

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board
13 August 2019

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction,
Performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
14th and Constitution, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

Subject: OEAB Recommendations for NOAA UUV Systems and Operations Strategy

At a recent meeting of the NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) on 31 July 2019, the Deputy NOAA Administrator, Tim Gallaudet, requested advice and recommendations from the OEAB on a Strategy for NOAA Unmanned Undersea Vehicle (UUV) Systems and Operations. The attached white paper responds to that request.

The paper contains four primary recommendations of the OEAB for NOAA to implement a UUV Strategy:

1. NOAA should actively engage industry and entrepreneurs to develop and operate UUV systems.
2. NOAA OER should take the lead in coordinating a NOAA Strategic Roadmap for UUVs.
3. NOAA OER should establish and maintain close ties with U.S. Navy UUV Programs.
4. NOAA OER should evaluate alternatives and recommend to NOAA leadership go-forward approaches for a structured partnership with the private sector for UUV systems and operations.

Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



John R. Kreider
Chair, NOAA Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

Cc: RDML Timothy Gallaudet (USN, ret)
Dr. Stuart Levenbach
Mr. Kevin Wheeler
Mr. Craig McLean
Dr. Alan Leonardi
Mr. David McKinnie
NOAA OEAB