VCNO Visits Sailors, Defense Industry in Newport

Release from the VCNO Public Affairs

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Oct. 19, 2023

Newport, R.I. – Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti traveled to Newport, R.I., to tour Navy facilities and visit with Sailors and defense industry leaders, Oct. 19.

Franchetti started her trip at General Dynamics Electric Boat, Quonset Point, where she received updates from company leadership on submarine manufacturing, modular construction, and outfitting for future Columbia and Virginia-class submarines.

The Columbia-class will replace the Ohio-class as the Navy's

contribution to the nuclear triad, which remains the most survivable leg of the U.S. strategic nuclear deterrent force.

“Ensuring that these submarines are produced on time and on budget is a national strategic imperative,” said Franchetti. “The Navy is 100% committed to partnering with Congress, industry, and the New England community to fulfill this mission.”

Franchetti then traveled to Naval Station Newport to speak with prospective command master chiefs at the Navy Leadership and Ethics Center.

“This is an exciting time to be in the Navy and to lead our teams operating around the world,” she said. “As you prepare for the next level of leadership, I expect all of you to view everything through a warfighting lens and to remember that our people are the foundation of our warfighting effectiveness.”

Her next stop was to the Navy Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), where she met with NUWC scientists, engineers, and leadership to discuss multiple initiatives taking place in Newport, to include advanced communication techniques for submarines at depth known as the Submarine Launched Over the Horizon Buoy.

While at NUWC she was able to see the software that Sailors are currently operating on submarines and discuss the ongoing upgrades to those systems, as well as the Snakehead unmanned under water vehicle.

“The NUWC team is developing innovative concepts and cutting-edge technology that will help expand the enduring advantage we have in the undersea domain,” said Franchetti. “They are finding creative solutions to operational challenges and delivering results at the speed of relevance.”

VCNO’s last stop was at Surface Warfare Schools Command, where she engaged with prospective commanding and executive

officers, and observed Sailors training to navigate high-density maritime traffic areas in the schoolhouse simulators.

“As we see in the events of today, our Navy ships are forward and ready, providing options and decision space to our nation’s leaders. Operating them safely is job number one,” Franchetti commented. “These simulators enable our Sailors, both officer and enlisted, to undergo rigorous, realistic, and repeated training in an environment designed to accelerate their mastery of seamanship.”

Naval Station Newport is home to 50 different commands and is the Navy’s premier site for training and educating officers, officer candidates, senior enlisted personnel and midshipman candidates into future leaders, as well as testing and evaluating advanced undersea warfare and development systems.

Draper awarded contract to support development of next generation Trident II Weapon System Under $2.2B Navy Contract

Release from Draper

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—Draper, a company with decades of service to the U.S. Navy, announced today a $2.2 billion contract to continue the support of the Trident II D5 weapon system while also beginning development on the next generation. Under the award, Draper will support the mission of the U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Programs to provide credible sea-based strategic deterrence. The company currently serves in that role as prime contractor for the Trident II D5 guidance system under a previous contract.

Dr. Jerry M. Wohletz, President and CEO at Draper, remarked, “Draper is proud of its long-standing relationship with U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Programs, and is excited to strengthen that partnership by supporting the modernization of the Trident weapon system to ensure its effectiveness in an era of

great power competition for generations to come.”

Draper, as strategic guidance system prime contractor for Trident, provides critical domain knowledge and cradle-to-grave responsibility for the design, production, and sustainment of the Guidance component for both the U.S. and U.K. Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile Systems. For more than 60 years Draper has played a critical part in ensuring that the Fleet Ballistic Missiles (FBMs) deployed by the Navy’s submarines are accurate, reliable and survivable to adversarial threats. Every FBM deployed by the Navy—from Polaris A1 to Trident II D5—has been equipped with Guidance Systems designed by Draper engineers.

“This award enables us to continue to deliver on legacy while also marking the beginning of a multi-decade development for the next generation system that will ensure the nation has a credible nuclear deterrent for generations to come,” said Robert Bacon, Vice President of Navy Strategic Systems at Draper. “With an increasingly complex geopolitical environment our expertise will once again be called up to ensure we deliver credible capabilities that outpace the advancing threats from our adversaries”.

Work will be performed in Cambridge, Mass.; Pittsfield, Mass.; Washington, D.C; Odon, Ind.; El Segundo, Calif.; Cape Canaveral, Fla,; and St. Petersburg, Fla; and is expected to be completed by October 2028.

This contract is a sole source acquisition pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 3204(a)(1) and was previously synopsized on the Systems for Award Management website. Strategic Systems Programs, Washington, D.C., is the contracting activity.

HII TO PROVIDE READINESS AND TRAINING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. NAVY

Release from HII

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MCLEAN, Va., Oct. 19, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — HII's (NYSE: HII) Mission Technologies division was awarded a $134 million contract to provide readiness and training software development support for the U.S. Navy.

The task order was awarded under the Naval Sea Systems Command's SeaPort Next Generation (SeaPort-NxG) contract to support the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division Dam Neck Activity (NSWCDD DNA). It has a one-year base period plus four one-year options.

"Realistic training scenarios help prepare warfighters for any situation," said Glenn Goodman, president of Mission

Technologies' LVC Solutions business group. "For more than 20 years, that has been the foundation of HII's live, virtual and constructive training systems. We are proud to continue our support of the U.S. Navy, providing software development and engineering that contribute to combat readiness."

A photo accompanying this news release is available at https://hii.com/news/hii-to-provide-readiness-and-training-software-development-support-for-the-u-s-navy/

HII will provide requirements analysis, software engineering, development, integration and test support for the Advanced Training Domain (ATD), Battle Force Tactical Training (BFTT), BFTT Electronic Warfare Trainer (BEWT), Trainer Stimulator/Simulator Systems (TSSS) and the Combined Integrated Air and Missile Defense and Anti-Submarine Warfare Trainer (CIAT) platforms.

In addition to this contract, HII was recently awarded the NSWCDD $242 million shore-based training, engineering and development support (SBEDS) contract.

Autonomous Maritime Drone Manufacturer Ocean Aero Opens 63,000-Square-Foot Facility on Gulf Coast

Release from Ocean Aero

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GULFPORT, Miss.—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Ocean Aero announces the opening of their new headquarters and manufacturing facility located at the Port of Gulfport on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. With 63,000 square feet of state-of-the-art production capacity, the new Ocean Aero facility represents America's latest addition to the industrial manufacturing base. The facility opens with 60 employees and will hire another 15 full-time positions before the end of the year.

Representing the first phase of Ocean Aero's manufacturing expansions, the facility will enable the production of up to 150 Tritons per year. Annex options adjacent to the facility have the opportunity to produce another 450 Tritons per year.

"We're very proud of what the team has accomplished in our two years located in Mississippi and are looking forward to an even brighter future," said Ocean Aero CEO Kevin Decker. "The timing couldn't be better to add to our production base given the recent announcement of Replicator and other ongoing programs championed at both the U.S. Navy and DoD levels."

Ocean Aero has been consistently working with the U.S. Navy and many of its constituents around the world since moving to Mississippi. It is an international exporter and has engaged with NOAA as well as a number of universities to conduct scientific services.

“The talent of our employees from the Mississippi area, the support we have received from the Gulf Blue ecosystem, and the unwavering dedication of the Mississippi elected officials have exceeded our expectations in every way. We’re honored to be citizens of the local community,” said Decker.

The company drew support from a host of Mississippi’s political leadership, including the Mississippi Development Authority, the Harrison County Development Commission, Mississippi Power, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Port of Gulfport. This opening culminates a years-long process championed by Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and Senator Roger Wicker.

“The opening of Ocean Aero’s state-of-the-art facility on the Mississippi Gulf Coast marks a significant milestone in the journey toward a sustainable and thriving blue economy. By harnessing the potential of our coastal resources, Ocean Aero exemplifies the spirit of innovation and environmental stewardship,” said Mississippi Development Authority Deputy Executive Director Laura Hipp. “The company’s commitment to advancing marine technology not only positions Mississippi as a leader within the blue economy, it underscores the crucial role of our oceans in R&D and in shaping the future of our economy as a whole. MDA congratulates the Ocean Aero team on the opening of this new facility and looks forwards to the company’s continued progress on the Gulf Coast.”

About Ocean Aero

Ocean Aero creates, manufactures, and distributes advanced unmanned ocean systems technology. Its signature product—The

Triton—is the world's first and only environmentally-powered Autonomous Underwater and Surface Vehicle (AUSV). The Triton both sails and submerges for unparalleled ocean data collection with ready-to-deploy packages and custom payloads for an array of applications. Ocean Aero brings the ocean and its data to you, with novel hardware and software that is revolutionizing maritime exploration.

USCGC Reliance Upholds Fishery laws and Conducts Exercises with Mexican Navy

Release from U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area

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Oct. 16, 2023

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Reliance (WMEC 615) returned to their home port in Pensacola, Monday, following a 60-day patrol in the Florida Straits and throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

During the patrol, Reliance enforced fishery laws to ensure the safety of commercial fishing vessels and marine resources in the Coast Guard's Eighth District.

On Sept. 29, 2023, Reliance partnered with the crew of the Mexican Navy vessel ARM Uxmal near Cozumel, Mexico, for a joint training exercise under the North American Maritime Security Initiative. NAMSI, launched in 2008, aims to enhance maritime operations and training collaboration among U.S., Mexican, and Canadian forces. The exercise included maneuver and communication drills, ending with two Uxmal crewmembers touring the Reliance.

Additionally, Reliance trained with aircraft crews from Coast Guard Air Stations Corpus Christi and Houston and offered over 400 public ship tours in Galveston, Texas, near where the Reliance was constructed six decades ago.

"This crew demonstrated professional expertise, versatility, and technical skill beyond expectations during this patrol," said Cmdr. Brian Chapman, Reliance's commanding officer. "They have trained hard, performed superbly, and are truly 'Semper Paratus–Always Ready' for the next mission. I could not be prouder of this team of professionals."

Reliance is a 210-foot, medium endurance cutter homeported in Pensacola with a crew of 73. The cutter's primary missions are

counterdrug operations, migrant interdiction, enforcement of federal fishery laws, and search and rescue in support of Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit GoCoastGuard.com to learn about active duty, reserve, officer, and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found here.

Coast Guard Cutter Munro returns home following 118-day, 23,000-mile Western Pacific patrol

Release from U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area

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Oct. 18, 2023

ALAMEDA, Calif. – The crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Munro (WMSL 755) returned to their Alameda homeport Wednesday following a 23,000-mile, multi-month Western Pacific patrol operating in support of U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet by conducting multiple engagements with partner nations promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Munro departed Alameda in June and was the Coast Guard's third national security cutter deployed to the Indo-Pacific region this year.

The Indo-Pacific region stretches from the United States Pacific coastline to the Indian Ocean; it is home to over half of the world's population and accounts for two-thirds of the global economy.

Throughout the 118-day patrol, Munro participated in international engagements in Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, and with ships at sea from the Royal Thai Navy and United Kingdom Royal Navy.

“This opportunity to work with our allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific increased our regional interoperability and sharpened our seamanship,” said Capt. Rula Deisher, Munro’s commanding officer. “We thoroughly enjoyed conducting professional exchanges, improving maritime capabilities, and strengthening maritime governance in the region by fostering global connectivity, facilitating cohesion and steps taken towards ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

While in Yokosuka, Japan, Munro hosted a luncheon aboard with several key members of the Japan Coast Guard to discuss Operation Solid Alliance for Peace and Prosperity with Humanity and Integrity on the Rule of law-based Engagement (SAPPHIRE). SAPPHIRE is a joint agreement between the U.S. and Japan Coast Guards signed in 2022 to enhance cooperation between the two sea services.

Munro’s crew had the opportunity to engage with members of the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) and tour the KCG’s Academy and training ship while in Gwangyang, Republic of Korea. At sea, Munro and the Korea Coast Guard vessel KCG 3011 (Badaro) conducted a joint harbor sail, including ship maneuvers and small boat operations.

Munro conducted a port call in Malaysia, the U.S. Coast Guard’s first cutter to visit the country since 2020. While there, crewmembers interacted with the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and conducted several subject matter expert exchanges at the MMEA’s training academy. Additionally, Munro hosted key leaders aboard for a luncheon and tour aboard

the cutter.

At sea, Munro participated in the Southeast Asia Maritime Law Enforcement Initiative (SEAMLEI) in the Gulf of Thailand with Royal Thai and Malaysian Navies. SEAMLEI included mock boardings, flight operations, and formation steaming.

In Singapore, crewmembers engaged with members from the Information Fusion Center, U.S. Navy League, and Singapore Maritime & Port Authority personnel, as well as serving in a community relations event where the crew constructed desks and other furniture for a local school.

Munro's last port call in the region was in Brunei, where the crew participated in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), the first U.S. Coast Guard asset to do so in 23 years. Munro worked with the Royal Brunei Navy, Royal Brunei Air Force, Brunei Department of Fisheries, Brunei Military Police, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Navy, conducting subject matter expert exchanges and exercises. During the at-sea portion of CARAT, Munro trained with a Royal Brunei Navy Patrol Vessel, Royal Brunei Air Force S-70 helicopter, and U.S. Navy P-8, conducting shipboard maneuvers and search and rescue exercises.

Named after Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, Munro is one of four Coast Guard national security cutters homeported in Alameda. The cutter's namesake is the Coast Guard's only Medal of Honor recipient. He was awarded for his actions and sacrifice in the defense, rescue, and evacuation of a U.S. Marine battalion from Point Cruz at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in 1942.

National security cutters are the largest and most technologically sophisticated cutters in the Coast Guard's white-hull fleet. National security cutters can operate in the most demanding open ocean environments, including the North

Pacific's hazardous fisheries and the Southern Pacific's vast approaches, where much of the American narcotics trafficking occurs. With robust command, control, communication, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment, stern boat launch and aviation facilities, as well as long-endurance station keeping, national security cutters are an afloat operational-level headquarters for complex law enforcement and national security missions involving multiple Coast Guard and partner agency participation.

HII Expands Presence with New Advance Technology Facility in Downtown Syracuse

Release from HII

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SYRACUSE, N.Y., Oct. 18, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) — HII's (NYSE: HII) Mission Technologies division hosted a ceremony to mark the opening of the company's new engineering facility in Syracuse, expanding the company's presence in the region.

"This facility serves as a hub for integrating various technologies that play a direct role in bolstering national security," said Mission Technologies President Andy Green during the ceremony. "It's a place where imagination, innovation and collaboration converge. Here in Syracuse, New York, the finest minds are ready to carry out HII's mission — providing the edge to our warfighters. We're thrilled to be doing this work here and sharing it with you today."

Mission Technologies in New York has approximately 200 engineers and technicians supporting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) and electronic warfare work in Syracuse and Rome, New York.

Dino Cencetti, vice president of operations in Mission Technologies' C5ISR business group, noted the mission-critical work they do for all branches of the U.S. military and other national security agencies.

Photos and videos accompanying this news release are available at https://hii.com/news/hii-expands-presence-with-new-advance-technology-facility-in-downtown-syracuse/

"We are doing new and amazing things here in this building," Cencetti said. "We are really looking forward to the fulfillment of the downtown revitalization and continuing to grow the defense industrial base in Syracuse, supporting the new 'Your State' technology corridor."

HII develops integrated solutions that enable today's connected, all-domain force. Capabilities include C5ISR

systems and operations; the application of AI and machine learning to battlefield decisions; defensive and offensive cyberspace strategies and electronic warfare; unmanned autonomous systems; live, virtual and constructive solutions; fleet modernization; and critical nuclear operations.

Service Chiefs from US Navy, Royal Navy, and US Marine Corps Sign Revised Strategic Charter, Strengthening the Special Relationship

Release from Vice Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

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Oct. 18, 2023

ATLANTIC OCEAN – Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Eric Smith embarked HMS Prince of Wales (PWLS) and met with Royal Navy First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff Adm. Sir Ben Key to sign an updated strategic charter, Oct. 18.

The charter, known as "Delivering Combined Seapower" or DCS, is a bilateral tri-service strategic approach plan that supports cooperation, collaboration, and integration among U.S. and U.K. maritime services.

First signed in 2014, DCS was introduced to build and sustain interoperability between the U.S. and U.K. fleets.

The updated document includes a shared vision to enable the next level of interoperability the joint force requires, acceleration of U.S.-U.K. interchangeability, and underscores the collective dedication to safeguarding global maritime interests and promoting a rules-based international order.

"'Delivering' is the key word here," said Franchetti. "The U.S. and U.K are providing real, operationally relevant capabilities that are making a difference on the oceans every single day. This document reflects the significant progress we've made since the original charter nine years ago and clearly articulates how we will advance and expand our interchangeability and deliver combined seapower going forward."

Key emphasized the importance of this renewed alliance, "This Charter is testament to the enduring strength of the relationship between our navies and marines. By aligning our strategies and capabilities, we strengthen our ability to

deter threats, respond to crises, and promote stability across the world's oceans. This partnership will undoubtedly enhance our collective effectiveness, create opportunities to work ever more closely together, and promote our shared values."

Although the U.S. Marine Corps has participated in U.S.- U.K. DCS Strategic Dialogues, this revision marks the first time the U.S. Marine Corps has been formally incorporated into the charter.

"I'm proud to be in this endeavor with Adm. Franchetti and Adm. Key," said Smith. "Both countries' Marines and Sailors have long-enjoyed a unique bond. We need to continue moving toward full interoperability, which includes maximizing our information sharing, training on each other's platforms, and finding novel ways to integrate at the staff and warfighter level. This charter is a real step forward toward that goal."

Throughout the days' events the leaders observed a demonstration of F-35B operations onboard HMS PWLS, and discussed maritime strategies, warfighting concepts, and future force design.

The U.S. and U.K. naval forces regularly operate together around the globe, and Franchetti and Smith last met with Key in September at the 25th International Seapower Symposium in Newport, Rhode Island.

USS Mount Whitney Departs

Homeport for Eastern Mediterranean

Release from U.S. 6th Fleet

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By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Mario Coto, USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20)

GAETA, Italy – The U.S. 6th Fleet Blue Ridge-class command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) departed Gaeta, Italy, Oct. 18, 2023, in support of U.S. operations in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

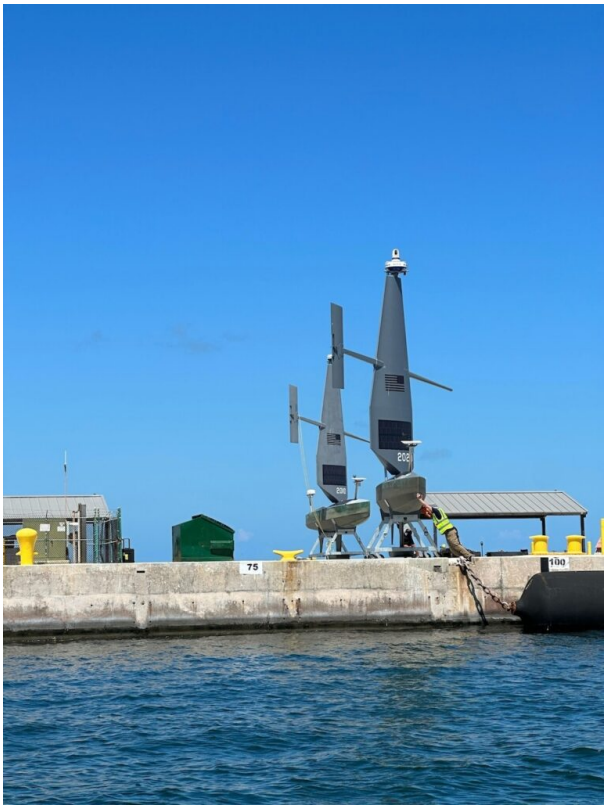
Mount Whitney is forward deployed to the U.S. European Command area of responsibility where it engages with Allies and partners in support of maritime operations, which encompasses naval diplomacy and national efforts to build comprehensive U.S. and Allied maritime power.

The ship operates with a combined crew of U.S. Sailors and Military Sealift Command civil service mariners in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.

For more than 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with our Allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Saildrone Fleet Surpasses 1,000,000 Nautical Miles and 32,000 Days at Sea



[Release from Saildrone]

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The milestone underscores the reliability of the vehicle, and confirms Saildrone’s position as the only proven long-range, long-endurance uncrewed platform.

(October 17, 2023 – ALAMEDA, California) – Saildrone is excited to announce another major milestone: Its fleet of uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) has surpassed an incredible cumulative distance of 1,000,000 nautical miles during more than 32,000 days at sea, deployed on missions around the globe.

Equivalent to circumnavigating the Earth 48 times and almost 89 years at sea for a single vehicle, this achievement demonstrates the scale of Saildrone’s operations and the tireless efforts of its team to push the boundaries and capabilities of uncrewed systems.

The record was achieved exactly 10 years after the company’s first major milestone, when the very first Saildrone USV

sailed from San Francisco to Hawaii in October 2013. The 2,200-nautical mile journey took just 34 days.

Over the past decade, Saildrone has gone from strength to strength, pushing boundaries in the harshest environments on the planet, from the ice edge in the Arctic to the mountainous seas of the Southern Ocean, and even through a Category 4 hurricane. The Saildrone fleet now numbers 136 vehicles and consists of three different size variants.

“Evolving the Saildrone design, capabilities, and team has been an incredible journey,” said Saildrone founder and CEO Richard Jenkins. “This million-nautical-mile milestone is a huge achievement in a relatively short time frame. It underscores the reliability we have achieved and confirms our unique position as the only proven long-range, long-dwell USV.”

Powered primarily by renewable wind and solar energy, Saildrone USVs are equipped with state-of-the-science sensors that measure ocean environment parameters. From its origins in science and fisheries, Saildrone has expanded its capabilities to include ocean mapping, maritime security, and defense applications.

Saildrone’s fleet is growing rapidly: the company is building one mid-size 10-meter (33-foot) Voyager per week and one large-size 20-meter (65-foot) Surveyor per month.

Saildrone provides comprehensive data solutions for science, commercial, and defense applications, enabling real-time access to critical data from any ocean on Earth. Proprietary software applications and machine learning technology transform that data into actionable insights and intelligence for maritime security, ocean mapping, and research. Saildrone’s fleet of uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs), powered by renewable wind and solar power, are designed to scale ocean data collection with a minimum carbon footprint. Saildrone

vehicles operate 24/7/365, without the need for a crewed support vessel, and have sailed more than 1,000,000 nautical miles from the Arctic to the Antarctic and spent over 32,000 days at sea in the harshest ocean conditions on the planet.