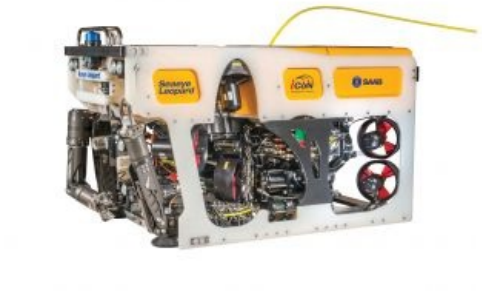
University of Haifa Orders Leopard ROV



Israel's University of Haifa has ordered a Saab Seaeye Leopard ROV.The Leopard will be a key resource for a new deep-sea research centre, which opened recently. The ROV will serve the entire marine research community in Israel through the national consortium of universities, colleges and government research institutes called the 'Mediterranean-Sea Research Center of Israel' (MERCI).

The purchase was enabled thanks to the generous support of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to the University of Haifa.

The 3000 metre-rated Leopard will make the consortium the first entity in Israel to offer such a resource to anyone looking to work in both shallow and deep water. The focus will be on scientific study, education and research including environmental monitoring, marine archaeology and other types of marine research, according to Ben Herzberg, chief engineer from The Helmsley Charitable Trust Mediterranean Sea Research Center, Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences at the University of Haifa.

The ROV may also be of interest to operators in Israel's relatively new oil and gas sector, along with other collaborative projects.

ROV Handling with Variable Payloads

For the University of Haifa, the Leopard's 11-strong thruster power and iCON intelligent control architecture allows them to handle a variety of systems of heavy and variable loads by providing flight stability, including pitch and roll stabilisation, even whilst working in strong cross-currents and also gives them precise manoeuvrability inside complex structures.

To offer the University of Haifa a variety of user options, the Leopard's iCON building-block capability and large open payload bay with sliding trays for rapid reconfiguration and easy maintenance, allows more interchangeable tooling and survey sensors to be fitted than ever before possible in a vehicle of its size.