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Bluefin-12 AUV chosen to facilitate UVic's Ocean Technology Test Bed

Cambridge, MA, USA—July 20, 2009— Bluefin Robotics Corporation, a world leader in the design and manufacture of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), has been contracted to provide a Bluefin-12 AUV to the University of Victoria's Ocean Technology Lab (OTL). The vehicle will be integrated into the Ocean Technology Test Bed (OTTB) being constructed in Saanich Inlet near Vancouver Island, Canada. The OTTB will be a facet of the VENUS cabled ocean observatory already implemented in the same location which provides real-time ocean data to scientists and students. Because the Bluefin-12 AUV is a highly flexible platform capable of being fitted with a variety of commercial and prototype payloads, it will be a key instrument in facilitating research and development for the University and the oceanographic community.

"We are proud to be a part of this prestigious endeavor as the exclusive AUV provider," said David Kelly, President of Bluefin Robotics. "The OTTB and the researchers involved will contribute greatly to the advancement of subsea technology and our knowledge of ocean processes."

The modular Bluefin-12 AUV will be delivered with an empty payload section and a generic standard payload interface, so the OTL can integrate new payloads as their research goals evolve. The vehicle includes three of Bluefin's pressure-tolerant 1.5 kWh battery packs to provide UVic operators with a way to simply and rapidly swap depleted packs for fresh packs. The navigation package includes a proprietary Bluefin-designed software algorithm that combines information from the Inertial Measurement Unit and multiple sensors, including Global Positioning Satellite, Doppler Velocity Log, and compass to provide very high positioning accuracy. The contract also calls for Bluefin's Operator Tool Suite a graphical user interface for mission planning, monitoring and post-mission analysis. Accompanied by a set of topside support equipment and operational spares, the UVic package represents the state-of-the-art in AUV technology.

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"Bluefin Robotics has been exceptional to work with on this project," said Alison Proctor, a lead research engineer at the Ocean Technology Lab. "Their technical staff has been knowledgeable and very prompt in providing answers and advice. They have gone out of their way to ensure that, on delivery, our vehicle will fully integrate into our existing program."

ABOUT BLUEFIN ROBOTICS

Bluefin Robotics manufactures and develops Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) vehicles, systems, and technology. Founded in 1997, the Company has grown to become a world leader in AUV products designed for military, commercial (oil and gas exploration, sea floor mapping), archaeological, and other applications. Bluefin Robotics is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Battelle. For more information visit www.bluefinrobotics.com or contact Deanna Abraham at (617) 715-7080 or at dabraham@bluefinrobotics.com.

ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA OCEAN TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

The Ocean Technology Lab at the University of Victoria are the developers of the Ocean Technology Testbed, a publicly available underwater engineering laboratory specially designed for the development and testing of underwater sensors and new underwater vehicle technologies. For more information on the Ocean Technology Lab please visit <http://www.lacir.uvic.ca/ocean>.

ABOUT VENUS CABLED OCEAN OBSERVATORY

The VENUS (Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea) Program is a cabled subsea ocean observatory designed and built to support ocean research. For more details visit Ocean online, Real time, Any time at www.venus.uvic.ca.

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