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CONFIRMED: Horizon Deep Second Deepest Point on the Planet

Five Deeps Expedition achieves world's first manned decent into the Tonga Trench

DALLAS, TX (June 10, 2019) – The Five Deeps Expedition team makes history again as explorer Victor Vescovo became the first human to dive on a solo mission to the bottom of the deepest point in the Southern Hemisphere – the Tonga Trench's Horizon Deep. Now measured at 10,823 meters (+/- 10 meters) or 35,509 feet (+/-33 feet) the expedition definitively confirmed that the Horizon Deep is shallower than the Mariana Trench's Challenger Deep. In addition to the manned dive, the most extensively detailed sonar mapping of the Horizon Deep was conducted by a Kongsberg EM124 multibeam sonar. Over 13,100 kilometers² of ocean floor was mapped with a resolution of 75 meters. The data collected will be donated to the GEBCO Seabed 2030 initiative.

"Less than a month after diving five times to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, we dove the submersible *Limiting Factor* a sixth time below 10,000 meters to continue our exploration of the world's deep trench systems. There were some lingering doubts if the Horizon Deep might just be deeper than the Challenger Deep, and it is close - only 105 meters shallower - but it is not."

Vescovo continued, "The expedition is very proud to have confirmed the exact depth and location of the deepest points in four of the world's oceans, and we look forward to finishing up our mission in the Arctic Ocean."

The Five Deeps Expedition is being filmed by Atlantic Productions for a five-part Discovery Channel documentary series due to air in late 2019.

The Five Deeps Expedition is the first oceanic journey to take a manned, commercially certified submersible vessel further and deeper than any in history. This leg of the mission also accomplished the following:

- Sixth dive by a manned submersible to go deeper than 10,000 meters, by the *DSV Limiting Factor*. No other manned submersible in history has done more than one dive deeper than that depth.
- First person to solo descend to the first, second, and third deepest points in the entire ocean (Challenger, Horizon, and Sirena Deeps, respectively) by Victor Vescovo and the fourth dive by an individual below 10,700 meters. Before this expedition, no one had ever been below 10,000 meters more than once.
- Unlike the Java and Mariana Trenches, the expedition found no signs of human contamination in the Horizon Deep, which appeared completely pristine.

The Next Dive: The Puerto Rico Trench

The next stop for the expedition is the Puerto Rico Trench. The expedition was there last December when it dove to the bottom of the Atlantic, but this time the team will attempt to re-create a famous scientific dive in the area by the French submersible Archimède in 1964. The expedition scientists seek to compare the findings of that mission to the current state of the trench 55 years later. The team also hopes to continue practicing operations with its submersible-and-lander sample collection system.

The Final Dive: The Molloy Deep

The last stop on the Five Deeps Expedition is the Molloy Deep in the Arctic Ocean, 160 km from Svalbard, Norway. At 5,573 meters/18,284 feet deep, the Molloy is the deepest point in the Arctic Ocean. That mission is slated to kick off in late August, 2019.

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

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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.