Phoenix International Holdings, Inc. (Phoenix) recently completed side scan sonar search operations for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 using the company’s Artemis Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). AUV operations commenced following the end of the Towed Pinger Locator (TPL) mission in mid-April. The Phoenix search team returned to port on 31 May for demobilization after conducting TPL and AUV search operations onboard the ADV Ocean Shield for almost 60 days.

During the side scan sonar phase of the search effort, the Phoenix Project Team deployed the Artemis AUV to water depths up to 5,005 meters of seawater (the deepest depth ever achieved by a Bluefin 21 AUV) to search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Artemis recorded over 370 hours of in-water time and searched approximately 870 square kilometers (over 250 square miles) of the bottom collecting important side scan sonar data.

Phoenix is part of a multinational team from 26 countries assisting in the search for the lost aircraft. Phoenix is supporting the U.S. Navy’s participation in this effort under its multi-year Undersea Operations contract with the Naval Sea Systems Command’s Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV).

Phoenix is an employee-owned, ISO 9001-2008 Management System certified marine services contractor providing manned and unmanned underwater solutions, design engineering, and project management services to a diverse set of clients worldwide. Expertise is available from seven regional offices in the areas of wet and dry hyperbaric welding, Nondestructive Testing (NDT), subsea engineering services, conventional and atmospheric diving, Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), and other robotic systems. Our capabilities are directed to underwater inspection, maintenance, and repair; deep ocean survey, search and recovery operations; submarine rescue; construction; subsea tieback; subsea mining; archaeological; and documentary projects.

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