

# AUV Capability Widened to Include Cable and Pipeline Tracking



Innovatum have successfully tested Smartrak, a fully autonomous passive magnetic tracking system of a submarine cable by Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV). An AUV Data Protocol has also been developed providing a standard communication format between Smartrak and the AUV.

The protocol allows operators and manufacturers of AUVs to prepare them for cable and pipe tracking tasks. The Data Protocol Document is available to download for free.

Reducing the cost of locating offshore wind farm cables, both export and in-field cables will play a significant part in overall cost-reduction during construction and subsequent maintenance of offshore windfarms. Use of AUVs to perform such tasks will contribute to

cost reduction.

AUV-compatible Smartrak units will be also be available for rental from Innovatum.

The image shows the Smartrak system deployed on the front of a Saab Seaeye Sabertooth AUV. The dark-coloured gradiometers can be seen mounted downwards on the white mounting frame. The sensors are fitted with fairings to reduce drag through the water. The AUV is flown close to the seabed during tasks.