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## UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGIES ASSISTING ROBOTIC AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM

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### Introduction



Australian Defence Department are seeking to achieve true autonomy for SEA 5012, to seek a integrated undersea surveillance capability, to allow this there are a number of key technologies that will need to be addressed

- Communications between RAS agents and remote C2 systems
- Application of Aluminum-Water (Al-H2O) Energy Modules
- Trusted Autonomy Surface and underwater vehicles



\*Robotic Autonomous Systems (RAS).

### **Operational - Autonomous Surface vessels (Fremantle)**







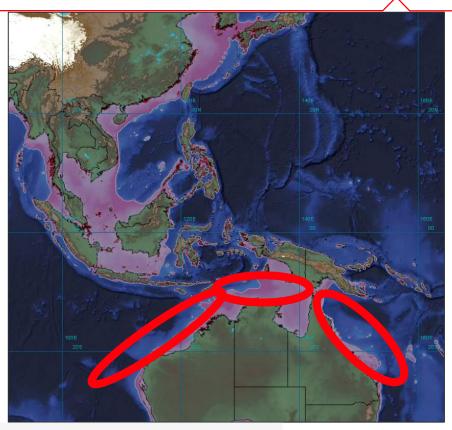




### SEA5012 – Integrated Undersea Surveillance System



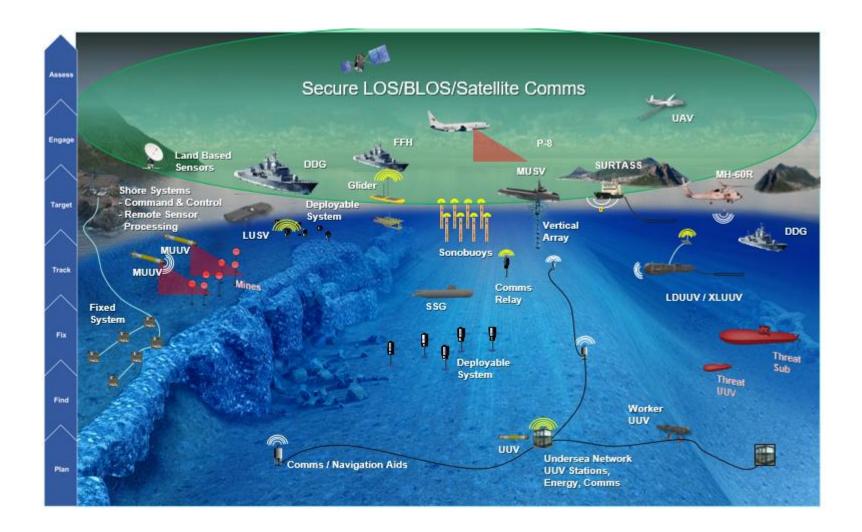
- Australia's vast maritime expanse is critical for trade, natural resources and a wide range of activities supported by Navy.
- Situational awareness of the undersea domain is essential to protecting these interests.
- 5012 is seeking a fully integrated sensor systems and networks will provide persistent coverage over wide expanses of ocean over long periods of time



'Protecting Australia's large exclusive economic zone requires understanding of the maritime environment under our control, sustained presence, and adapting to new technological developments that could increasingly complicate our ability to keep Australian interests safe in the Maritime domain.'

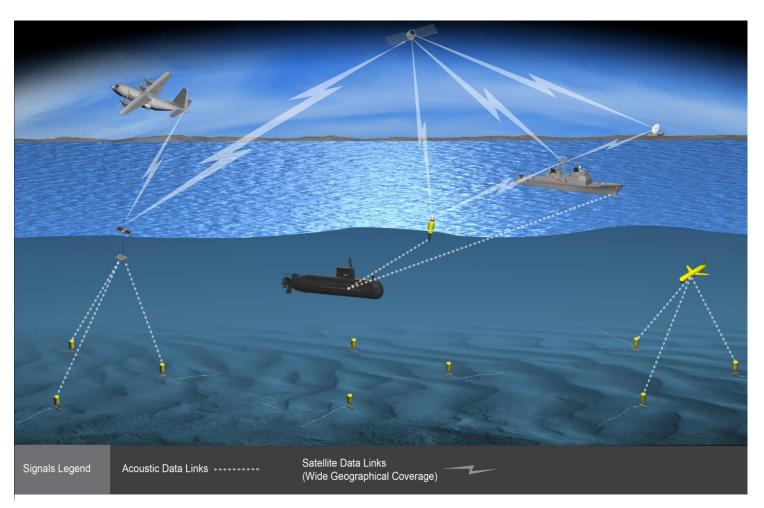
- Force Structure Plan, 2020





### **Australian Developed Comms at Speed and Depth**



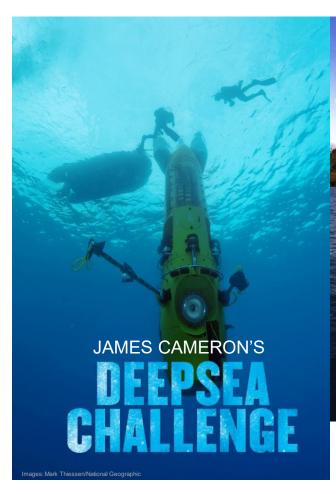


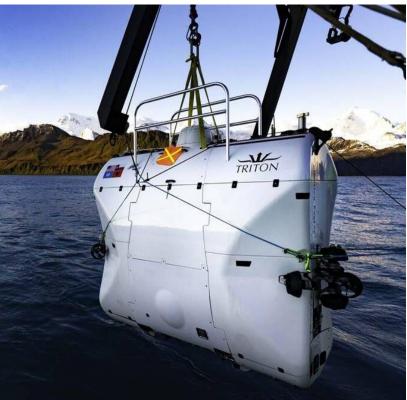
Developed by L3Harris, in the late 90's (Nautronix), HAIL is still in use on the Collins Submarines today to allow communication between Submarines and surface ships within the RAN and USN

MASQ (Multichannel Acoustic Signalling QoS) is the next generation in underwater communications includes, higher speeds, Networking and resilience to noise and interference.

### **Operating in Deep Ocean Applications**





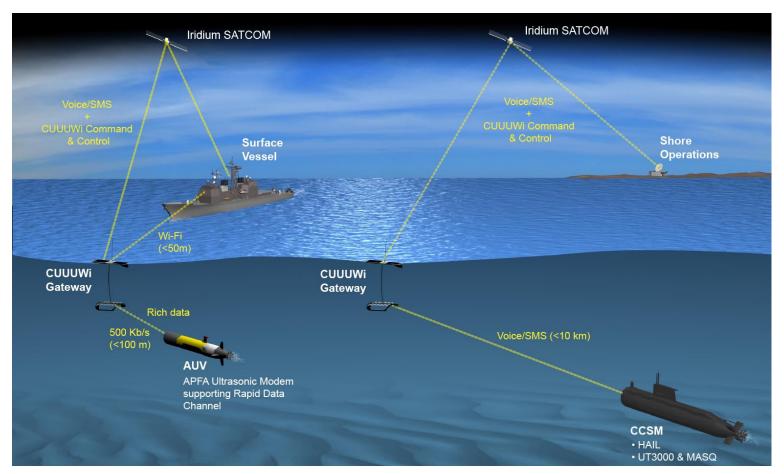


L3Harris MASQ GPM300 acoustic modems were used on the James Cameron Deep Sea Challenge to get to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, enabling the world's deepest tweet at 11km below sea level.

And is fitted to the **Limiting Factor** two-man vessel that is currently operating in Australia

### **Communication from Seabed to Shore operations**



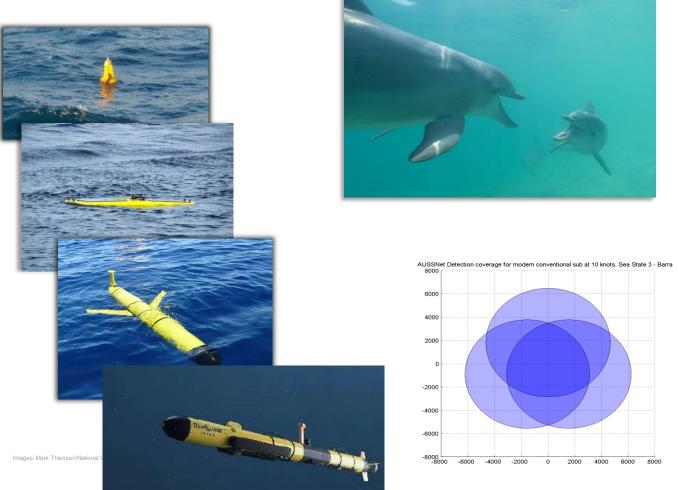


### **CUUUWi**

an acoustic communications /SATCOM gateway enabling voice and

/SATCOM gateway enabling voice and text-based data communication between submarines/underwater users and above-water mobile phone and SATCOM users.





Australian Investment continues to increase, range, bandwidth, reliability and to include stealth modes for the future projects, looking beyond acoustic signalling limits by alternate methods and technologies.

2022 will see the release of MASQ.OEM - Software Modem, allowing for easy integration into a variety of subsea systems, running on COTS based hardware.

### **Power - AI-H<sub>2</sub>O Energy Modules**





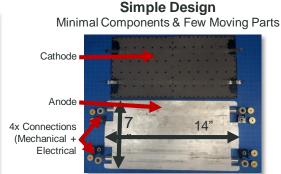
### Attributes of Al-H<sub>2</sub>O Energy Modules

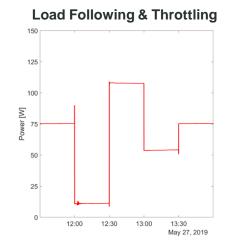


- Primary battery (non-rechargeable)
- Simple, modular, scalable, and reconfigurable in "stacks"
  - Energy proportional to volume of aluminum
  - Increase anode thickness to increase energy + energy density
  - Power proportional to total surface area of aluminum
- Delivers power like a battery, but unlike a battery can be completely dormant with no self-discharge
  - Max power ceiling a function of operating conditions
  - Native output is low voltage, high current
- Pressure tolerant with no pressure encapsulation required
  - Energy density advantage increases with depth as competitors must use ever heavier / more cumbersome pressure vessels
- Can load follow and throttle once active (see right)
- Can hybridize with other battery types



Reconfigurable Stacks





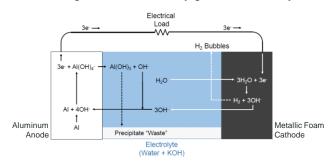
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### Why Use Aluminum as a Fuel?

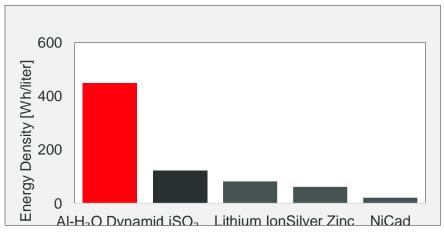


- Unactivated systems inert and safe to transport via commercial means
  - "No hazards observed" in preliminary testing at U.S. Navy NSWC
    - Carderock
- Unrivaled system-level energy density in packaged state
- · Cost is competitive or lower than other chemistries
- System-level performance and cost advantage increases with depth
- Works with any type of H<sub>2</sub>O (salt, fresh, brackish, rain, urine)

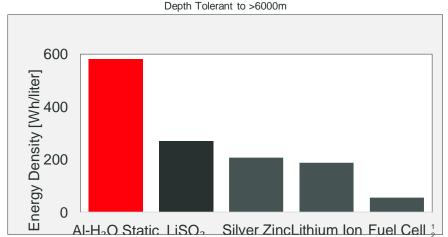
#### Using aluminum to directly generate electricity



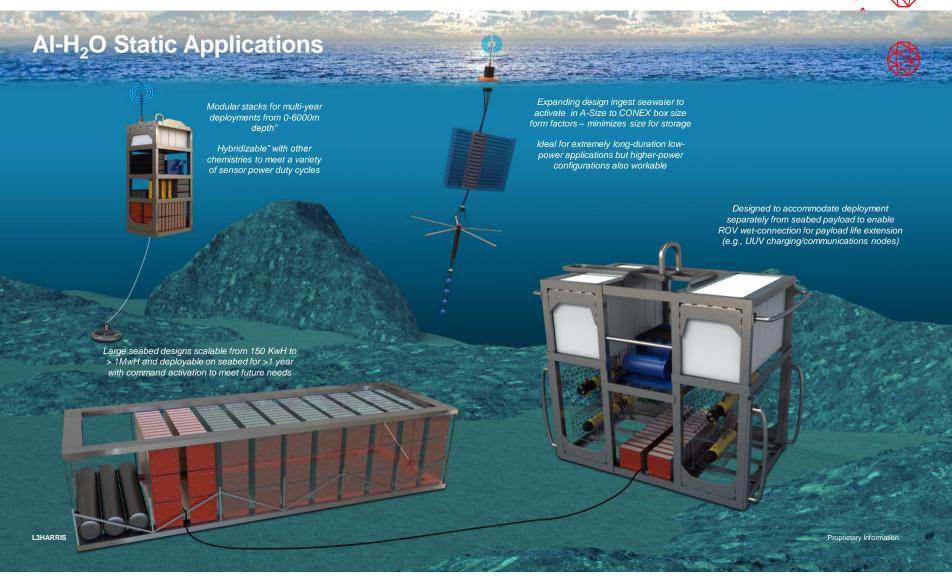
#### Neutrally Buoyant Vehicle Modules System Level Performance



### Negatively Buoyant Subsea Energy Modules System Level Performance



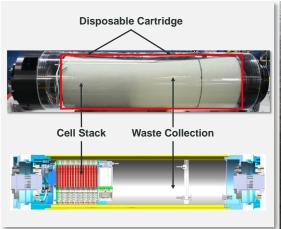




## Dynamic (UUV) Energy Modules – Two Variants In Development









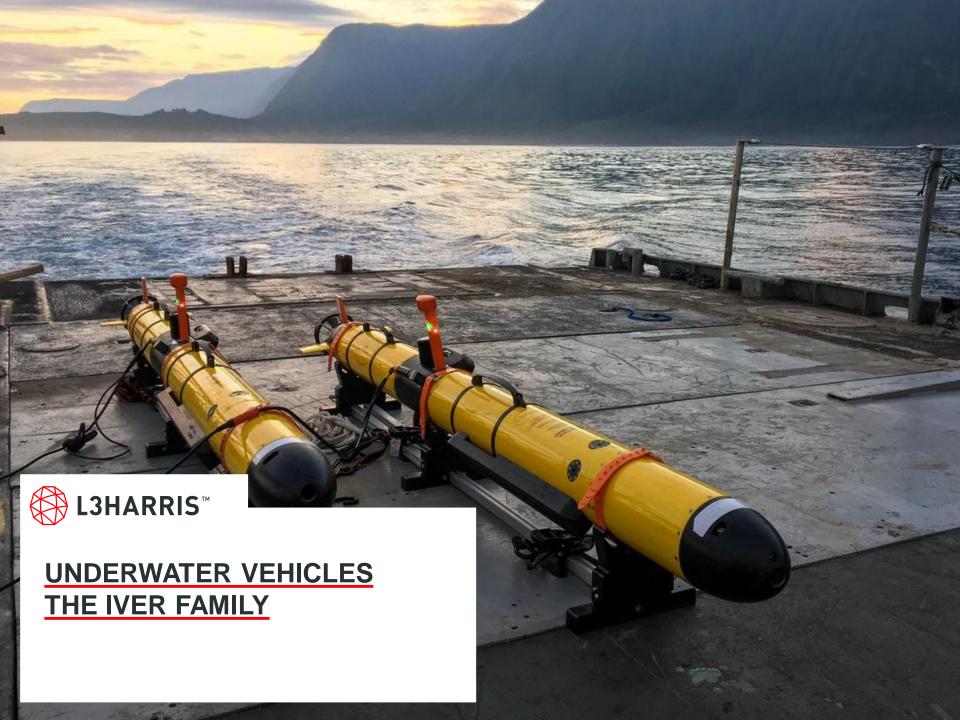
#### WASTE ON BOARD (WOB) - 200 Wh/L

- Stores inert waste products onboard no signature
- At TRL 6+ today made first commercial sale in CY20
- Simple system expedites TRL 7 and reduces cost vs. WJ
- Executed record duration demo in Q2 CY20 on IVER 4
- Delivered 4.3 kWh to IVER 4 on 45hr, 138km mission in CY20
- Supported 100% of vehicle load for 43% of the mission with most exceptions relating to short duration sensor bursts
- IVER's rechargeable battery depleted 32% of capacity

#### WASTE JETTISONING (WJ) - 350-600 Wh/L

- Achieves OWP's highest energy density (for vehicle systems) by periodically jettisoning inert waste product
- Native buoyancy management
- TRL 7 expected by end of Q2 CY21 on US contract focused on optimization and Remus 100 integration

Proven ability to support extended mission durations - modular/scalable to larger UUV size classes



### 2021 Iver UUV Family of Vehicles



#### Iver3-580:

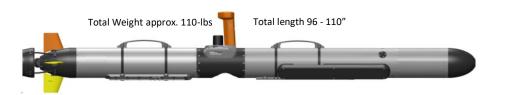
- 100-200m Depth-Rating
- Open-System
- Flexible Payload Configurations
- 780-Wh (Li-ion) Approx. 6-8 hrs duration

#### Iver4-580:

- 300m Depth-Rating
- Sealed Swappable Tail Sections
- Fixed forward-section and payloads
- 780-Wh (Li-ion) 6hrs / 2000-Wh (Li-ion)
  Option

#### Iver4-900:

- 300-m Depth-Rating
- Sealed Swappable Sections
- Multiple Battery Chemistries
- 2-4 kWh (NiMH, Alkaline, Li-ion) 18 30hrs
- Flexible-payloads

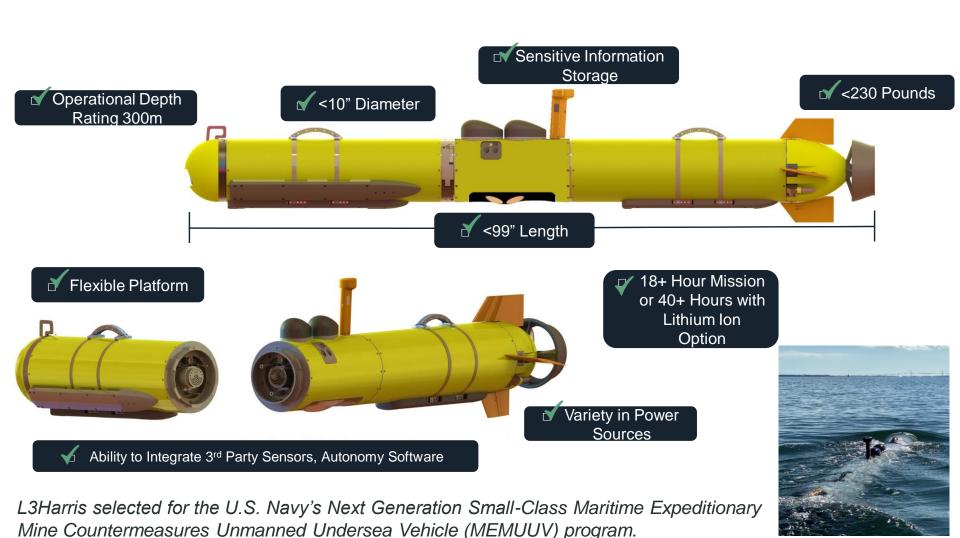






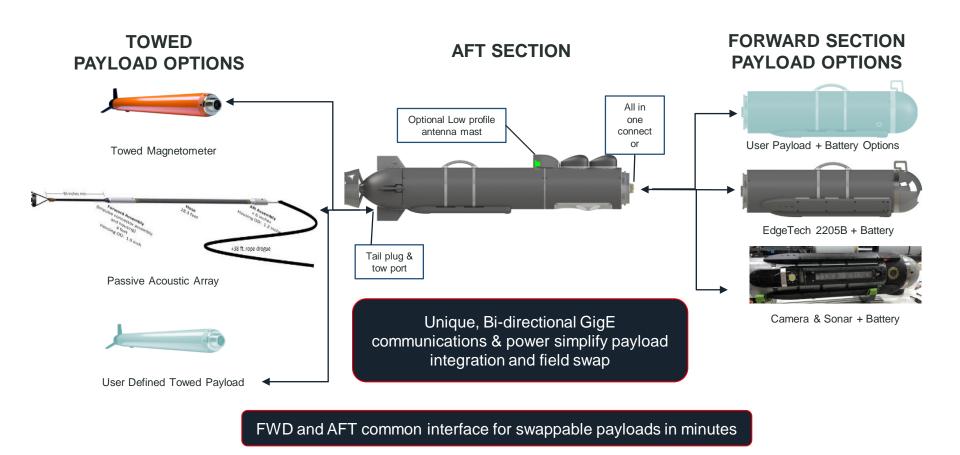
# IVER4-900 - 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Autonomous System Key Features





### FLEXIBILITY IN PLATFORM CONFIGURATION



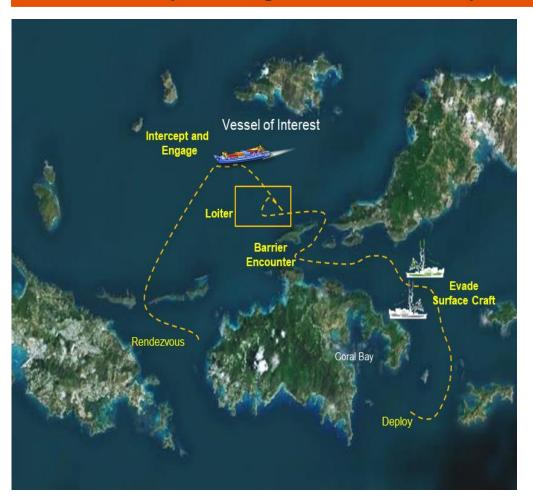


### **Adaptive Mission Autonomy – Trusted?**

**Operational Challenge and Objectives** 



Develop adaptive mission level autonomy in order to effectively perform complex maritime missions in denied areas using autonomous vehicles equipped and empower by mission technologies built upon ontological models which adapt to changing needs and threats.



Current autonomy solutions are not suitable for extended periods of time without human intervention and any pre-mission plan will not anticipate all future possibilities.

Adaptive Mission Autonomy (AMA) technology seeks investments and emerging technologies to enable unmanned systems to anticipate and dynamically respond to changing mission objectives, operating environments and adversary counter actions.

### **Questions, Contact Details and thank you!**



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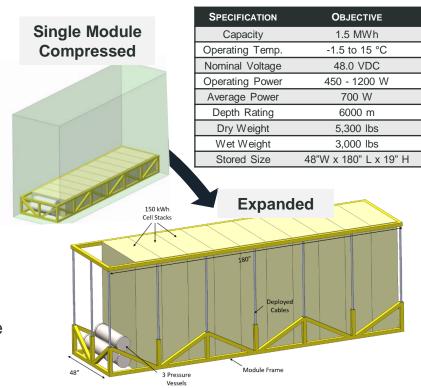
## **Backup**



### **Large Form Factor Energy Module**



- Developed large module for deep seabed sensors capable of delivering 150 kWh, 70 W at 6000m, 1 °C
  - Tested to simulated 6000m ocean depth in pressure tank full discharge at 1 °C as proof of concept
  - Configured to link 10 modules in parallel to provide 1.5
    MWh, 700 W seabed power single module shown at right
- Simple design: minimal components, few moving parts
  - Designed to store compressed and expand on seabed; compressed size of single module: 180" L, 48" W, 18"H
  - Can deploy in dormant state and activate on command, including staggered startup of cells to extend lifespan
- Deployment via XL UUV or vessel of opportunity with ability to wet connect into existing seabed infrastructure
- Power output tailorable on setup and via use of buffers



#### At-sea testing at 800m planned for CY21