

Fugro Expands Gulf of Mexico Fleet



Fugro is expanding its survey fleet in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) to include a new AUV, Echo Surveyor VII, and a new vessel, R/V Fugro Americas. Both the Fugro Americas and Echo Surveyor VII will join the current fleet later in the year. Fugro already operates three AUVs in the GoM – one Hugin (Echo Surveyor II), and two Bluefins (Echo Mapper).

Melissa Jeansonne, vice president, Fugro GeoServices, sees that the multi-purpose *Fugro Americas* vessel enables the company to have three vessels capable of operating AUVs in the Americas.

Echo Surveyor VII

AUVs are a choice of instrument platform for deep sea and remote surveys. As well as providing improved multibeam swath coverage, The *Echo Surveyor VII* (which is a Kongsberg Hugin 4500) will support the acquisition of sidescan sonar, sub-bottom profiler and CTD profiler data, and will carry various environmental sensors to meet a wide range of offshore survey demands.

With its tight turning circles that greatly reduce the time between survey lines, it will offer clients a wide range of features including an increase in depth rating to 4,500 metres. Being fully airfreight portable, *Echo Surveyor VII* will also allow rapid mobilisation.

R/V Fugro Americas

The *Fugro Americas* is a multi-purpose vessel well suited for high resolution geophysical surveys and seafloor mapping. At 193 feet she is bigger and faster than Fugro's current vessels in the GoM, has more berths as part of the purpose-built design, and is both quiet and fuel efficient. SOLAS classed, she is capable of undertaking seismic, conventional, AUV and geotechnical surveys thus providing the advantage of just one mobilisation that can meet every client's needs, adds Jim Grady, Asset manager, Fugro GeoServices, Inc.