



Data from the Petermann Fjord northwest Greenland. Collected using EM 122 and EM2040. Depth 100m to over 1200m. (The EM 122 will be installed on RRS Sir David Attenborough). Image courtesy Martin Jakobsson Stockholm University

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Kongsberg Maritime: KONGSBERG Chosen as Primary Acoustic Scientific Research and Mapping Technology Partner for RRS Sir David Attenborough

- *State-of-the-art polar seagoing science platform to meet the science requirements of the UK*
- *KONGSBERG delivery for new research vessel includes ice protected multibeam mapping systems*

Kongsberg, Norway, 4th October 2016 – Kongsberg Maritime has been awarded a contract by Cammell Laird as the primary supplier of the acoustic scientific research and mapping equipment for the British Antarctic Survey's new Polar Research Vessel, the RRS Sir David Attenborough. The new polar research ship, owned by Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is currently under construction at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead in the Port of Liverpool City Region, UK in a build project worth £140million. The ship is due to enter operation in 2019.

Operated by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), the RRS Sir David Attenborough will be available to the whole UK research base including postgraduate training. The new ship will have greater endurance, to enable longer voyages, which coupled with the use of helicopters will ensure significantly greater geographic coverage. The enhanced coverage will open up new locations for science and will clearly demonstrate and reinforce the continuing British presence in Antarctica and the South Atlantic.

"The RRS Sir David Attenborough will be a state-of-the-art multidisciplinary science platform and the UK's largest and most advanced research vessel. It will enable cutting-edge science across a broad range of disciplines (physical, biological and chemical oceanography, marine geology and geophysics, and atmospheric science) required to understand the impact of a changing polar environment on our planet. In so doing it will help maintain the UK at the forefront of polar research," said Professor David Vaughan, Director of Science at British Antarctic Survey.

The RRS Sir David Attenborough is required to meet the science requirements of the UK for a modern, state-of-the-art polar seagoing science platform, and for provision of logistical support for land-based polar science. The new ship will enable scientists to explore and undertake science in new areas of the Antarctic and Arctic seas, supported by an extensive, integrated KONGSBERG scientific research and mapping technology package, including:

- EM 122 Deep water multibeam system
- EM 712 Medium depth multibeam system
- TOPAS PS 18 Sub bottom profiler
- EA 640 Scientific echo sounder
- EK 80 Biological multi-frequency echo sounder
- ME 70 Biological multibeam echo sounder
- MS 70 Biological multibeam echo sounder
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- SH 94 Omni direction sonar
- SX 94 Forward looking sonar (Omni directional)
- K-Sync Synchronisation unit

The multibeam mapping systems will be ice protected for high reliability and accuracy in polar regions and the scientific systems will be integrated to provide the maximum benefits of integrated data sets for the scientists. KONGSBERG has enjoyed a long association with the Natural Environment Research Council and the British Antarctic Survey, providing in the past scientific acoustic and vessel operational systems for the RRS James Clark Ross, RRS Ernest Shackleton, RRS James Cook and RRS Discovery.

The RRS Sir David Attenborough, is named after the renowned naturalist and broadcaster and will be one of the most advanced research vessels in operation. With a length of 125m, a breadth of 24m and draft of approximately 7m the new vessel features Scientific cargo volume of approximately 900 cu metres and an endurance of up to 60 days in Polar Regions. The crew compliment will be approximately 30, while up to 60 scientists and support staff will be accommodated on-board, with state-of-the-art facilities. It has a range of 19,000nm at 13 knots transit and ice breaking capability up to 1m thick at 3 knts.

“We are proud to have been selected to provide such specialist equipment to the British Antarctic Survey’s latest vessel, the RRS Sir David Attenborough,” said Peter Bennett, Business Manager Subsea (UK & Ireland), Kongsberg Maritime. “Our systems will support the important scientific missions carried out by the UK in polar regions, helping to further understand the effects of climate change and how the global community can address them.”

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About Kongsberg Maritime

Kongsberg Maritime is a global marine technology company providing innovative and reliable technology solutions for all marine industry sectors including merchant, offshore, subsea and naval. Headquartered in Kongsberg, Norway, the company has manufacturing, sales and service facilities in 20 countries.

Kongsberg Maritime developed systems for vessels cover all aspects of marine automation, safety, manoeuvring, navigation, and dynamic positioning. Subsea solutions include single and multibeam echo sounders, sonars, AUV/Underwater Robotics, underwater navigation, communication and camera systems.

Marine and offshore training simulators, LNG solutions, information management, position reference systems and technology for seismic and drilling operations are also part of the company's diverse technology portfolio.

In parallel with its extensive technology portfolio, Kongsberg Maritime provides services within EIT (Electro, Instrument & Telecom) engineering and system integration, on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis.

Kongsberg Maritime delivers solutions that cover all aspects of technology underwater and on the water, aboard new build and retrofit vessels, and on offshore platforms and rigs, often under a single supplier strategy called The Full Picture.

Kongsberg Maritime is part of Kongsberg Gruppen (KONGSBERG), an international, knowledge-based group that celebrated 200 years in business during 2014. KONGSBERG supplies high-technology systems and solutions to customers in the oil and gas industry, the merchant marine, and the defence and aerospace industries.