

901606 Park-n-Fly AUV for Long-Term Surveys in Extreme Environments

Rating: Some possibility of support

MT contact: Doug

Management Team Feedback:

The concept of having a system that could provide long-term presence, repeat survey, and event response is well aligned with MBARI's future research and development objectives. This system could enable many new and unique scientific investigations.

For your phase 1 proposal, consider the following comments:

The team should step back from a schedule that is being driven by science-deployment deadlines. Develop a project plan that is well thought out and engineering-based. The project plan should focus on the high-risk elements first and include go/no-go gates as these elements are investigated. Much can be gained by making MBARI's existing Dorado class AUVs' hardware and software more robust as a first step. Sufficient testing should be scoped into this plan and timeline as well. This should include a long-duration test equivalent to the planned deployment duration. We feel it is premature to plan on building two vehicles in 2017.

Finally, we note that the project team members are part of several large proposals for 2017 and beyond. The group should consider the timing and scope of each of these efforts and provide a realistic high-level plan that includes priorities and timing of these efforts to yield a more integrated and staged development prospectus.