

Docking Head for Optimum Handling of ROV 'SuBastian'



The MacArtney MERMAC D docking head onboard the RV 'Falkor' for the Schmidt Ocean Institute ROV 'SuBastian' has been designed featuring one single suspension point. In consequence, its design and functionality ensure safe launch and recovery of the ROV system as well as stability and steadiness in heavy seas without unexpected movement of the systems.

The docking head is fitted with a sheave being capable of translating position within its plane or rotation so as to alter the placement of its axis of rotation. This allows the docking head to safely accommodate trouble-free passage.

The RV *Falkor* will soon again be setting sail for the study of the sea – a surface microlayer and air-sea boundary cruise. ROV *SuBastian* is a new underwater robotic vehicle equipped with a modular frame to provide scientists with a flexible vehicle for ocean exploration like e.g. the link between interfacial processes at the sea surface and marine biogeochemical cycles, air-sea interactions and climate. This leads to a profound understanding of the environment.

Satisfactory Testing

Recent testing and integration in the open ocean of the ROV *SuBastian* from aboard its 272 foot (90m) oceanographic research vessel *Falkor* turned out very satisfactorily placing SuBastian in real-world conditions, demonstrating its functionality as a modern research tool with innovative systems.

MacArtney has supplied more products to Schmidt Ocean Institute and the RV *Falkor* in addition to the MERMC D docking head for handling the ROV SuBastian, among them a MERMAC R30 AHC winch as well as an A-frame. The MacArtney products made optimal performances and are integral pieces of the successful ROV operation carried out during the sea acceptance trials.