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## **First Human Reaches the Deepest Point in the Atlantic Ocean in Unprecedented Solo Submersible Dive**

*Victor Vescovo completes the first dive in the Five Deeps Expedition to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, the Puerto Rico Trench*

*Discovery Channel Capturing Expedition For Documentary Series*

DALLAS, TX (December 21, 2018) – In a historic feat, explorer Victor Vescovo became the first human to dive on a solo mission to the deepest point in the Atlantic Ocean – the verified bottom of the Puerto Rico Trench at 8,376 meters / 27,480 feet in his private submersible, the *Limiting Factor*. The trench was previously explored to approximately 8,300 meters by the French submersible *Archimede* in 1964, but it did not reach the deepest point. The dive also makes the *Limiting Factor* the deepest diving operational submersible in the world, surpassing the previous operational record-holder, the Chinese submersible *Jiaolong* which has reportedly reached a maximum depth of 7,062 meters. A groundbreaking documentary series about the expedition is also being filmed by Atlantic Productions for Discovery Channel, and will air in 2019/2020.

"It was an extraordinary dive, and I am so proud of our international team for making it possible over the last few years. It felt great to get to the true bottom of the Atlantic Ocean for the first time in history and to prove the technical capabilities of this diving system, which we believe is now the deepest operational one in the world," said Victor Vescovo. "We are really looking forward to continuing to the other dive sites, and achieving our technical and scientific goals."

The Five Deeps Expedition is the first oceanic journey to take a manned, commercially-certified submersible vessel further and deeper than any in history. In addition to Vescovo's solo dive, the expedition also accomplished:

- First manned descent to the verified bottom of the Puerto Rico Trench, the deepest part of the Atlantic Ocean
- First American-made submersible to dive deeper than 6,100 meters since the US Navy's DSV-4 *Sea Cliff* in 1985, thirty-three years ago

- Only the second solo dive made deeper than 5,000 meters. Only James Cameron in his *Deepsea Challenger* has made a deeper solo dive, to full ocean depth (10,908 meters) in 2012

To accomplish the dive, a two-person deep-sea research submersible was manufactured by Triton Submarines of Sebastian, Florida specifically for this endeavor. Designed to slip vertically through the water column at high speeds, Vescovo was able to safely reach the bottom of the Puerto Rico Trench after an approximate two-and-a-half hour descent. Dr. Alan Jamieson of Newcastle University, the expedition's lead scientist, believes that four new marine species were discovered during the expedition's operations in the trench.

Critical to determining where to dive, the Five Deeps Expedition uses a state-of-the-art Kongsberg EM124 sonar suite for precise mapping of the ocean floor even to full ocean depth. Arguably the most advanced underwater sonar currently installed on a civilian vessel, the multibeam echosounder produced digital 3D renderings of the sea floor that were used to identify and verify the deepest point in the trench by an international team of sonographers and oceanographic scientists. During the expedition, the EM124 will likely be used to clarify inaccuracies in documented depths and may ultimately lead to the reclassification of some of them.

The next stop on the Five Deeps Expedition is the South Sandwich Trench, the deepest point in the Southern Ocean around Antarctica. The South Sandwich Trench has not been thoroughly explored and is the only subzero Hadal zone -- deeper than 6,000 meters -- in the world. Due to its remote location, this dive poses many logistical and weather challenges, however the potential scientific findings could prove to be groundbreaking.

After the South Sandwich Trench dives in February of 2019, the remaining major trench dives planned for the Five Deeps Expedition include:

- Java Trench (Indian Ocean, 7,290 meters)
- Mariana Trench/Challenger Deep (Pacific Ocean, 10,925 meters)
- Molloy Deep (Arctic Ocean, 5,573 meters)

For updates on the expedition, visit [fivedeeps.com](http://fivedeeps.com). The website also has all of 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. 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 Voyager 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 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 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.

### **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](http://www.discovery.com)

### **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.