



NEW SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT

Frederikshavn, May 22nd, 2002.

The GIB underwater positioning systems, manufactured by ACSA France, are now used for Search and Rescue operations. The US-NAVY "Diving and Salvage" branch ordered and commissioned in 2001 a complete system that is used for fast black boxes localization and recovery operations (ROV guidance).

On board the French support ship "Ailette" participating to "Sorbet Royal" NATO exercise, a complete GIB system has been installed. It is composed of 4 GIB buoys, 2 pingers and an operator control and display station.

The system is used first, to relocate any asset lost on the seabed. It requires that the asset has been previously equipped with a pinger, such as the one used to mark aircraft black boxes or DISSUBs.

The method consists in having a set of buoys drifting over the search area and positioned by D-GPS. Each buoy is equipped with an hydrophone linked to an acoustic receiver so that it is possible to measure the time of arrival of the pings issued from the object to relocate. ACSA has developed advanced positioning algorithms that produce object's coordinates on the sea bed with a metric accuracy in longitude and latitude, even if two pingers are broadcasting together on the same frequency (which is the case of black boxes).

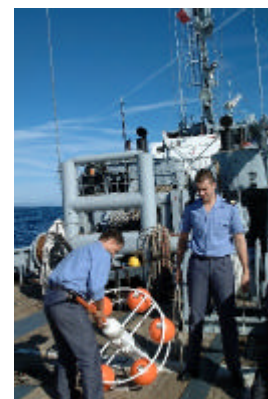
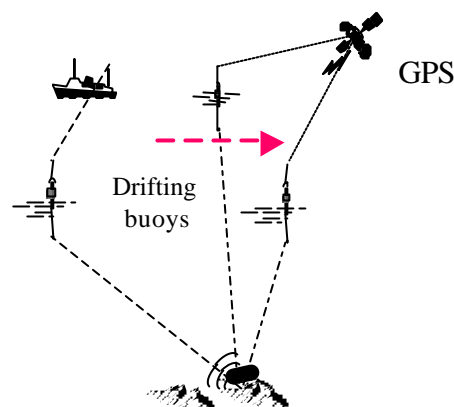
Once the asset is positioned, the same set of buoys is used to track and guide towards it the rescue mean such as a free swimming diver, a Newsuit, a ROV or a manned rescue submarine.

Due to short installation time on board any ship of opportunity and fast deployment at sea, recovery becomes no more a matter of days ; but a matter of hours.

The method applies to numerous domains (distress submarine rescue, recovery of scientific apparatus, black boxes, weapons, lost sonars, AUVs, ...).

**For more information contact
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ACSA's New Concept



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