

THALES / AQUABOTIX MOU FOR STRATEGIC CO-OPERATION

- **Aquabotix and Thales have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for strategic cooperation.**
- **Thales is a global leader in defence, with a particular focus on underwater technology and mine countermeasures, with 65,000 employees and €15.8 billion in sales.**
- **Aquabotix's SwarmDiver™ and subsequent generations of Aquabotix's rapidly-deployable autonomous underwater vehicles are the focus of the MOU.**
- **Joint efforts will focus on minimising the adverse impact of mines on naval and commercial shipping activities globally, while removing personnel from harm's way.**

Sydney, Australia and Fall River, Massachusetts, USA - **UUV Aquabotix Ltd (ASX:UUV)** ("Aquabotix" or the "Company") today announces that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") with Thales for strategic cooperation for the research, design, and development of a rapidly deployable Mine Counter Measures ("MCM") and military hydrographic autonomous system mission solution.

With 65,000 employees in 56 countries, reported sales of €15.8 billion in 2017, and a 30-year history of developing advanced mine countermeasures systems for both the Royal Australian Navy and for export, Thales is one of the largest defence companies globally. It is also one of the leaders in underwater technology and mine countermeasures.

A copy of Thales' press release announcing the MOU is enclosed as the Appendix to this announcement.

Whitney Million, Aquabotix's Chief Executive Officer, commented "Aquabotix is thrilled to be working with Thales to accelerate the development of a rapidly deployable autonomous MCM and military hydrography mission system. This collaboration brings together Thales' capability as a world leader in underwater technology, including 30 years of experience in developing advanced MCM solutions, and Aquabotix's expertise in the development of leading-edge single operator deployable autonomous maritime solutions to deliver a system that will accelerate the speed of mission execution while keeping service members at a safer standoff distance.

We believe that this collaboration will substantially accelerate our development, and are delighted with this validation by one of the leaders in global defence industry of the unique position occupied by Aquabotix in the underwater robotics space."

AQUABOTIX



You can see more information on the applications of SwarmDiver™ for mine counter measures [here](#).

Further Information

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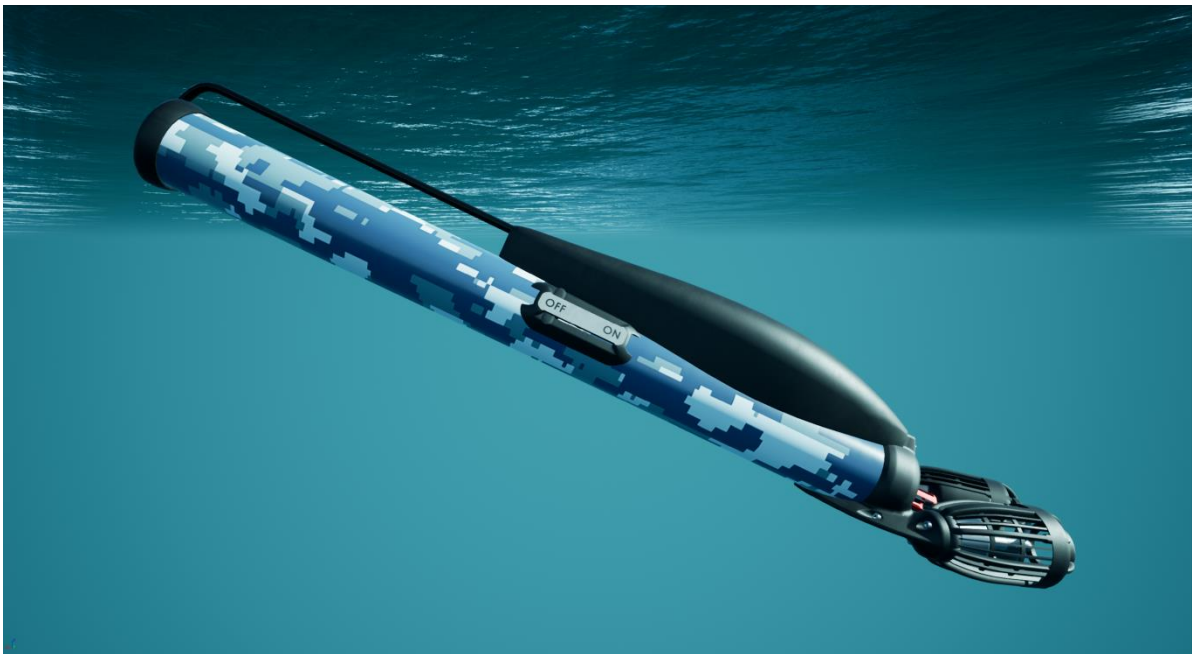
About UUV Aquabotix Limited

Based in Sydney, Australia and Fall River, Massachusetts, USA, Aquabotix is an established underwater robotics company which manufactures and sells commercial and industrial-grade underwater drones for commercial, high-end consumer and military applications. It is also the first company globally that is offering commercially-available swarming underwater drones. Please visit www.aquabotix.com

ENDS

Thales and Aquabotix advancing Australia's undersea drone capability

- Thales and Aquabotix have signed an MoU for strategic cooperation for the research, design and development of undersea drone swarming technology applied to mine clearance and rapid environment assessment.
- Focussing on the optimisation and integration of Aquabotix's ultra-portable swarming technology SwarmDiver™ combined with Thales's global leadership in underwater technology and Mine Counter Measure systems.
- Use of drone swarms in Mine Counter Measure systems has the potential to remove personnel from harm's way and accelerate the speed of mission execution.



Thales and Aquabotix have signed an MoU for strategic cooperation for the research, design and development of a rapidly deployable Mine Counter Measures (MCM), Rapid Environment Assessment (REA) and Military Hydrographic autonomous system mission solution.

This project is a collaboration with Australian Academia and SMEs including the University of Sydney, Australian Centre for Field Robotics (ACFR), Flinders University, Western Sydney University, Mission Systems Pty Ltd & Ineni Realtime Pty Ltd and will focus on the development and integration of Aquabotix's next generation ultra-portable swarming technology known as SwarmDiver™.

To achieve a variety of missions, swarms of micro-sized Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), hosted by a larger AUV or Autonomous Surface Vehicle (ASV), are deployed to prepare and facilitate an amphibious landing zone to support any Advanced Force.

This task is enabled by the integration of a next generation SwarmDiver™ with an autonomy engine that will plan the mission, task the swarm and monitor the rate of mission completion,

rapidly adapting to changes in environment throughout the mission while coordinating with the parent task group.

This advanced autonomous capability will greatly increase the speed and reliability mined areas can be cleared in the littoral, delivering a game changing advantage by minimising the adverse impact of mines on naval and commercial shipping activities both domestically and abroad.

Benefiting from Thales's global leadership in the development of advanced underwater technology, the project team's research and development activities will advance SwarmDiver's current sensors to include magnetometer, neuromorphic, optical and sonar, enhancing SwarmDiver's ability to work independently and/or collectively in the execution of mission sets such as Surface Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), sub-surface Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA), Mine-Like Object (MILCO) detection and localisation, mine target recognition and ultimately, mine neutralisation.

Dr. John Best, Chief Technical Officer, Thales Australia and New Zealand said:

"Thales is delighted to be working with Aquabotix to accelerate the deployment of autonomous systems and solutions in the Maritime domain.

Thales is a world leader in underwater technology and in Australia Thales has a 30 year history of developing advanced mine countermeasures systems for both the Royal Australian Navy and for export.

The technologies of artificial intelligence, big data, connectivity and cyber security are now reaching the levels of performance that will enable transformational change in the capability to autonomously undertake hydrography and mine countermeasures missions. With the potential to further remove ADF members from harm's way and accelerate the speed of mission execution, this initiative will contribute to enhanced maritime security and freedom of action for amphibious forces."

About Thales

The people we all rely on to make the world go round – they rely on Thales. Our customers come to us with big ambitions: to make life better, to keep us safer. Combining a unique diversity of expertise, talents and cultures, our architects design and deliver extraordinary high technology solutions. Solutions that make tomorrow possible, today. From the bottom of the oceans to the depth of space and cyberspace, we help our customers think smarter and act faster - mastering ever greater complexity and every decisive moment along the way. With 65,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €15.8 billion in 2017.

About Aquabotix

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Please visit www.aquabotix.com

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