

OCEANIC®

Diving Essentials Redefined

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
2002 Davis Street
San Leandro, CA USA 94577-1211
510/562-0500 • FAX 510/569-5404

For Immediate Release

June, 1999

Oceanic Signs Cooperative Development Agreement with US Navy; Continues Leadership Role in Diving Equipment and Technology

San Leandro, CA – Oceanic USA, the international developer of innovative scuba diving equipment and technology, has announced the company has entered into an exclusive Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the United States Navy. This agreement, with the Coastal Systems Station of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, involves joint research and development for a diving mask with an integrated LCD display, often referred to as a “Heads-up” display.

Both Oceanic and Navy engineers are currently working together to complete the technology for the “Heads-up” display mask for use by Navy divers. Oceanic will provide the technical expertise and design information in the area of wireless, air-integrated computer technology, while the US Navy Coastal Systems station will provide technical expertise and design information, underwater optics and ergonomics.

While the completed product will have immediate military applications, recreational divers will also benefit from this jointly created technology as Oceanic plans to release a consumer version of the “Heads-up” display next year. Engineers anticipate the new compact display will feature all the information currently displayed in Oceanic’s line of innovative hand-held and hoseless dive computers.

more



Oceanic-Navy Announce Joint Development Project
Page 2

This is not the first time Oceanic has teamed up with a government agency to jointly develop technology that has resulted in new products for recreational divers. Several years ago, Oceanic engineers were part of a team working with NASA on wireless communications used in underwater astronaut training. That technology resulted in the creation of Oceanic's well-known DataTrans™ hoseless computer, one of the first such products made available to the dive market.

“To be a leader, you have to look at new and innovative ways to develop the cutting edge technology today’s divers demand,” points out Barry Warner, Oceanic President. “By jointly developing new technologies and electronic features with the US Navy, Oceanic is continuing to build our position as the leader in the creation of new product innovations that are used to strengthen the recreational scuba diving industry.”

Warner notes that in addition to the CRADA agreement with the US Navy, Oceanic will also soon unveil its innovation T-3 e-commerce technology that was developed in partnership with Compaq computers. This new system, widely heralded by the dive industry, will revolutionize the way everyone, including divers, retailers, resort owners and dive professionals, work and interact with scuba equipment manufacturers and retail outlets.

Oceanic USA is a worldwide leader in the research, development, manufacturing and distribution of high-quality scuba diving products and equipment. Headquartered in San Leandro, California, the company has built a reputation for developing technological innovations that will help lead the scuba industry into the 21st Century.

- *Oceanic* -

Editor Contact:

Scott Jones, SJ Communications
(949) 699-3467 e-mail: SJCOM@earthlink.net