

Bibby HydroMap and iXblue Announce AUSV Partnership



Bibby HydroMap, one of the leading providers of hydrographic and geophysical surveys in the UK and Northern Europe, has partnered with iXblue to bring 'DriX', a new autonomous unmanned surface vessel (AUSV), to the European market.

Specifically designed with a revolutionary hull shape optimized for both coastal and offshore missions, and manufactured using state of the art composite materials, DriX operates with the utmost stability, guaranteeing the best possible results, with excellent and unmatched performance offshore. In a step change for autonomous survey, DriX offers up to 7 days of data acquisition endurance at speeds of up to 14 knots. Multiple navigation options are also available ranging from full autonomy, to autopilot, remote supervisor action, a "follow-me" function and a "hovering" mode, all COLREG compliant.

Bibby HydroMap are excited to make this investment and become the first adopter of DriX in the UK, having worked closely with iXblue for a number of years. iXblue, a global provider of innovative solutions and services for navigation, positioning and imaging, have developed DriX over the past 12 months to revolutionise the hydrographic survey market.

Survey data acquisition

Initially mobilised with a dual-head Teledyne RESON SeaBat T50 integrated multibeam echosounder system to give the highest quality hydrographic data, DriX will be available to Bibby HydroMap's existing and new customers from June 2018, and will offer increased production and productivity during survey data acquisition.

DriX will be used to supplement existing survey capability across projects undertaken by Bibby HydroMap, and performance information will form part of the continued development of the asset.