

Contacts:John Hersey (john.hersey@survice.com)Tara Johnson (tjohnson@ccom.unh.edu)**SURVICE**
ENGINEERING COMPANY**ARGUS™ JOINS UNH-CCOM INDUSTRIAL CONSORTIUM**

BELCAMP, MD (August 1, 2011) – The SURVICE Engineering Company was recently invited to join the University of New Hampshire - Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (UNH-CCOM) Industry Consortium to participate in CCOM research through SURVICE’s ARGUS underwater mapping system. ARGUS autonomously and automatically samples, processes, and provides visualization of geo-referenced water depth and other marine environmental data from vessels-of-opportunity traveling through inland and coastal waterways. The system, which has been in development for 4 years, leverages web and wireless technology to provide two-way communications and the benefit of associated utilities.

CCOM is UNH’s national center for expertise in ocean mapping and hydrographic sciences. Guided by a memorandum of understanding with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), CCOM operates in partnership with NOAA’s National Ocean Service and is particularly interested in cutting-edge technologies that can supplement and enhance current hydrographic surveying efforts. One of the goals of CCOM is to facilitate interaction and cooperation with the private sector, other government agencies, and universities by focusing on two major tasks: (1) an educational task, aimed at creating a learning center to promote and foster the education of a new generation of hydrographers and ocean mapping scientists; and (2) a research task, aimed at developing and evaluating state-of-the-art hydrographic and ocean mapping technologies and applications.

“The ARGUS technology has already shown significant value in its current form. We are excited about the opportunity to work with this world-renowned institution of scientists and hydrographic experts,” said SURVICE President Jeff Foulk, “and to develop methodologies that will help enhance and deploy ARGUS to its fullest possible utility. This partnership is a classic example of science and technology coming together to help address a dire need in a new way.”

As a consortium partner, SURVICE will leverage its 30 years of engineering experience and encourage a dialog over ARGUS-related research ideas among CCOM’s community of student and faculty researchers. The partnership will also open doors to enable two-way sharing of software code and algorithms and encourage development of additional data processing methodologies to enhance the utility of ARGUS data for the government, commercial, educational, and recreational maritime communities.

As part of the new partnership, ARGUS units have been installed on CCOM’s research vessels *Coastal Surveyor* and *Cochecho*. These vessels will join numerous other commercial and recreational vessels, led by Sea Tow International (www.seatow.com), extending ARGUS’s reach from Portsmouth, NH; down the eastern seaboard to southern Florida; and across the Gulf of Mexico to Galveston, TX. Since the start of ARGUS beta testing in 2010, 10 million soundings have been acquired, providing pertinent information on 40 square nautical miles of highly traveled, but less-frequently surveyed waterways (see http://argus.survice.com/argus_sample_data.asp).

ARGUS development partners include CARIS-USA (www.caris.com), a geospatial software company; Teledyne Benthos (www.benthos.com), a provider of undersea geophysical systems; Earth Networks (www.earthnetworks.com), a worldwide provider of environmental data for monitoring the health of the planet; and GEOSat Solutions, the provider of the ARGUS-optimized extended-range marine Wave WiFi system (www.wavewifi.com). ARGUS systems have also been installed on the Washington College’s Center for Environment and Society (<http://ces.washcoll.edu>) Geographic Information Systems Program research boats. The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association (www.atlanticintracoastal.org) has also supported ARGUS development and implementation.

For more information about ARGUS or SURVICE, visit <http://argus.survice.com>. For more information about CCOM, visit <http://www.ccom.unh.edu/>.