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E/V Nautilus and Ocean Exploration Trust Fact Sheet

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- The Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard. Ballard is most famous for his discovery of the wreck of *Titanic* and the first discovery of hydrothermal vents and their associated ecosystems.
- OET's mission is to 1) explore the world's oceans by going places that have never been seen or are
 poorly understood; 2) to develop and utilize technologies that enable us to push the boundaries of
 ocean exploration; and 3) to share the discoveries with the public through 24/7 telepresence and
 inspire the next generation of explorers through immersive programs and resources for students and
 educators.
- OET's international program centers on scientific exploration of the seafloor launched from aboard Exploration Vessel Nautilus, a 68-meter (224 foot) research vessel. The ship can accommodate a 33-person science team (including students, interns, educators, scientists, engineers, and communication professionals) in addition to the 17-member permanent ship crew.
- In addition to conducting scientific exploration, the expedition is available to the public in real-time through live streaming video on www.NautilusLive.org, a 24-hour portal bringing expeditions from the field to explorers on shore via telepresence technology. Viewers will be able to ask our team questions during scheduled sessions, and can also follow the expedition with behind-the-scenes updates and live events on social media.
- OET offers <u>free ship-to-shore interactions</u>, <u>Q&A broadcasts for classrooms</u>, and community events linking the team of STEM professionals onboard Nautilus directly with learners. In collaboration with partners at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, we are proud to offer interactions in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as part of uplifting the vibrant resurgence of the Hawaiian language.
- OET also offers 100+ free <u>STEAM education resources</u> for K-12 learners in English and Spanish including national-standard aligned activities, engineering design challenges, and creative projects for



engaging with the ocean in the classroom or at home. Social media events and outreach highlight expedition discoveries and feature diverse STEM career role models.

- A signature of the Nautilus Exploration Program is its <u>commitment to education</u> including at-sea programs that bring educators and students on oceanographic expeditions. Since 2009, the <u>Corps of Exploration</u> has grown to include over 1,300 people from 43 US states and 50 countries around the world. In 2022, 12 educators and 16 community college, undergraduate, students, and young professionals will join the expedition as Science Communication Fellows and Science & Engineering Interns.
 - Applications will open for paid at-sea internships in Ocean Science, Seafloor Mapping, ROV
 Engineering, and Video Engineering this fall. OET is committed to including, amplifying, and
 making space for more Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian
 LGBTQIA+, and historically marginalized voices in the deep sea and STEM communities.
 Candidates with these identities and experiences are warmly encouraged to apply.
- Nautilus is equipped with a two-tiered approach to ocean exploration. First, the team uses a <u>multibeam</u> sonar system mounted on the hull of the ship to acquire data that produces maps of the seafloor. Once the data is analyzed and areas of interest are identified, the team uses remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), *Hercules and Argus*, to collect video footage and a variety of biological, geological, chemical, and archaeological samples. Learn more about our novel science and technology systems here.
- ROV *Hercules* is the workhorse of the Nautilus Exploration Program. It is equipped with 6 thrusters that enable it to "fly" in any direction, plus two manipulator arms designed for collecting samples and recovering artifacts. Video from ROV *Hercules*' main high-definition camera is streamed up a fiber-optic cable through ROV *Argus* and into the control van aboard *Nautilus* where the ROV pilots control them from, and then out to the world on www.nautiluslive.org. ROV *Hercules* is capable of operating to a depth of 4,000 meters.
- ROV *Argus* is a towsled-style ROV typically used in tandem to stabilize *Hercules*, provide additional light, and serve as an "eye in the sky" during operations. When launched alone, ROV *Argus* is capable of operating to a depth of 6,000 meters.
- The 2022 Nautilus Expedition is sponsored by NOAA Ocean Exploration through the NOAA Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, National Geographic Society, and private donors. Our ongoing NOAA Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute partners include the University of Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the University of New Hampshire, and the University of Southern Mississippi. OET education program sponsors and partners for 2022 include the Office of Naval Research, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, CITGO, QPS, and the Phil Stephenson Foundation. Learn more about our partners and sponsors.