



OCHR NEWS

Department of the Navy Technology Aids Search for Missing Plane



Capt. Mark Matthews demonstrates how the towed pinger locator works to media in Perth, Australia.

Research from Department of the Navy civilians continues to search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the Indian Ocean. Two key tools in the search developed by Naval Sea Systems Command civilians are the "towed pinger locator" and the Bluefin-21 underwater drone.

The pinger locator, a winged, torpedo-shaped device that is being towed behind the Ocean Shield, is equipped with sophisticated acoustic equipment that can pick up the signals from the plane's black box at up to about 6000 meters.

The Bluefin-21 is an autonomous underwater vehicle that can dive to about 4500 meters and uses "side-scan" sonar to build up an accurate picture of the sea floor.

More information on this technology can be found at

http://www.navsea.navy.mil/SitePages/TPL25_bluefin21_faq.aspx.