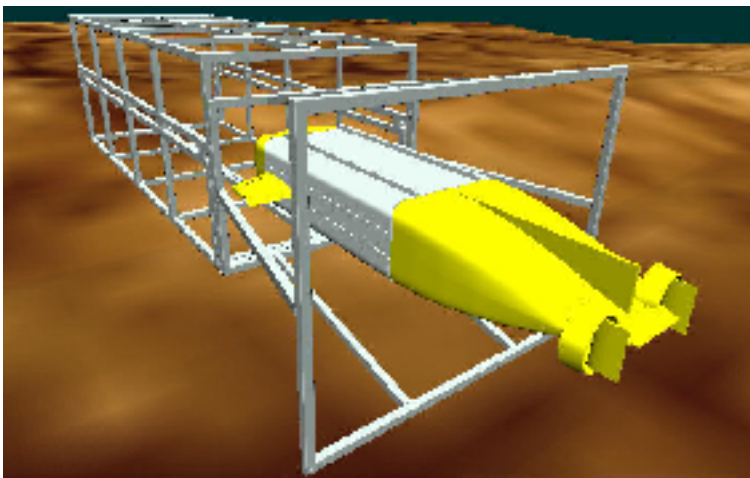
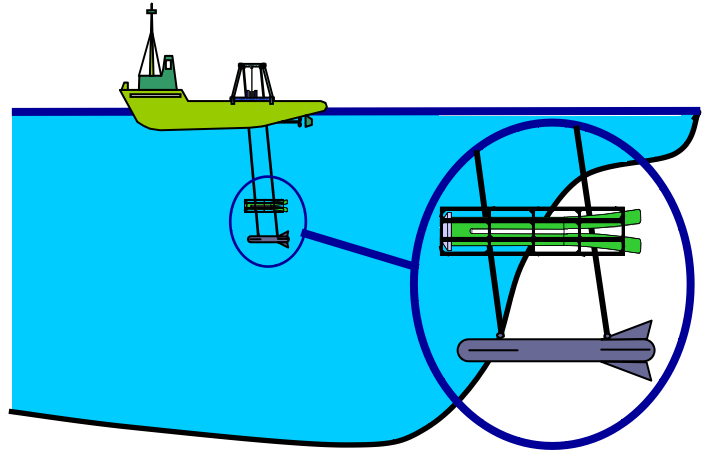




EURODOCKER - A universal docking, downloading and recharging system for AUV's

The objective

To develop an unmanned support system for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV's), to permit docking, data downloading and battery recharging activities to be carried out underwater.



The motivations

To overcome two of the principal current restrictions to the use of AUV's: the risks inherent to continuous surface launch and recovery operations; and their limited independence from expensive surface support.

The prototype

The project shall demonstrate both the technologies required and the critical components developed with a full scale prototype that shall be tested at sea utilising the Martin AUV.

A public demonstration shall be given during the workshop to be held in Copenhagen in October 2000.





EURODOCKER - A universal docking, downloading and recharging system for AUV's

The goals

The **EURODOCKER** project aims at the design, manufacture and testing of an underwater docking system for AUV's. Its successful development will permit the exploitation of the enormous possibilities offered by AUV technology, ultimately resulting in cost effective underwater research, surveying and monitoring.

The **EURODOCKER** project is not tailored to a specific AUV, but shall be suited to the wide set of vehicles now under successful development, although Maridan's Martin AUV has been taken as reference and shall be utilised for the tests. The end result of a viable Data Down Loading and Recharging system shall be obtained through the development of all the necessary technologies to permit the connection of the AUV underwater, including: homing, garaging, mating and launch and recovery.

The applications

Initial use of the **EURODOCKER** is envisaged to be ship deployed, which shall increase AUV operations availability and reduce the risks incurred during launch and recovery operations.

However the full potential of the **EURODOCKER** concept shall be realised by the installation of docking system on the seabed, thus removing the need for surface support vessels, and permitting repeat missions over considerable periods of time, even in the harshest of regions.

These two applications have led to the development of two system configurations, based around the same architecture and components, but completed with dedicated ancillary systems: for the ship deployed solution with a launch and recovery system; for the bottom supported system with a swivel anchor base.

Participating Partners and organisations

The **EURODOCKER** project is funded by the European Commission, DG XII under the Marine Science and Technology programme MAST, and is being carried out by:

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