsnes, som er E-ROV Representant i Equinor. Hun forteller at dette er et tett samarbeid mellom Oceaneering, Møkster og Equinor. Andre IMR- fartøy kan også benyttes etter behov.





*E-ROVen settes ut fra båten, kan etterlates der og jobbe på stedet. Den er batteridrevet med et 500 kwh batteri.*

- Vi koordinerer hele tiden, og planlegger operasjoner sammen. Å ha E-ROVen ute, krever nøye koordinering og logistikk, da vi er avhengig av å ha med oss det vi trenger der ute på feltet. Dette er en fullverdig arbeids-ROV som vi ønsker å ha mest mulig i drift, sier Sund Refsnes. Både hun og Iversen er opptatt av å legge til rette for at arbeidet skal gå så smidig og bra som mulig.
- Vi har mange kontaktpunkter der vi blant annet snakker om værforhold, optimalisering og koordinering, forteller de to.

#### **Stigende global interesse**

Nå merker de at mange er interessert i å lage E-ROVer som er maken til denne.

- Vi tror at konseptet blir enda bedre om man lager flere. Slik blir de billigere å drive med tanke på reservedeler, og vi kan utveksle erfaringer. Vi har fått henvendelser fra både Malaysia og Brasil i det siste, de er veldig interessert i denne teknologien.

- Det er jo spennende da! Vi blir jo litt stolte.

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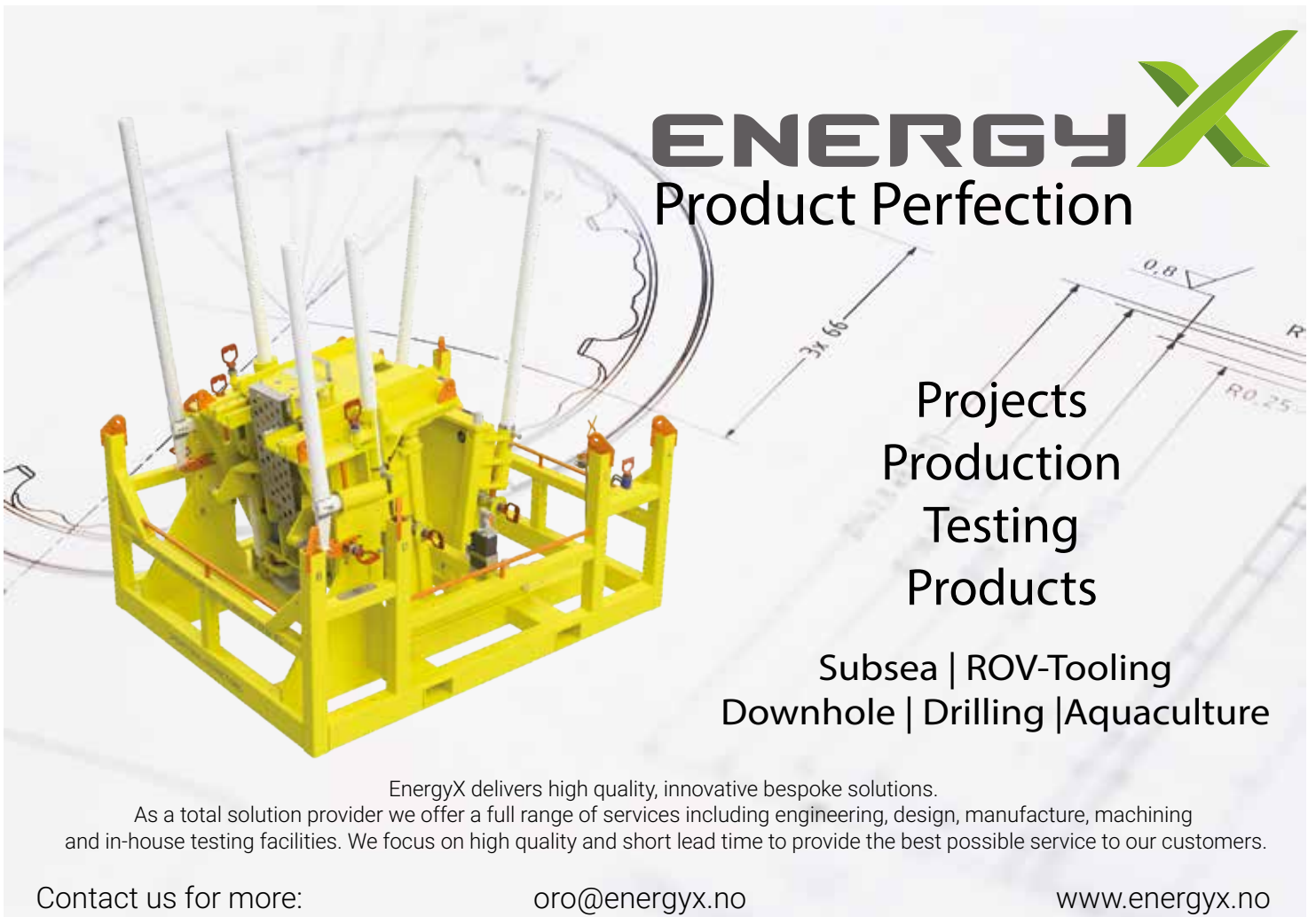
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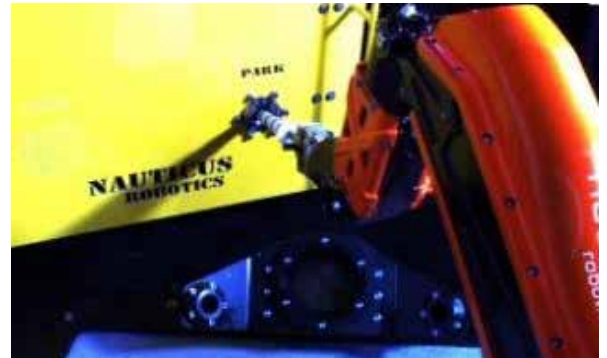
# Subsea Autonomous Manipulation Mouse Clicks, Not Joysticks

The type of robot control currently being performed by subsea robots is relatively basic and significantly lags the larger field of robotics because of the difficulty of developing, testing, iterating, and deploying subsea robotic systems, especially at any significant depth. Subsea robots with manipulation capability (ROVs - Remotely Operated Vehicles) are directly supported via a tether to a topside vessel or platform using direct teleoperation and utilize positional or rate controlled hydraulic arms via joysticks that drive one axis at a time. To date, this is the operational standard and very little has changed since the first ROV deployed manipulators. As such, manipulation tasks are often hindered by the operator's direct HD camera view of the target and environmental issues like water currents which often require multiple operators to perform a single task. Although there have been some recent attempts to advance the state of the art using inverse kinematics, motion planning, global referencing, and station keeping, there remains a significant gap in the capability of the deployed hardware and command and control architecture. Even the most advanced subsea 'autonomous' robots (AUVs - Autonomous Underwater Vehicles) usually only work through a queue of preprogrammed, yet battery life prioritized, survey-only tasks.

Moreover, subsea manipulation tasks require a person to be in real-time control of the manipulator, otherwise known as direct tele-operation. This can be achieved by either an onsite operator or "over-the-horizon", but only when certain high bandwidth and low latency networking conditions are met using a hardwired connection to the subsea robot. Bandwidth quality must be within the Megabit range and transport and computational latency must not exceed 400-700ms, depending on the resolution of the tasks required. However, an alternative networking method, using acoustic modems is being deployed by Nauticus but involves several seconds of time delay, not



*An image from a scene of Aquanaut executing an autonomous mission. Insert EFL Connector.*



*An image is provided using custom acoustic communications and data compression methods. The process has 5-10 second delays between Aquanaut seeing something and the supervisor having the same visual information.*

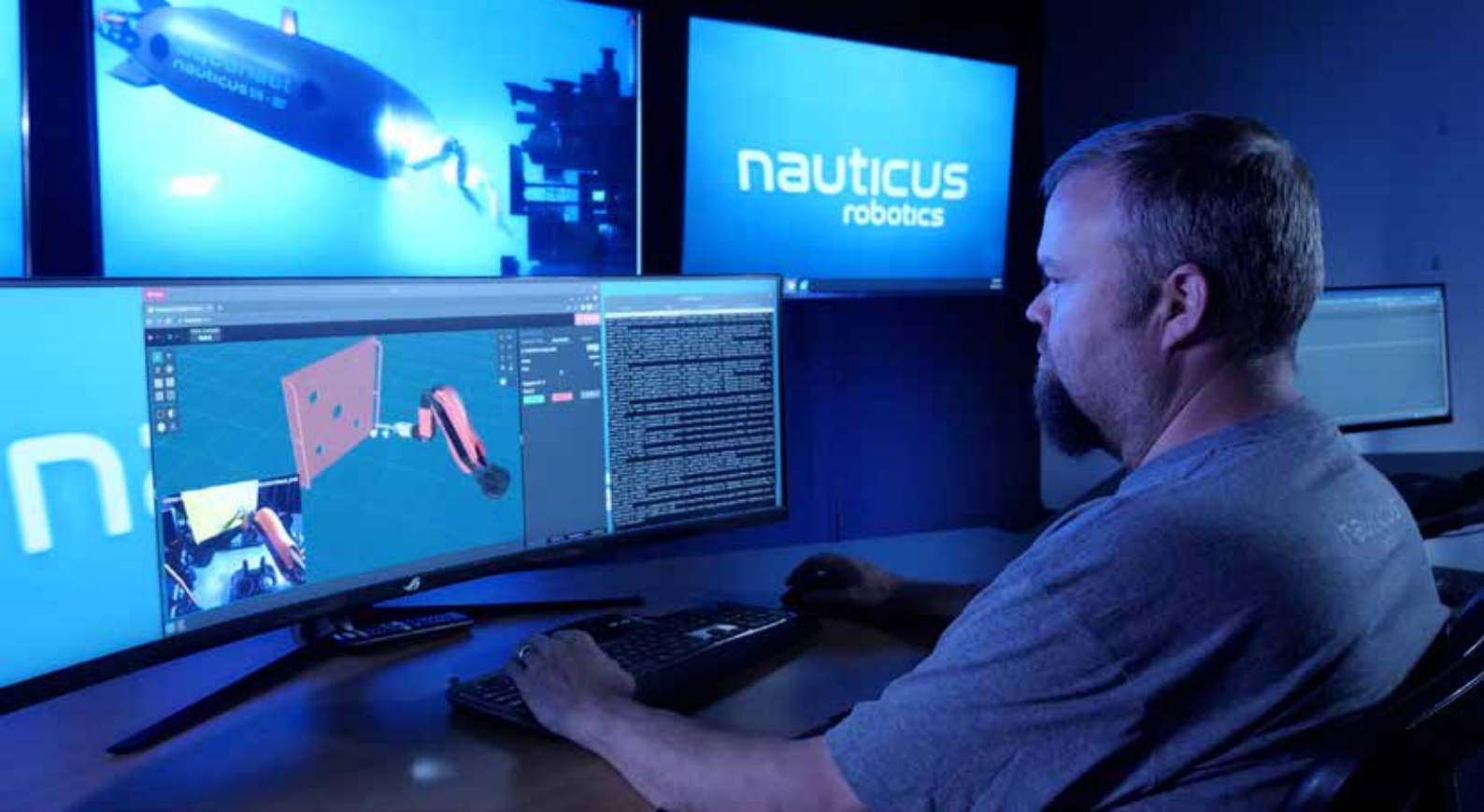
just a few hundred milliseconds. Methods for controlling robots over significant time delay normally fall into one of four methods, or a combination: 1) «move-and-wait», 2) bilateral control stabilization, 3) predictive displays and 4) supervisory or shared control sometimes known as supervised autonomy. Nauticus Robotics has developed and adapted supervised autonomy method – one that utilizes both an autonomous robot and a "person in the loop." Through this shift in control philosophy, the conventional umbilical can be removed while still enabling manipulation tasks to be executed. This new capability has the potential to disrupt the way subsea services are provided.

## **What is Subsea Supervised Autonomous Manipulation?**

Complex task execution without a high-bandwidth tether to the robot necessitates a command-and-control architecture that permits local command authority as well as a level of self-sufficiency to execute high-level, human-directed tasks. Nauticus's subsea robot, Aquanaut, can take in exteroceptive sensory data with its multimodal perception technologies and plan and execute autonomous actions built from its task library of affordances constructed together using behavior trees. This form of autonomy utilizes robust machine intelligence, with no human participation required. However, to deliver increased mission safety and assurance, Nauticus adds a «supervisory» layer of control – a «person in the loop» – to govern the manipulation process. This method of control utilizes a proprietary acoustic method and networking protocol with a human supervisor authorizing stepwise autonomous actions through "mouse clicks, not joysticks." Essentially, the human supervisor is flying the autopilot of the robot through its tasking.

By pairing an intelligent robot with a supervisory feature,





the umbilical can be removed from the subsea platform, thus eliminating the need for a large surface vessel and associated expense.

#### **Supervised Autonomy Powered by Toolkit**

toolKITT, a software suite developed by Nauticus Robotics, is what enables the company's approach to supervised autonomy to work at every stage. It provides navigational guidance; vehicle and manipulator control; platform perception; and the ability to plan and execute tasks.

The different functions within toolKITT are called "Tools." These consist of Commander, Helmsman, Wayfinder, Loggerhead and Wavelink.

#### **Commander**

Mission planning, autonomy and command of maritime robotic platforms.

#### **Helmsman**

Operationally safe and reactive on-board control system for maritime robotic platforms.

#### **Wayfinder**

Perception-based mapping and world modeling.

#### **Wavelink**

Ocean-based network used to bridge water-to-air communications.

#### **Loggerhead**

Data collection and analysis for customer data products and diagnostics.

In the following scenes, which feature the Olympic Arm electric subsea manipulator and toolKITT software suite, supervised autonomy can be utilized. This is achieved by programming the robot to wait for the "person in the loop" to evaluate the still and point cloud images provided, then

authorize the next autonomous step.

In this level of autonomy, the supervisor can override the robot if they disagree with its next planned action. Because this is possible over a low bandwidth connection, neither fiber nor optical communications are necessary. This method drastically changes the equipment required to complete a mission, eliminating the need for large vessels and additional subsea architecture.

#### **What's next**

The place of work for Nauticus Robotics is offshore and the Nauticus Fleet of more than 20 surface (Hydronauts) and subsea robots (Aquanauts) will be established regionally around the world within the next two years.

In addition to the service fleet Nauticus Robotics is working with progressive ROV service providers like IKM subsea by providing them our Olympic Arm and toolKITT software products. The electrification movement for work class ROVs and need for dive time productivity can be benefit by incorporating our all electric, intelligent manipulation capabilities.

The goal of Nauticus Robotics is to disrupt the ocean industry with tetherless, autonomous, all-electric robots – from surface to seabed – at a cost reduction of over 50 percent and an almost total reduction of GHG emissions.

#### **Nauticus Robotics**

A developer of ocean robots, autonomy software and services delivered to the ocean industries. Nauticus' robotics products and services are delivered to commercial and government-facing customers through a Robotics-as-a-Service (RaaS) business model and direct product sales for both hardware platforms and software licenses.

# OceanLab

## - full scale subsea testing and validation facility

NTNU's Applied Underwater Robotics Lab (AUR-Lab) has been developing a full-scale subsea testing and validation facility in Mid-Norway in the Trondheim fjord since 2017. These activities are the result of NTNU's long-term collaboration with Equinor that is related to the development of a test and validation site for underwater technology, including the autonomous/resident vehicles and underwater intervention drones (UIDs).

The testing and validation facility has continued to be further developed as part of the joint SINTEF and NTNU OceanLab project financed by the Research Council of Norway. OceanLab aims to establish full-scale laboratories to meet the requirements for education, research and innovation in marine and maritime sectors.

Apart from subsea facilities, the OceanLab covers a test area for autonomous ships, an aquaculture field lab, two oceanographic buoys and communication infrastructure. The whole test site has been named the OceanLab. The test site is expanded to include the shoreside control room that is linked to the subsea infrastructure allowing testing and operation of subsea assets from the control room and/or monitoring from any remote location.

### The test site

Currently, NTNU operates the OceanLab subsea infrastructure distributed at two seabed locations 2.2 km apart. In 2017, the Pig Loop Module (PLM) was installed at location B (Figure 1) at the depth of 90 metres. The PLM is a highly suitable structure for testing drone's inspection capabilities. It also includes a dummy ROV panel with marking for intervention scenarios. Further in 2018 and 2022, a Subsea Docking Station (SDS) and an instrument rig were installed at location C (Figure 1) at the depth of 365 metres. The SDS represents a testbed for docking and residency while the instrument rig enhances the situational awareness (Figure 2). The instrument rig delivers real-time visual and acoustic observation of the SDS, as well as environmental data such as currents, salinity and temperature at the site (Figure 3). The shoreside control room (Figure 5) is located at Trondheim Biological Station (location A, Figure 1) and is connected to both subsea locations with umbilical that provides power and data



Figure 1 Trondheim's OceanLab: A - Shoreside control room; B - Subsea location 1 (PLM module); C - Subsea location 2 (SDS module); D - Umbilical.

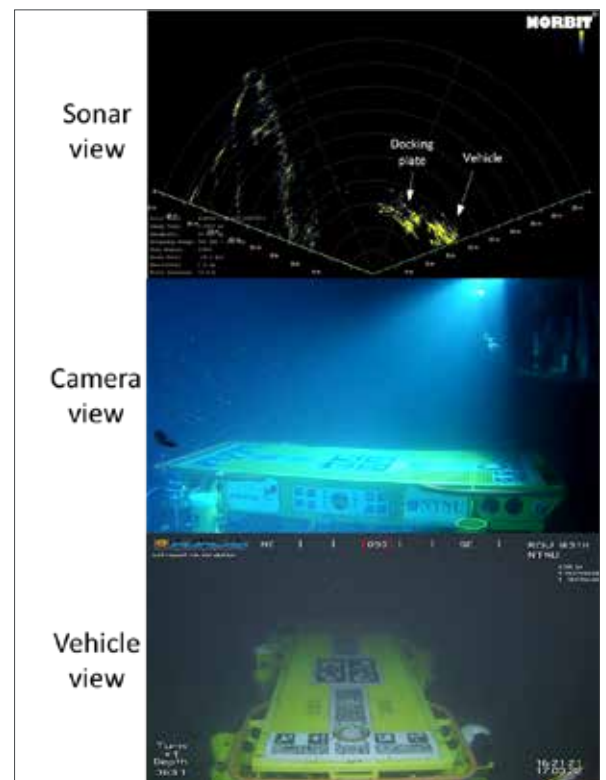


Figure 2 Vehicle approaching an SDS. View from the instrument rig (sonar and camera) and a vehicle.



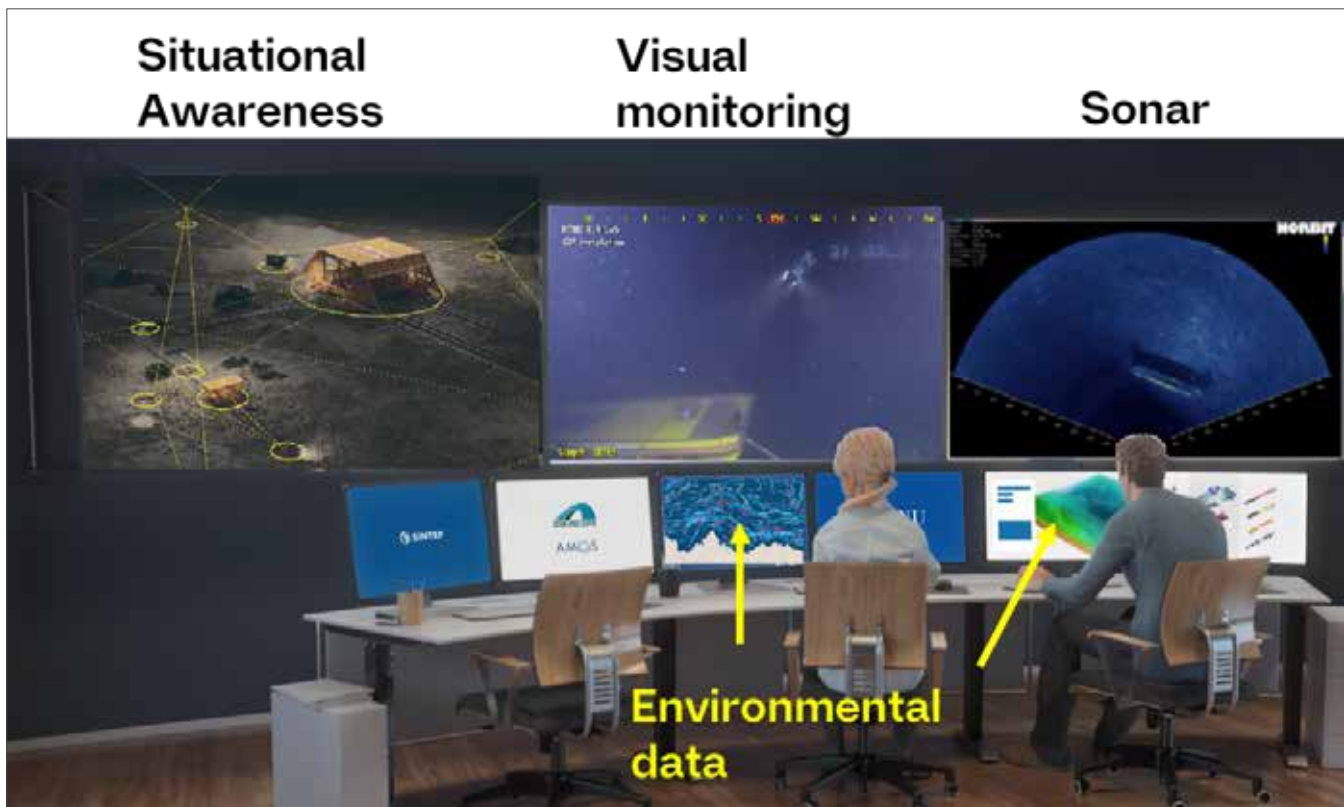


Figure 3 Control room with information from instrument rig.

linkages. This setup offers a unique possibility to conduct full-scale testing and validation.

Offshore inspection and intervention operations with remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and support vessels entail large costs and significant greenhouse gas emissions. Particular attention is paid lately to resident underwater drones that can be operated from land at their offshore installations. Resident UID is an autonomous vehicle deployed in the ocean for extended periods of time, operating reliably in uncertain environmental conditions and executing a variety of inspection or/and intervention tasks. Upon task completion it returns to one of the nearby SDSs for wireless charging and data transfer. The UID uploads the data collected and downloads new tasks or mission plans.

#### UID qualification for offshore deployment

In order to qualify a UID vehicle for deployment at the Johan Sverdrup oil and gas field, a dedicated programme divided into different sections was established: launch and recovery, basic to advanced level manoeuvring, docking and residency, inspection, intervention, endurance and communication. This was an opportunity for Equinor to test the SDSs before their offshore installation, as well as the 3-modal communication concept they promote for offshore resident vehicle applications (Figure 5). The design of the 3-modal communication concept assumes that vehicle uses inductive connection for high-speed data transfer (80Mbps – 1Gbps) while docked on SDS, medium bandwidth optical link (up to 10Mbps) in the vicinity of

SDS (up to 50 metres) and low-bandwidth, long-range acoustic link that covers the whole operational area.

Through this qualification programme, OceanLab has demonstrated its flexibility to adapt to different testing requirements. The Johan Sverdrup SDS and communication tower with the optical modem were installed next to the existing PLM module at site B. This PLM-SDS-tower setup (Figure 6) has supported the 3-modal communication concept and provided infrastructure for qualification of manoeuvring, inspection, intervention, and subsea docking abilities (Figure 7). Furthermore, a secondary SDS dedicated for the Åsgard field with a communication tower was installed at site C at 365 metres depth. Assets at both sites B and C were accessible and operated from the shoreside control room. The OceanLab, i.e. sites A, B and C created realistic offshore environment in which vehicles could fly from one SDS to another (from 90 to/from 360 metres) using the suitable communication modality depending on their position relative to SDS and perform a variety of manoeuvring, inspection and intervention tasks. The testbed installation phase took place from June to September 2021 while qualification was done in September and October 2021.

#### Further development

The 3-modal concept will be implemented on both test sites B and C. The latter closely replicates offshore setup and is dedicated to work-class vehicles that have the potential to become resident drones on offshore installation. From 2022/2023, site B will consist of fully equipped



Figure 4 Animation of subsea and support assets together with AUVs available at the OceanLab.



Figure 5 Shoreside control room.



Figure 6 Equinor 3-modal communication concept for UIDs, inductive (yellow), optical (blue), and acoustic (green). Image courtesy of Equinor.

docking station for observation-class vehicles, as well as structures for inspection and intervention. Both sites are operated from the OceanLab control room. Apart from subsea installations, control room supports access to other remote assets via various wireless communication systems, located e.g. on Svalbard. It allows remote operations and experimentation with the minimum or no crew in the field.

### Ocean Space Centre

Through the Ocean Space Centre development in Trondheim, the OceanLab will be developed in all domains to improve the opportunities for field trials and experiments. To support subsea operations, the pier will be extended to include 1000 m<sup>2</sup> of rigging area together with a 600 m<sup>2</sup> workshop and maintenance building. Construction is expected to start in 2023. The facility will be connected to the test tanks and laboratories on the main Ocean Space Centre campus at Tyholt to facilitate hybrid testing.

### Conclusion

The OceanLab has demonstrated its functionality and flexibility through an Equinor UID qualification programme and proved to be a valuable asset for development, testing and validation of autonomous and remotely operated vehicles for inspection, intervention and docking/residency tasks. Equinor, the Research Council of Norway and NTNU invested significant funds and effort into the infrastructure that is available now and welcome partners from industry and academia.

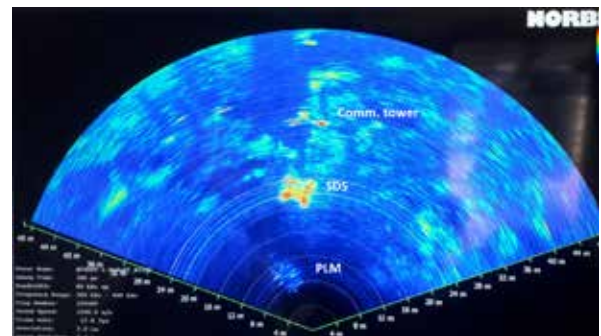


Figure 7 Sonar view of the assets at site B. PLM, SDS and communication tower distributed 10 meters apart.



Figure 8 SAIPEM UID successfully landed on SDS.



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# Recognising sustainability as an opportunity

## - collaborative steps towards a more sustainable industry

The development of offshore and subsea solutions has always been dependent on innovation and hard work to solve the problems ahead. We like to identify ourselves as problem-solvers, where a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge and experience are our main assets. This should make us robust in facing the challenges ahead.

And what are the challenges? The challenge of the world is, amongst many things, climate change and environmental degradation. This is reflected by many of the UN sustainable development goals, in addition to the public and political agenda. On the other hand, the challenge of all suppliers is always to make enough money to persist in the market. It is possible though to view these challenges at the same side of the equation, where solution to one problem also solves the other. As the focus on sustainable solutions are high and increasing, the conditions are right and ready for new ways to innovate.

Companies are really starting to understand that they

need to provide sustainable solutions and products to be able to remain relevant and survive in the market. What obviously requires effort and investment, is the work needed to spot the opportunities, and put them to life. As Thomas Edison famously said: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed like overalls and looks like work." Working close to and in the sea, it is reasonable to consider this to be our main arena of opportunity. Not only are we relevant when new solutions related to the renewable market arises, such as offshore wind, solar and tide energy, but being able to provide sustainable solutions in the products we already offer, is becoming more and more important.

In Subsea 7, we have a sustainability group working with many different initiatives. What we see, is that to be able to drive the sustainable solutions, more collaboration is required. The whole value chain with suppliers, sub-suppliers and clients are required to drive a willingness to enable us to make proper changes.





Clients and governments have a very important role to play, by making new and adapted requirements, setting the standard and communicating clearly which way to go, with the cost this comes with. There will be an increased need for collaboration in unconventional ways, maybe with unconventional partners and indeed working together in various alliance models will be a more efficient way of developing and launching ideas and solutions. And every person can play a part.

What product and expertise does your company provide, and how can this play a part in the challenges related to a sustainable future? Viewing sustainability as a lens which everything is observed through, can open a whole new landscape of opportunities.

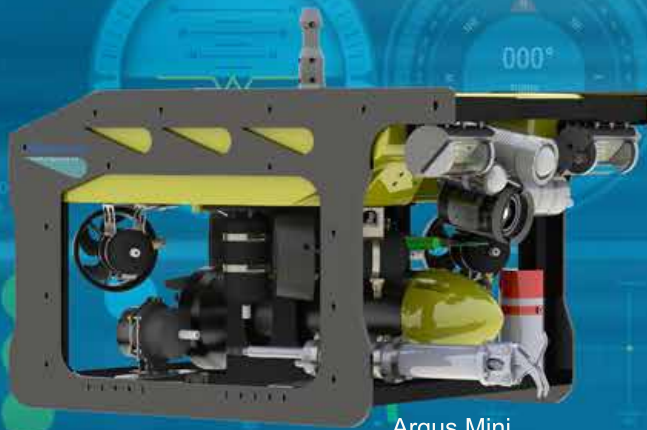
The deep sea is where we can find the opportunities. The environmental challenges which the sea faces, are multi-faceted. Well known examples are plastic and chemical pollution. Another example is negative ecological impact. The key is to understand which specific challenge can become the opportunity to focus on. Challenges and opportunities may also differ depending on where and who the other players are, and the location where we operate. Increasing the attention to the environmental challenges which is specific for that area, may be one way to understand what to focus on. Technology and methods developed for our industry, may be useful in solving environmental challenges not previously recognised or

known to us. Moving into new opportunities require new ways of working together. A great example in Subsea 7, is the BORA Blue Ocean Research Alliance's™, which Subsea 7 has formed with one of the world's leading scientific organizations, the National Oceanography Centre (NOC). Joining industry and science to gather valuable scientific ocean data, in parallel to our offshore operations, in areas, depths and at a scale previously impossible to science. Initial projects will include measuring Essential Ocean Variables in usually inaccessible areas through the use of sensor boxes (BORAbOX™). Fitted to Subsea 7's global fleet of vessels and Remote Operating Vehicles (ROVs), they will increase the global scale of ocean observations. The alliance will help accelerate the development of critical ocean sensing technologies aimed at addressing global issues such as climate change. Data gathered will be shared and analysed by scientists worldwide or used to support wider observing initiatives and datasets shaping major global ocean health assessments. Other key projects involve using ROV technology to search for and obtain footage of undiscovered biodiversity that inhabit remote locations and unexplored ocean depths. Understanding the opportunities, the ocean we work in and the impact that we have in the ocean with our operations and supply chain, makes us aware that we all have a part to play in the sustainable solutions of the future.

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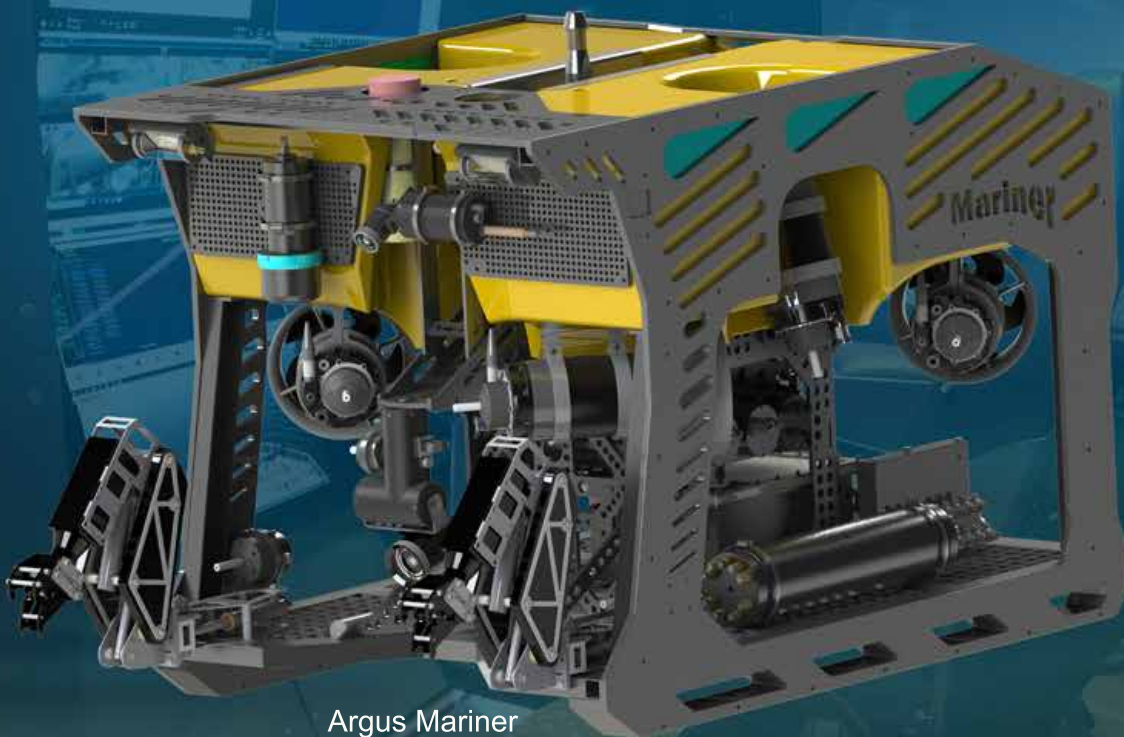
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Det frivillige studentmiljøet i Trondheim står bak mange interessante organisasjoner og arrangementer, men dette miljøet har også en teknisk side. Her skapes det teknologi for verdensrommet, luften, land og selvfølgelig vann. I Vortex NTNU lager vi egne fullautonome undervanns- og båt-droner fra bunnen av ved siden av fulltidsstudiene.

## Startet smått

Vortex NTNU er en organisasjon med 50 aktive medlemmer innen ulike fagfelt som kybernetikk, elektronikk, maskinteknikk og maritim teknologi. Målet vårt er å delta på en konkurranse for helt autonome undervannsdroner (AUV) i USA kalt RoboSub, men har det siste året også prøvd oss på å produsere en egen båt-drone. I fremtiden ønsker vi å kunne konkurrere innenfor begge disse grenene av robotikk, enten for hver respektive drone eller gjennom et samarbeid mellom droner på og under overflaten. En liten gjeng på rundt 20 studenter startet opp Vortex NTNU i 2015 med målet om å delta på en annen undervannsdronekonkurranse for fjernstyrte undervannsdroner (ROV). Etter noen år skiftet vi fokuset til å bare utvikle autonomi. Organisasjonen har produsert fire unike undervannsdroner totalt, men bare den siste som ble påbegynt



Jobber på Beluga.

høsten 2020 er blitt designet til å være fullstendig autonom fra starten av. Den nyeste dronen blir for så vidt kalt Beluga ettersom vi har en tradisjon i å oppkalle robotene våre etter havdyr.

## Autonomien utbrer seg til overflaten

Årets nye prosjekt tar med kunnskapen fra under vann til overflaten, og resultatet blir et autonomt overflatekjøretøy (ASV). Båt-dronen lages i katamaranstil og blir ikke lenger enn 2 meter. Den er dimensjonert etter studentkonkurranser i Norge og USA. For øyeblikket er pongtongene sendt til maskinering og når de er ferdige kommer de til å bli satt sammen i en ramme med et eget batterisystem, radiosystem, stereokameraer og vårt egenutviklede kontrollsystem.



*For undervannsdroner handler det om å skape seg et 3D-kart av omgivelsene, og bruke dette kartet til å plassere nøkkelpunkter i sanntid.*

Jeg og leder for hardware, Jonas Fillan, ble inspirert av mulighetene gjennom et samarbeid mellom en undervannsdrone og en båt da vi skrev bacheloroppgaven vår sammen med Vortex NTNU og Maritime Robotics i 2021. Det gikk ut på å koble opp en av Vortex sine droner, Manta, til Maritime Robotics' båt-drone kalt Otter for å drøfte mulighetene samarbeidende maritime roboter har. Andre ivrige medlemmer har også blitt inspirert av robotikken som finnes på overflaten gjennom sommer- og deltidsjobber samt miljøet de utsettes for gjennom vervet.

## Løsningene finnes det ingen gitt fasit for

Industrielle AUVer er designet for langtgående observasjonsoppdrag og industrielle ROVER brukes til manipulasjon i form av sedimentsprøver eller vridning av ventiler. Beluga skal klare alt dette. Konkurransene Vortex NTNU deltar på byr på vanskelige oppgaver som resulterer i droner som er stappfulle av sensorikk som sonar, DVL og stereokameraer.





Studentorganisasjonen Vortex NTNU.

For undervannsdroner handler det om å skape seg et 3D-kart av omgivelsene, og bruke dette kartet til å plassere nøkkelpunkter i sanntid. Et eksempel på dette er bruken av SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping). I tillegg kommer manipulasjon av objektene man oppdager som en ekstra utfordring. Ferdige løsninger på disse problemene finnes ikke, og medlemmene våre er avhengig av å kunne finne frem relevant forskningslitteratur og opprettholde et nært forhold til forskningsmiljøet i Trondheim. Dette strekker seg til ASV-prosjektet også, men det er fortsatt i en tidlig fase.

Utnyttelsen av en båt drone gir undervannsdronen en uvurderlig verktøykasse når de er koblet sammen. Elektromagnetiske signaler dør fort ut i vann og gjør at vanlig trådløs kommunikasjon med overflaten er nærmest umulig for en drone bare noen meter under vann. Akustiske signaler kan brukes, men har en ekstremt begrenset båndbredde. Båten på overflaten tilbyr GPS, som ikke fungerer under vann, og rask trådløs kommunikasjon med

land. Ved å ha en akustisk pinger på undervannsdronen kan man i tillegg finne dens relative posisjon i forhold til båten ved hjelp av hydrofoner på overflatekjøretøyet. Slik kan du styre den nøyaktig globale posisjonen til undervannsdronen for å nærmere inspisere det båten ikke klarer. Vi ser for oss båt droner som bærer tether-tilkoblede undervannsdroner for å reise ut til interessante steder med muligheten til å gjennomføre autonom observasjon med øyne «på bakken», eller havbunnen i denne sammenhengen.

#### Vekker interesse for marin teknologi

Vi i Vortex NTNU har et ønske om å tilby nysgjerrige og kreative ingeniørstudenter en plass til å praktisere teorien de lærer i forelesning. Mange nye studenter har ikke noe særlig forhold til undervannsteknologi annet enn det de hører om oljeindustrien, og undervannsdroner som hobby er relativt kostbart og nytt. Vi ser at mange av medlemmene våre velger karrierer innen marinindustrien ved endte studier. Det lover godt for fremtidens blå teknologi!



Beluga Mk2 ferdig rendret.



Beluga filmet under konkurransen..

# TAC Challenge 2022: – Norges råeste studentkonkurranse?



I juni braker det løs med det som av mange omtales som en av de mest spektakulære teknologikonkurransene for universitetsstudenter. I hovedrollen: Egenutviklede droner over og under vann.

– Vi ser veldig frem til årets arrangement. Dette er Norges kanskje råeste studentkonkurranse, og vi er veldig stolte over å ha fått med oss FFU på laget. Det sier daglig leder ved Tau Autonomy Center, Birger Haraldseid. FFU er med som partner og bistår i promotering av arrangementet i inn- og utland.

– Med en medlemsmasse bestående av ledende selskap innen undervannsoperasjoner, ønsker vi å knytte tettere bånd mellom academia og industrien, forteller Haraldseid. Konkurransen blir tett monitorert av industrieksperter fra blant annet FFI, Gassco, NORCE og Wintershall DEA. Studentenes oppgave er å demonstrere at de har det som trengs for å komme helt til topps. Konkurransen ble

for første gang avholdt i fjor – og selv om det måtte skje under restriksjoner, ble det en stor suksess. Under årets arrangement håper arrangørene på internasjonal deltakelse i tillegg til de norske innslagene fra blant annet NTNU Ascend (droner, fjorårets vinner), NTNU Vortex (subsea) og UiS Subsea.

Elementene som studentene skal beherske er blant annet:

1. Subsea-dokking.
2. Subsea-navigasjon gjennom hinderløype bestående av kjente subsea-strukturer.
3. Inspeksjon av kabler og rørledning langs en definert rute.
4. Lekkasjedeteksjon av en simulert subsea gasslekkasje.
5. Lett intervensjon med operasjon av forskjellige «standard» subsea interfacer ved hjelp av tool eller manipulator.
6. Metrologi og nøyaktig måling av posisjon. Bruk av sonar-type utstyr for kartlegging av havbunnen.
7. Andre oppgaver som eksempelvis rengjøring og inspeksjon av subseastrukturer

– Det er utrolig givende å se dyktige studenter som er med å fremme ny teknologi og innovasjon. Vi gleder oss veldig til disse dagene, avslutter Haraldseid.





## A PROVIDER OF SUBSEA HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS AND RENTAL EQUIPMENT

### / CUSTOMIZED HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS

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The BOP Shutdown Skid is a 2-stage high pressure / high flow pump designed in conjunction with Dynaset, utilizing two HPW90/150 pumps, two HPW460/50 pumps and a manifold frame to allow 345 Bar and 100 LPM simultaneously. Other typical applications for this skid is Fluid injection and pressure testing

#### **STANDALONE SKID / BASKET**

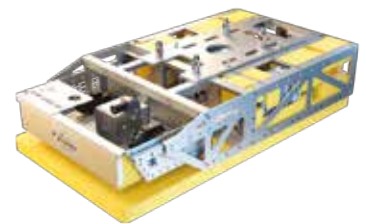
Our Subsea Reservoir Pump Basket is designed to reduce cost and HSE impact during pumping and injection operations, by removing surface equipment from the vessel deck. The large reservoir is ideally suited for any deepwater applications to save time in operations requiring large volume of fluid. We can also equip our baskets and skids with flowmeters and subsea displays, powered by a battery canister giving the ROV crew full control of the operation.

#### **SMART CONTROL SYSTEM - VALVE MANAGEMENT**

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#### **HIGH FLOW DWP SKID**



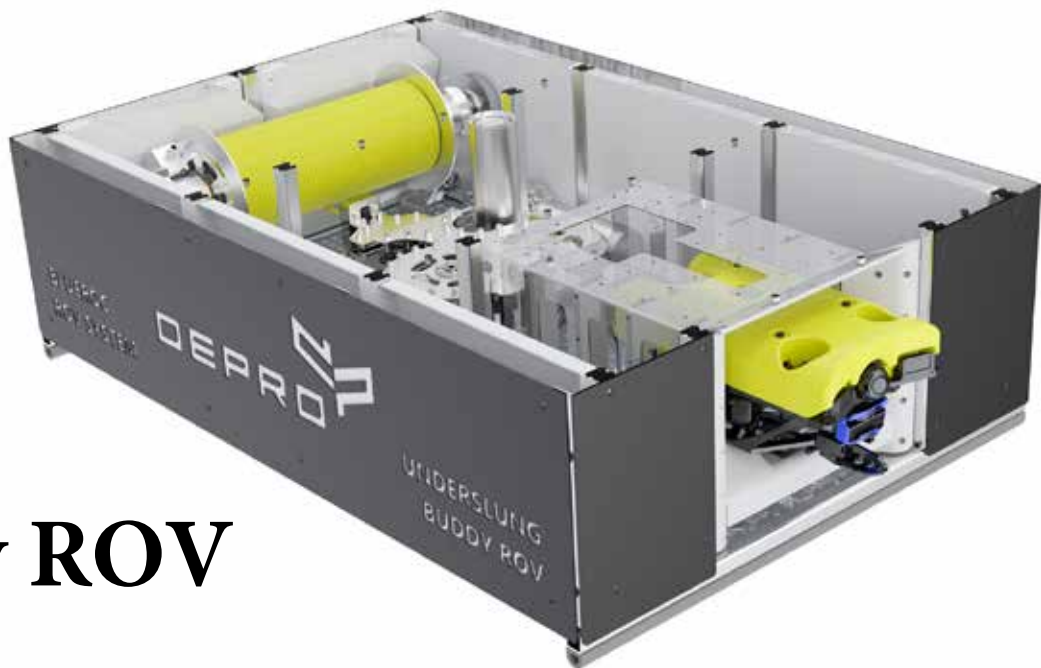
#### **SUBSEA RESERVOIR PUMP**



#### **8-STATION VALVE PACK**



# DIN PARTNER FOR ROV-VERKTØY



## Buddy ROV

Depro har over 10 års erfaring med å utvikle og levere fullelektriske TMS-systemer. Nå har vi utviklet og produsert en attraktiv, kompakt og kostnadseffektiv løsning for å få bedre visuell oversikt ved ROV-operasjoner.

Observasjon-ROV-en gir operatøren mulighet til å få tilgang til trange rom og utsikt fra en annen vinkel enn den større arbeids-ROV-en. Dette gir ROV-operatøren mye bedre visuell kontroll.

Den valgte observasjon-ROV-en, Defender fra VideoRay, har et standard oppsett med moderne kontrollsystem og et brukervennlig HMI-oppsett som er enkelt å betjene for eksisterende personell.

Depro AS er spesialist på å lage avanserte fjernstyrte verktøy til ROV-operasjoner. Vi tilbyr elektriske, hydrauliske og mekaniske løsninger som er kostnadseffektive, pålitelige og enkle i bruk - også for utleie. Vi leverer våre produkter til prosjekter i hele verden.



# Endelig fysisk seminar igjen

Torsdag 31. mars var det duket for et fysisk seminar for FFU etter en ufrivillig koronapause. Tema i år var «Verdiskapning under vann».

Over 200 deltakere fant veien til Clarion Hotel Air på Sola for en hel dag sammen. 19 utstillere deltok, og en hel bråte med dyktige foredragsholdere oppdaterte oss på siste nytt, dro historiske linjer og ga oss inspirasjon til det viktige arbeidet videre. Vi fikk en hel dag med faglig påfyll, digg servering og ikke minst; mingle med nye og gamle kjente som også er grenseløst opptatt av hva som skjer under havets overflate og hvilke muligheter som finnes der.

Nytt seminar er torsdag 26. januar 2023 på Clarion Hotel Air på Sola.



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