

RV Neil Armstrong to be Positioned by Sonardyne



Sonardyne Inc., USA, has announced that its deep-water acoustic positioning system, Ranger 2 USBL, has been selected for the U.S Navy's new oceanographic research vessel, RV *Neil Armstrong*. The ship is operated by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on behalf of the Navy and replaces the recently retired RV *Knorr* vessel which had been in operation since 1970.

Sonardyne's Ranger 2 USBL (Ultra-Short BaseLine) acoustic positioning technology will support the vessel's work by enabling science teams to precisely monitor the position of underwater targets deployed from the *Neil Armstrong*. These will include ROVs, AUVs, towfish and seafloor landers.

Neil Armstrong is the first of two new ocean-class vessels ordered by the United States to fulfil national requirements for a high-specification research ship based on the East Coast of the country. With an endurance of 40 days at sea and accommodation for 20 crew and 24 scientists, *Neil Armstrong* is equipped to carry out advanced mapping, sampling and sustained observation missions around the world.

WHOI has been a long-term user of Sonardyne's [Ranger USBL technology](#), regularly utilising their systems to track vehicles including the manned submersible, *Alvin*, deep-rated remotely operated vehicle, Jason, and autonomous underwater vehicle Sentry. Numerous missions have demonstrated Ranger 2's ability to meet WHOI's operational requirements for USBL acoustic technology that delivers highly accurate and reliable underwater positioning in all water depths, deep or shallow.

<https://www.hydro-international.com/content/news/neil-armstrong-to-be-positioned-by-sonardyne>
