EMBARGO TUESDAY, MAY 15 AT 8 A.M. AEST

Unique Discoveries on Barrier Reef Seen at 80 Meters for the First Time Using Blueye Robotics Underwater Drone

Australia's Great Barrier Reef Legacy teams with Blueye Robotics' underwater drone to bring back images of reef at depths never seen before

Cairns, Australia – May 15, 2018 – The Great Barrier Reef Legacy (GBRLegacy) crew led by Dr. Dean Miller has teamed with underwater drone creators Blueye Robotics to investigate the impact of ocean temperatures on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The Blueye Robotics Pioneer can dive eight times deeper than the average scuba enthusiast, reaching depths of 150 meters. It was used when Miller and a team of renowned marine scientists recently explored Australia's coral reef and the bleaching that is killing portions of the fragile ecosystem.

GBRLegacy's 21-day exploration revealed some surprises, including large expanses of Halimeda algae on deep sections of reef slopes in the far northern section of the northeast coast of Queensland. Healthy Halimeda creates a vast ecosystem that resembles a green meadow. With the help of the Pioneer, the team was able to see down at 80 meters that the Halimeda reefs appeared to be spared by the bleaching. "Using the Blueye, this was the first time we could bring images back from that depth and show that despite coral bleaching or warm water affecting a huge percentage of the reefs in that area, down at 80 meters it appeared that those reefs have been spared. That was a good sign," said Miller, director of science and media for the Great Barrier Reef Legacy.

In particular, Miller said, the low frequency of the drone's electromagnetic waves seemed to intrigue Australia's grey reef sharks. The waves pose no danger for the

sharks, and the sharks' attraction to them will make it easier for researchers to study the species more closely. "We feel the Blueye could actually be used for shark surveys, which are really important because sharks are being caught for their fins all over the globe," Miller added.

Australia's ecological and business communities are also embracing the Blueye Pioneer as an important tool. The shipping industry, too, is finding that the drone gives them an eye under the surface to check ship hulls for damage or wear. "Pioneer's professional-grade technology is being used by shipping companies as an inspection tool to identify barnacles, breakages or rust—obstructions that can lead to greater fuel consumption, cause spillage and ultimately increase costs. The Pioneer is also being used for pressing environmental issues such as marine litter, which is key for our customers in Australia," said Christine Spiten, Blueye co-founder and chief global strategist.

This month, Ms. Spiten is in Australia to demo the Blueye Pioneer. The Pioneer is available for pre-orders on www.blueyerobotics.com and will be shipped in Q4, 2018. To read more visit: https://www.blueyerobotics.com/press**.**

Resources:

Photos and Logos: https://www.blueyerobotics.com/press

About Blueye Robotics

Blueye Robotics combines innovative ocean technology with user-experience knowledge to create professional-grade underwater drones for consumers. The company's first product is Blueye Pioneer, which can operate far deeper than other drones and is the only one of its kind offering professional-grade technology with consumers in mind. It has a special light-sensitive camera that adds back in true color imaging, and the drone delivers exceptional stability even in adverse ocean conditions. Operated via a smartphone or tablet, the drone is extremely user friendly. Blueye

Robotics is based in Trondheim, Norway, and Palo Alto, Calif. Visit www.BlueyeRobotics.com for more details.

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