



## COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE



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### TITLE (AND CASE NUMBER) OF INVENTION

**Fetch-Class Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (0908)**

### TECHNOLOGY DONATION

The assets of a for-profit AUV business (Fetch LLC, spun off from Prizm Advanced Communications Electronics LLC, which bought out Sias Patterson LLC) were recently donated to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary. The donation includes one finished AUV, and several other vessels in various stages of production. The donation additionally includes parts/inventory, a pressure vessel system for testing AUV hulls, and other business assets, including United States Patent No. 5,995,882 (Mark Patterson of VIMS and James Sias were the inventors), which covers methods of AUV operation, including water profiling.

Several groups have expressed a preliminary interest in the above-mentioned assets, and W&M expects to take a flexible approach to negotiations, keeping in mind our intention to ensure robust and sustainable AUV research capabilities at VIMS.

### APPLICATIONS

This invention and relevant assets relate to production and operation of autonomous underwater vehicles.

### SUMMARY

We believe this is a unique opportunity for a company to immediately enter the AUV business with a proven design. The Fetch-class vessels are the only AUVs that are based on the National Instruments LabVIEW software environment that allows for rapid test and evolution of robotic behaviors. Other innovations in the Fetch design include a folding antenna and control surfaces.

The patent includes claims to an AUV system and AUV operation that cover production and operation of Fetch-class AUVs. We believe the associated inventory is worth well over one million dollars in resale value. We would particularly welcome a licensee that wants to develop an AUV manufacturing business based in the Hampton Roads area, and note that several individuals having extensive technical experience with the vehicle might be available to participate in a future venture.

This technology may also be bundled with additional technology, both patented (US 7221621-neural network recognition of underwater targets) and currently in development, owned by the College of William and Mary.

### PATENT STATUS

US Patent No. [5,995,882](#) (issued November 30, 1999)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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