DexROV Press Release

DexROV holds first official review with European Commission

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Nineteen months after the undersea-operations project was launched, DexROV has successfully completed its first funding review as part of the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme.

In October, DexROV’s seven consortium partners met with the Horizon 2020 funding board, supervised by Gabriel Mialocq, in Brussels to evaluate progress on the €5.3 million project. The DexROV review comes only a few months after the first testing and integration activities were successfully conducted in June this year. The European Commission is funding about 85 percent of the project.

“We have come to the point where we have successfully tested many of the critical technologies needed in DexROV. Partners are all moving together in the right direction. We think that the diversity of our testing, for offshore energy, archaeology and science, will show DexROV’s relevance and effectiveness for many different types of applications. We are very much looking forward to validating all of these capabilities in deep sea,” said Jeremi Gancet, the project coordinator for Space Applications Services, the Belgian company leading the consortium.

The next major test for DexROV – an abbreviation for dexterous remotely operated vehicle – is scheduled for June 2017, when it will be deployed to a sea depth of 100 meters. The project’s ultimate goal is to perform underwater operations at depths of up to 1.3 kilometres using a semi-autonomous ROV and a vessel equipped with a satellite communication link. This will be connected to an onshore control centre that operates the ROV using exoskeleton technologies.

DexROV will greatly reduce the costs, hazards, and number of offshore personnel involved in underwater operations in the fields of energy, communications infrastructure, science, archaeology and shipwreck recovery by enabling delocalized supervision for deep-sea inspection and maintenance work.

The European Commission launched its seven-year Horizon 2020 programme in 2014 as part of the Europe 2020 initiative to safeguard the region’s global competitiveness and to promote economic growth. With almost €80 billion earmarked for the funding of selected projects, Horizon 2020 is the European Union’s largest research and innovation programme ever.

“The project is progressing well. I have seen a lot of positive results at the review. There were very comprehensive presentations about the teleoperations and information sharing between the ROV and the piloting centres, and I look forward to seeing the next technical developments. We are interested in the planned focus on exploitation opportunities to help the people who might need this technology in the future learn more about its development,” said Mialocq, the European Commission’s coordinator for the DexROV project.

DexROV is subject to periodic reviews by the European Commission. The project is scheduled for completion in August 2018.

For more detailed information on DexROV, visit the website at:

<http://www.dexrov.eu/>

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For more information on the Horizon 2020 programme, visit:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

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