ATLAS SeaFox – ROV for Identification and Mine Disposal

... a sound decision
The SeaFox system is a mine disposal system based on the most advanced concept using the Expendable Mine Disposal Vehicle principle (EMDV).

Small, unmanned underwater drones are used for direct disposal of historical and most modern mine types; identical, reusable vehicles (without charge) are used for inspection, identification and training purposes.

The system is effective against long and short tethered mines, proud ground mines and floating mines.

The SeaFox system mainly comprises a console, a launcher and the SeaFox vehicles. The system can be delivered as a stand-alone or a fully integrated version.

In case of stand-alone the console contains all electronics, software, displays and operating elements to guide the vehicle automatically or manually towards the target and to relocate, identify and destroy it. In the fully integrated version, a Multi Function Console or any existing console can be used.

The two different vehicles ensure quick disposal of mines during operation with the combat vehicle (SeaFox C) as well as cost-saving identification with the reusable identification version (SeaFox I).

The communication between the console and the SeaFox vehicle’s sensors, such as high frequency relocation sonar, echo sounder and CCTV camera, is implemented via a thin fibre optic cable. The four independent, reversible motors plus one hover thruster ensure high manoeuvrability and exact positioning for firing the shaped charge.

SeaFox Mine Disposal System

Easy handling due to small size: length 1.3 m, weight approx. 40 kg

Short mission time (typ. < 15 min) due to direct automated approach

Mine disposal in situ with SeaFox’s shaped charge
Tactical Display

Ground mine detected by SeaFox sonar

CCTV image of MLO allows clear identification

Run Out

SeaFox on programmed course towards MCMV sonar or underwater positioning system coverage sector.

Transit

SeaFox tracked by MCMV sonar or underwater positioning system. Guided to a point downstream of mine.

Target Position Approach

SeaFox on pursuit course to mine relocation with own sonar.

Final Target Approach

Homing using SeaFox sonar. Identification by CCTV Manual or impact firing.

Mission Profile

Waypoint 1

Waypoint 2

Waypoint 3
SeaFox Delivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rapid Disposal</strong></td>
<td>Expendable SeaFox vehicle considerably reduces mission time compared to other systems. Typically SeaFox achieves mine disposal four times faster than recoverable ROV methods.</td>
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<td><strong>Effective Neutralisation</strong></td>
<td>Shaped charge warhead destroys all known mine types including those containing insensitive explosives, mainly by sympathetic detonation.</td>
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<td><strong>Precision</strong></td>
<td>Positive identification via high resolution sonar and optical sensors, accurate positioning using 4 propellers and 1 thruster.</td>
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<td><strong>Reliable Mission Success</strong></td>
<td>Shaped charge warhead achieves reliable mine destruction against all known mine types. Unintentional mine detonation constitutes mission success. SeaFox can approach mine without restriction.</td>
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<td><strong>Low Shipfitting Impact</strong></td>
<td>Minimal storage requirements because of small size and low explosive content. Control from stand-alone operator console or integrated into existing MCMV displays.</td>
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<td><strong>Low Life Cycle Cost</strong></td>
<td>Low Life Cycle Cost due to “wooden round” concept of the combat vehicle and low maintenance effort for the reusable inspection vehicle.</td>
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<td><strong>Qualification</strong></td>
<td>Fully qualified by German Navy and other NATO authorities.</td>
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<td><strong>In Service</strong></td>
<td>SeaFox system is in service with 10 Navies on more than 70 platforms.</td>
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Main Components

SeaFox aboard a German minehunter

Crane-based launcher

Control console (example)

Modulare Mobile Control Unit

Thin fibre optic cable

SeaFox C Combat vehicle

SeaFox I Inspection and Training vehicle, fully reusable

Weapon storage (example)
Operational

Mine Types: ground mine, short tethered mine, long tethered mine, drifting mines
Location: sea bed, sea volume, sea surface
Sea State: up to 5
Operation depth: 0 m down to 300 m

SeaFox C Vehicle
Length: approx. 1300 mm
Diameter: approx. 200 mm body /390 mm across fins
Weight in air: approx. 40 kg
Slightly negative bouyant

Propulsion
4 horizontal propellers and 1 vertical thruster (battery powered, reversible)
Max Speed: > 5 knots
Min Speed: full automatic hover capability
Range: > 1200 m depending on current and acoustic conditions

Guidance and Control
Auto/manual guidance system for waypoint navigation and homing.
Guidance calculation in control console.
Attitude sensors in vehicle.

Relocation Sonar
High frequency scanning active sonar with adjustable resolution.
360° scan, selectable

Echo Sounder
Allows SeaFox operation close to sea bed.

CCTV Camera
Real time CCTV imaging system.
High intensity searchlight illumination.

Communications
Optical Fibre cable to shipboard equipment (up to 3000 m length).

Warhead
Fully qualified shaped charge and SAU (Safety and Arming Unit). NEM 1.5 kg
Demonstrated effectiveness against insensitive explosives.

Magnetic Signature
Meets signature requirements for MCMV equipment.
SeaFox vehicle signature at mine not applicable - unintentional mine triggering is rated as mission success.

SeaFox I Vehicle
Dimensions as SeaFox C, slightly positive boyant.
Training and mine identification version of SeaFox vehicle, recoverable and reusable.
No warhead, rechargeable batteries, reusable cable, no expendable parts.

Control Console (stand-alone)
Mission control by single operator.
Flat panel displays.
Mission display - position data
Sonar display - homing
CCTV image - identification
Operator input by panel
Data Interface to MCMV

SeaFox Server
To enable use of existing MCMV consoles.

Launcher
Crane-based system.

Portable Control Unit
Provides guidance from manoeuvre deck during SeaFox I recovery.

Recovery Net
Optional
Supports SeaFox I recovery

Main Accessories
Battery charger, Acoustic Tracking System MIPS
EOD Tool COBRA
References

5x Class MJ 333
5x Class HL 352
5x Class MJ 332

5x Visby Class
5x Landsort Class

10x Alkmaar Class

6x Flower Class

6x MH 53
3x Avenger Class
10x Mobile EOD units

2x Sandown (Temporary Gulf Fit)
8x Sandown
8x Hunt

MHO
Deep SeaFox

2x MCMV

3x Katanpää Class

2x AL Hasbah Class

2x Lat Ya Class
1x Mobile EOD units

SeaFox
- Fully qualified and certified
- Twelve years of reckonable service
- Demonstrated its effectiveness against conventional and insensitive explosives on many occasions
- Combat-proven

US Navy: AMNS Program
Airborne Mine Neutralisation System
Integration into helicopter
Contact

ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH
Sebaldsbruecker Heerstrasse 235
28309 Bremen | Germany
Phone: +49 421 457-02
Fax: +49 421 457-3699

www.atlas-elektronik.com

SeaFox
Mine Warfare System

... a sound decision