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Five Deeps Expedition embarks for its second dive to reach the deepest point in the Southern Ocean

No human has ever dived the South Sandwich Trench

DALLAS, TX (January 28, 2019) – For the second time, The Five Deeps Expedition has set sail on a mission to reach one of the most remote points on the planet: the deepest point of the South Sandwich Trench in the Southern Ocean. Currently measured at 7,235 meters/23,736 feet deep, this destination presents many challenges related to logistics and weather conditions, yet holds the possibility of groundbreaking scientific discovery due to the fact that it has not been thoroughly explored and is the only subzero Hadal zone (deeper than 6,000 meters) in the world.

The Five Deeps crew set sail from Montevideo, Uruguay on January 24 and will travel 7 days (1,450 nautical miles) southeast to Grytviken on the island of South Georgia and then another 2-3 days (550 nautical miles) to the South Sandwich Islands and Trench itself where multibeam sonar mapping and the deep dives will take place over 3-4 days, weather permitting.

“This is an especially exciting dive for our whole crew based solely on the fact that we are sailing into quite unknown territory, while trying to overcome the potential for treacherous weather and sea conditions,” said Victor Vescovo, the expedition creator and chief sub pilot. “If the weather holds and we have the opportunity, it is our intention to dive the Southern Ocean Deep, and then go north to possibly dive the Meteor Deep. We also plan to map the heck out of the trench and deploy landers to collect multiple sediment and biological samples.”

“All together, the EYOS Expeditions team have led more than 800 safe and successful expeditions to Antarctica; but this one is unique. This is pure exploration in the same spirit as the original polar pioneers such as Amundsen, Shackleton and Scott,” said Rob McCallum of EYOS Expeditions. “This is one of the most remote corners of our planet, and we will traverse more than 2,000 miles just to reach the Trench. Being this far from home we need to be well prepared, so we have added one of the world’s most accomplished expedition physicians to the team as well as an Ice Pilot with decades of experience.”

“The Triton Submarines team is aboard the good ship *Pressure Drop* once again to assist Mr. Vescovo, with an attempt to complete the second and perhaps most challenging of the Five Deeps Expedition objectives; the world’s first dive to the deepest point of the

South Sandwich Trench in the Southern Ocean. The Triton 36,000/2 or *Limiting Factor* submersible makes it possible for Mr. Vescovo to be the first person in history to visit two of the most hostile and least understood Hadal zones on our planet. We are thrilled to be a part of this remarkable and unprecedented journey of discovery.”

The Five Deeps mission is being filmed by Atlantic Productions for a five-part Discovery Channel documentary series due to air in 2020.

For updates on the expedition, visit fivedeeps.com. The website also has all of the information one might need regarding the technology, scientific goals, crew and team bios, expedition overview.

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Partnership opportunities

Organizations are welcome to submit interest in supporting the expedition and its scientific missions to FiveDeepsPress@richards.com.

About Caladan Oceanic

Caladan Oceanic is a private company dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supporting expeditions to increase the understanding of, and support, the productive sustainment of the oceans. Founder Victor Vescovo has long had a passion for exploration and has summited the highest peak on all seven of the world’s continents including Mt. Everest and skied at least 100 kilometers to both the North and South Poles. He also served for 20 years as an officer in the US Navy Reserve, retiring with the rank of Commander. With the completion of the Five Deeps Expedition, Vescovo could become the first person in history to have been to the top of all the world’s continents, both poles, and the bottom of all its oceans.

About Triton Submarines, LLC

Triton Submarines of Sebastian, Florida, is the most experienced civil submarine producer in the world today – and the only contemporary manufacturer of acrylic and titanium pressure-hull-equipped personal submarines to deliver multiple classed and certified vessels capable of diving to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) or more. Triton Submarines’ senior staff have over 350 years of combined experience with more than 80 different submersibles, and their operations team members have together logged over 25,000 dives. Triton clients also enjoy superlative after-sales service and technical support from a company dedicated to their total satisfaction.

About EYOS Expeditions

EYOS Expeditions has been designing complex and challenging expeditions for private vessels since 2008. Drawing on the decades of experience of the company’s co-founders, the EYOS team has delivered over 1,200 safe and successful expeditions to some of the

most remote destinations on Earth. EYOS Expeditions holds several “world firsts” and routinely takes clients to destinations rarely or never before visited. EYOS Expeditions and sister company Expedition Voyage Consultants has worked behind the scenes on many of the industry’s groundbreaking itineraries and has a long history of delivering once-in-a-lifetime experiences for clients while maintaining the highest standards of safety, professionalism and environmental stewardship. EYOS Expeditions is today regarded as the industry leader for planning and operating remote expeditions using submersibles.

About Atlantic Productions

Atlantic embraces several companies including the BAFTA- and Emmy-winning special effects company ZOO VFX and virtual reality company Alchemy. In 25 years, it has built a reputation for world-class storytelling, enhanced by the latest technology. Their diverse output includes 11 projects with David Attenborough including BAFTA award-winning Flying Monsters, Museum Alive (Sky) and The Great Barrier Reef; Inside the Commons (BBC), Time Scanners (NatGeo), Mission Galapagos (BBC), Jerusalem, City of Heaven (Discovery) and the acclaimed theatrical film The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest. Recent projects include the critically acclaimed Judi Dench: My Passion for Trees (BBC) and The Coronation (BBC/Smithsonian/ABC), made with the Queen. Atlantic won the first-ever BAFTA award for virtual reality with David Attenborough’s Great Barrier Reef Dive. Discovery Channel have commissioned Atlantic Productions to film a five-part documentary series covering the Five Deeps mission.

About Discovery Channel

Discovery Channel is dedicated to creating the highest quality non-fiction content that informs and entertains its consumers about the world in all its wonder, diversity and amazement. The network, which is distributed to 88.3 million U.S. homes, can be seen in 224 countries and territories, offering a signature mix of compelling, high-end production values and vivid cinematography across genres including, science and technology, exploration, adventure, history and in-depth, behind-the-scenes glimpses at the people, places and organizations that shape and share our world. For more information, please visit www.discovery.com

About Newcastle University

Newcastle University, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, is a modern civic university with a proud tradition, committed to world-class academic excellence – but excellence with a purpose. Newcastle University is a red brick university and is a member of the Russell Group, an association of prestigious research-intensive UK universities. The University’s international strategy supports our aim to have a strong international community, experience, reputation and impact. The University hosts students from over 120 different countries and staff from over 80 countries with

excellent cross-cultural interaction from working with more than 200 overseas universities and institutions. The university has one of the largest EU research portfolios in the UK. The annual income of the institution for 2017–18 was £495.7 million of which £109.4 million was from research grants and contracts, with an expenditure of £483.3 million.

About the British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is a partly publicly-funded body which aims to advance geoscientific knowledge of the United Kingdom landmass and its continental shelf by means of systematic surveying, monitoring and research. The BGS advises the British government on all aspects of geoscience, as well as providing impartial advice on geological matters to the public, academics and industry. BGS is a component body of the UK Natural Environment Research Council which is the UK's leading body for fundamental, strategic and applied research and monitoring in the environmental sciences both in the UK and for international projects. The core outputs of the BGS include geological, geophysical, geochemical and hydrogeological maps, descriptions and related digital databases. Scientists at the BGS produced the first comprehensive map of African groundwater reserves. One of the key strategic aims for the next decade is to complete the transition from 2-D mapping to a 3-D modelling culture.