

TerraSond Awarded Consecutive NOAA Contract



TerraSond, an Acteon company (US), has been awarded a five-year IDIQ contract by the Hydrographic Surveys Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, to provide hydrographic surveying services in the USA. The new contract was effective 1 January 2020, with a maximum value of \$250 million over 5 years, subject to appropriation by Congress.

Under previous contracts with NOAA, TerraSond has surveyed more than 7,120 square nautical miles of US waters in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico since 1998, providing data for use in creating and maintaining NOAA nautical charts. During this period, it carried out task orders for NOAA in every year with a total value of about \$90 million; almost 200 individual survey areas have been completed to date during 28 separate projects in Alaska

and the Gulf of Mexico.

Unmanned Survey Vessel

TerraSond has deployed new or emerging technologies for NOAA that have led to significant improvements in data quality, efficiency and safety to overcome unique challenges of scale and remote operations. In 2015, it became the first company to acquire data from an unmanned survey vessel that was used to update US nautical charts; 5% of TerraSond's survey line mileage for NOAA was produced by unmanned survey vessels in 2015, increasing to almost 60% in 2019. In 2017, TerraSond was the first to complete NOAA shoreline verification with unmanned aerial systems.

Thomas Newman, president at TerraSond, said, "Through our NOAA contracts, we have been performing comprehensive site characterization for the safety of navigation purposes for over 20 years. As part of the Acteon Group, we are now offering this experience alongside Benthic's geotechnical and UTEC's survey and positioning services. Acteon provides customers with a comprehensive site characterization solution for large work scopes. Using a single provider enables the early integration of geophysical and geotechnical surveys, which can help to reduce costs, enhance efficiency, develop a more accurate ground model, and unlock maximum value from acquired data."

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