U.S. Navy Accepts Delivery of First Extra Large Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Test Asset System

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By Program Executive Office Unmanned and Small Combatants

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif., — The U.S. Navy recently accepted delivery of the first Extra Large Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (XLUUV) Test Asset System, designated XLE0, from the manufacturer Boeing. The XLUUV, also known as Orca, marks a significant milestone in advancing the Navy's undersea capabilities.

The delivery of the Navy's first-ever Orca XLUUV Test Asset System, XLE0, is the culmination of nearly a decade's worth of research, design, manufacturing and testing by the Program Executive Office for Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC) and the Unmanned Maritime Systems Program Office (PMS 406).

"This has been a very busy year for the XLUUV team and their hard work is culminating in delivery of the Navy's first-ever unmanned diesel-electric submarine," said Capt. Scot Searles, program manager of the Unmanned Maritime Systems (PMS 406) program office. "We look forward to continued success with our Boeing teammates in fielding this important capability for the warfighter."

XLE0 began in-water testing in Spring 2023 in Huntington Beach, California. Lessons learned from XLE0's testing will be

applied to Orca XLUUV 1 through 5, which will be built and delivered to the Navy in the future.

The Orca XLUUV is a cutting-edge, autonomous, unmanned diesel-electric submarine with a modular payload section to execute a variety of missions critical to enhancing the Navy's undersea prowess. Configured to accommodate various payloads, the Orca XLUUV allows for the seamless integration of sensors, communication systems, and other mission-specific components, adapting to the evolving requirements of naval operations.

With its long-endurance capability, the Orca XLUUV can operate autonomously for extended periods. This allows for sustained operational presence and increased mission effectiveness in challenging undersea environments.