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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUVSI Foundation to Manage SeaPerch Program

Arlington, VA – August 16, 2011 – The AUVSI Foundation will begin managing the SeaPerch educational program in September of 2011. SeaPerch, the Navy’s signature K-12 Outreach program, is funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research (ONR). An innovative underwater robotics program, SeaPerch teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. Susan Nelson, the SeaPerch Executive Director, will leave her position as the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers’ (SNAME) Director of Outreach to join the AUVSI Foundation and continue her work with the program.

The move from SNAME to the AUVSI Foundation will allow SeaPerch to be melded into the Foundation’s other hands-on robotic programs, including the ONR-funded International RoboSub Competition. SNAME will continue to offer support for SeaPerch as part of its general program of education and outreach efforts.

Daryl Davidson, the Executive Director of the AUVSI Foundation, elaborated on the benefits of SeaPerch joining the Foundation. “Students need to be continuously and increasingly challenged in their learning. In the world of underwater robotics development, SeaPerch is the starting point and our RoboSub competition is the end point before they graduate and hopefully seek a career in this industry,” Davidson explained. “Our goal is to get them excited about robotics at the earliest possible stage and keep them hooked and challenged throughout their educational career.”

The addition of SeaPerch to the Foundation is a natural expansion of the current relationship between the AUVSI Foundation and ONR. In addition to SeaPerch and RoboSub, ONR also provides funding to the Foundation for the International RoboBoat Competition as well as the Student Unmanned Aircraft Systems Competition.

The AUVSI Foundation’s sister organization, AUVSI, has Chapters around the world that will help expand the message and reach of the SeaPerch program. With the addition of AUVSI members alongside SNAME members, the mentoring base of SeaPerch professionals becomes a formidable global resource.

About AUVSI Foundation

The AUVSI Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization that was established to support the educational initiatives of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). The AUVSI Foundation helps equip students with the educational background necessary for a career in the robotics field by providing students with the opportunity to experience fun, hands on robotic activities that encourage skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). For more information on the AUVSI Foundation, visit www.auvsifoundation.org.

About SeaPerch

SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that trains teachers to teach their students how to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. Students build the ROV from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. For more information on the SeaPerch program, visit www.seaperch.org.