

Title (en)

SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATICALLY LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVING AN UNDERWATER DRONE

Title (de)

SYSTEM ZUM AUTOMATISCHEN STARTEN UND ZURÜCKRUFEN EINER UNTERWASSERDROHNE

Title (fr)

SYSTEME POUR LA MISE A L'EAU ET LA RECUPERATION AUTOMATIQUES D'UN DRONE SOUS-MARIN

Publication

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Application

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Abstract (en)

[origin: WO2009147176A1] The present invention relates to systems for launching and retrieving underwater craft from a ship. It consists mainly in a handling cradle (10) for launching and retrieving an underwater vehicle (20), comprising a frame (11) forming a dorsal ridge and providing an interface between lifting means, for example a crane, and the underwater vehicle. This frame comprises: means (12) for adjusting the overall buoyancy; means (13) for automatically aligning the vehicle with the dorsal ridge consisting of the frame; means (14) for getting hold of the vehicle from the surface once the frame has been aligned with the vehicle. In a preferred embodiment, the cradle comprises an on-board video camera allowing the operator on board the ship to ensure that the vehicle is being correctly attached and released. The invention advantageously allows the vehicle to be launched and recovered automatically when the vehicle is under the surface in a zone where it is not subject to the effects of the ocean swell.

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