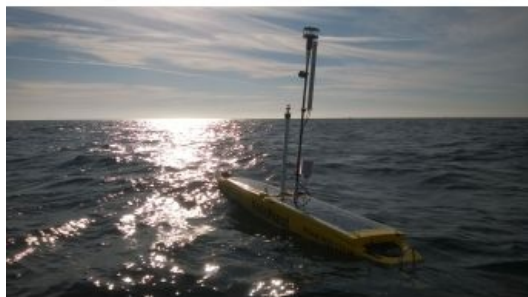


# Plymouth University Receives AutoNaut Vessel



Researchers and students at Plymouth University, UK, will be able to use an advanced autonomous wave-propelled surface vessel thanks to a new deal signed with a leading UK designer. MOST (Autonomous Vessels) Ltd, based in West Sussex and Devon, is to provide one of its AutoNaut craft after entering into a licence agreement with the university through its Marine Institute. The licence includes access to a 3.5m pre-production model, designed to be sent out unmanned into the marine environment and used to conduct research.

## Propulsion by Pitch and Roll

AutoNaut comprises a single hull with four moving hydrofoils that harness wave energy as it pitches and rolls in the water. It has photovoltaic panels on the deck to harvest solar energy and it may carry a methanol fuel cell for additional electrical power for sensors and communications. AutoNaut can operate either autonomously or be guided by a pilot using a laptop and internet and satellite communication, and it can stay at sea for multiple months, carrying sensors mounted on a mast, inside or through-the-hull, and towed behind.

Training students in the use of autonomous technology is a fundamental part of the new agreement. Last year, MOST (AV) trained four students to pilot these vessels as part of their first commercial operation. This concept is being further developed with MOST (AV) so that the Plymouth University researchers and students have a chance to operate autonomous vehicles and in doing so develop skills that they will be able to take into their future careers.