

Full-ocean-depth, Multi-beam Imaging Sonar in Development



BlueView Technologies has been commissioned to develop the first full-ocean-depth (11,000 metres), multi-beam imaging sonar system for historic exploration projects by Virgin Oceanic and film director and 'National Geographic Explorer in Residence' James Cameron. The new imaging sonar system will be integrated onto revolutionary manned and unmanned submersibles destined for the deepest locations on earth, including the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean.

At more than six miles deep, the BlueView imaging sonar will withstand immense pressure, more than 8 tons per square inch. Using hundreds of razor-thin acoustic beams, the 2D imaging sonar system will aid real-time navigation, object detection and tracking, and monitor biologic activity by delivering and recording high-resolution sonar imagery and data in an environment absent of visible light.

Explorer Chris Welsh approached BlueView Technologies to develop the multi-beam system to support the Five Dives Expedition sponsored by Virgin Oceanic. Film director/producer James Cameron will also use the system to explore the Mariana Trench in a separate expedition to film this unique location in 3D and uncover its mysteries.

"We selected BlueView because of their proven capabilities to take new acoustic technology and deliver a deployment-ready system that will meet our specialised needs", commented Chris Welsh, Virgin Oceanic Partner and Pilot. Welsh added "We are looking to synchronise the sonar with an HD camera to better interpret what is encountered at every part of the trip."