

Ocean Infinity to continue search for missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370

Ocean Infinity, an international technology company specializing in collecting high resolution geophysical seabed data, confirmed on 10 January that its proposal to continue the search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 had been accepted by the Government of Malaysia.

It is understood that Ocean Infinity will take on the economic risk of the renewed search, only receiving payment if the aircraft wreckage is located. Ocean Infinity's search will focus initially on the zone identified by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. The vessel, *Seabed Constructor* (*illustrated*), is now close to the search area, which will enable work to commence imminently and the project is expected to last for 90 days.

Commenting on the announcement, Ocean Infinity's CEO, Oliver Plunkett said: *'We are pleased that our offer to continue the search for missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 has been accepted by the Government of Malaysia, who I would like to thank for giving us the opportunity. Whilst there can be no guarantees of locating the aircraft, we believe our system of multiple autonomous vehicles working simultaneously is well suited to the task at hand. I wish our team the best of luck in their endeavours and sincerely hope that we will be able to play a part in providing some answers to the many people affected by this tragedy.'*

Furthermore, it is understood that *Ocean Infinity* can employ up to eight autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), capable of operating in water depths of from five metres to 6,000 metres. Such AUVs are known as free flying, that is to say they will not be tethered to the surface vessel during operations. Ability to operate untethered independent missions allows the AUVs to go deeper and collect higher quality data, making this technology ideal for this search, it has been reported.

In a statement issued by the operators it was learnt that the AUVs will be equipped with side scan sonar, multi-beam echo sounder, sub-bottom profiler, HD camera, conductivity/temperature/depth sensor, self-compensating magnetometer, synthetic aperture sonar and a turbidity sensor.