

NIPR Polar Symposium

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Title: Preparing for the new wave of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle exploration in Antarctica

Abstract: For over a decade the development and deployment of long-range Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV) for ocean research beneath Antarctic ice shelves has been led by the United Kingdom's Autosub program at the National Oceanographic Facility. Recently Australia, Sweden and Japan have acquired AUVs, ushering in a new era of multinational, interdisciplinary research programs in key regions of ocean/ice shelf interaction around Antarctica. This talk will focus on the University of Tasmania's AUV '*nupiri muka*' and the preparations for its first Antarctic campaign this summer (2018/19). There will also be a discussion of future proposals for Antarctic research with this AUV and the opportunity it presents for the international Antarctic science community as it urgently seeks to address critical knowledge gaps in our cryosphere.