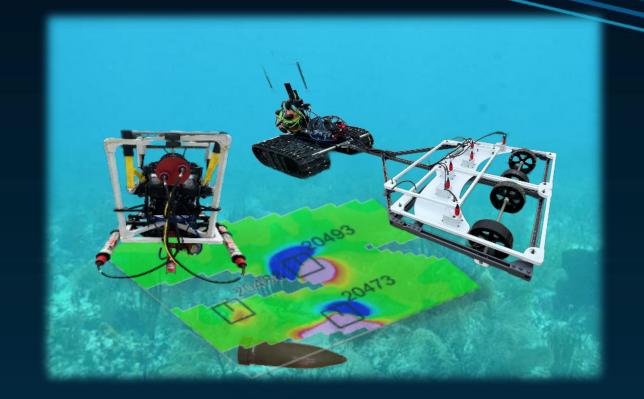
# Autonomous 3DEM for Seabed Target Classification



#### **Greg Schultz**

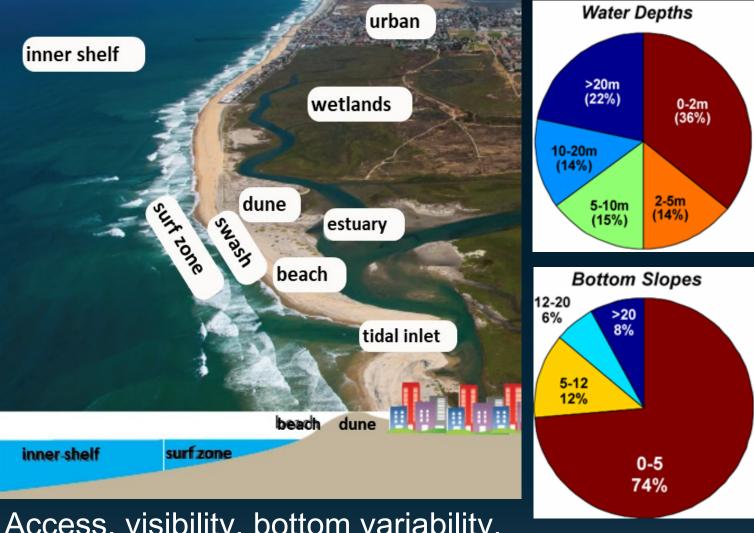
White River Technologies, Inc. Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA



**MARELEC 2025** 

#### **Nearshore Underwater UXO**





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Access, visibility, bottom variability, hydrodynamics, ...

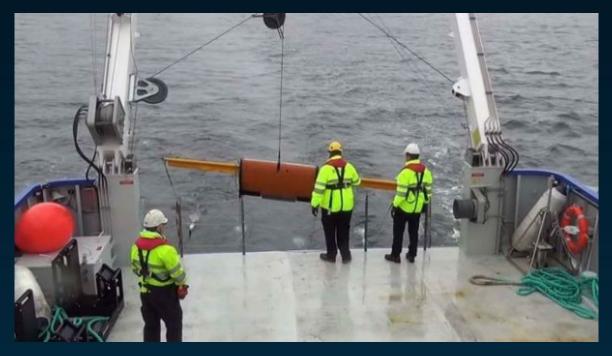
### **Current Methods**

#### • Diving = High cost

- Limited depths and duration
- Push-carts in the surf and muck?



#### **Ship-Tow Sensors**



- Sonar, MAG, and EM
- Large and complex
- Limited in important nearshore areas
- Relatively expensive for smaller sites

#### **Outline for This Briefing**



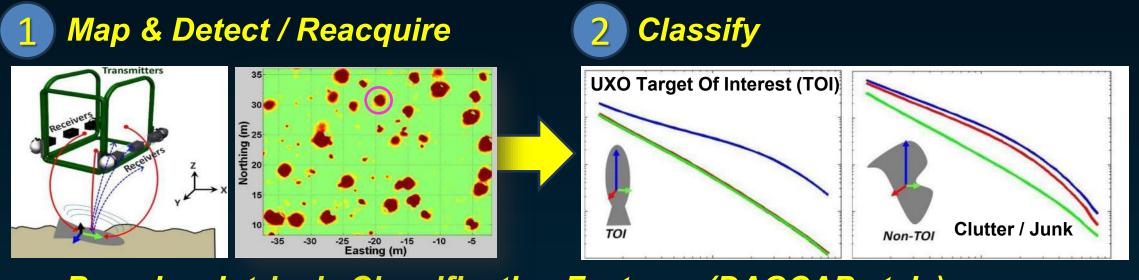
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2 ROV Implementation
3 Crawler (AUGV) Implementation
4 Experiments & Operations

Seabed 3DEM AGC

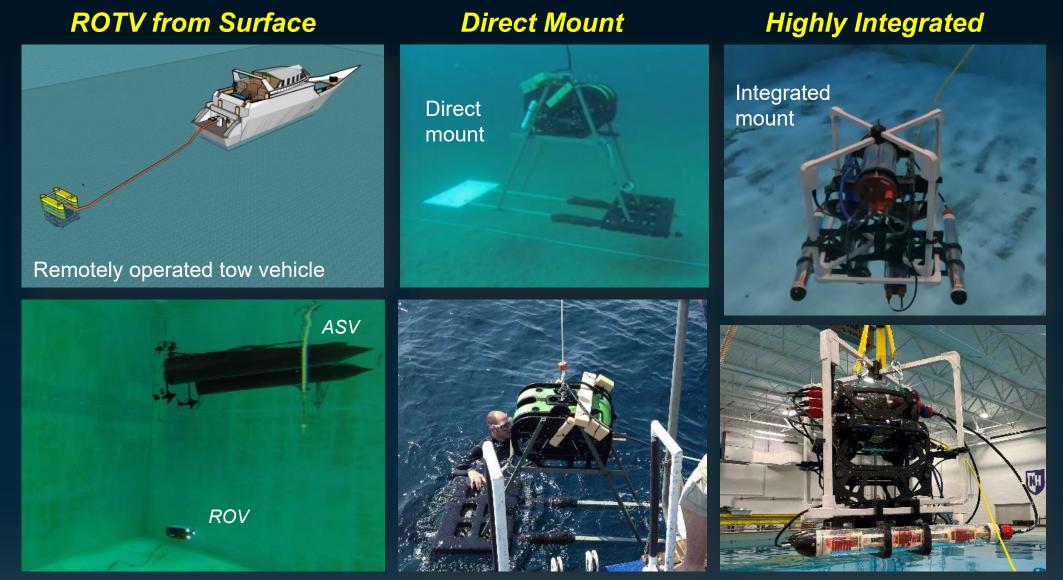
#### **APEX 3DEM for AGC**



**Based on Intrinsic Classification Features (DAGCAP style)** Polarizabilities = Fingerprint signatures unique to each target type



#### **ROV 3DEM Sensor Integration**

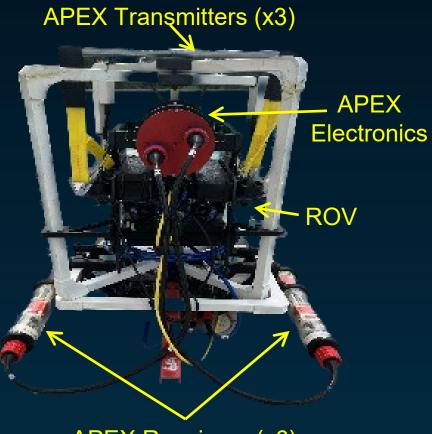


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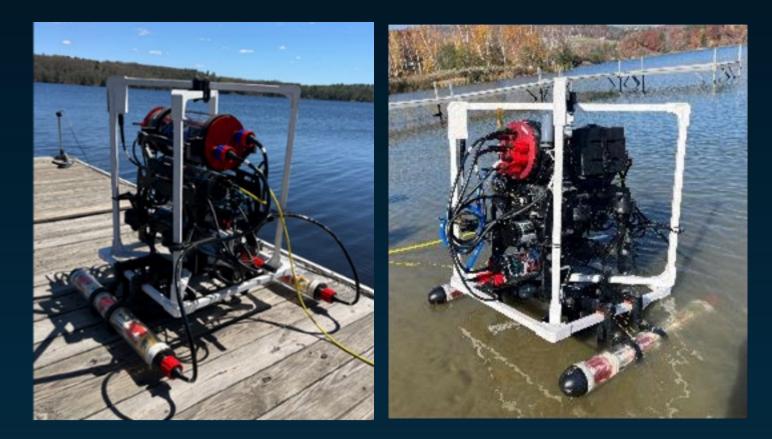
technologies

Making it smaller simplifies integration, but creates new EMI/EMC problems

### **ROV APEX Sensor Integration**

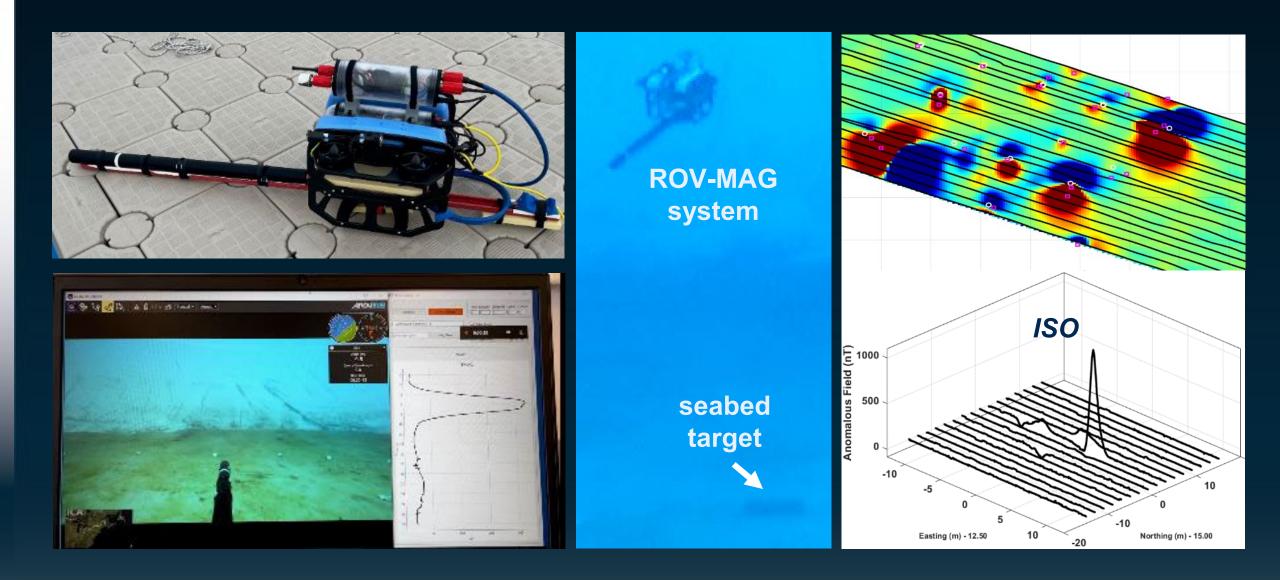


APEX Receivers (x6)



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# **ROV MAG Sensor Integration**



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### **ROV APEX Sensor Integration**

0

30

Bottom following and waypoint control Acoustics in shallow water (UGPS) DVL-INS positioning & control

20

15

10

10

15

20

25

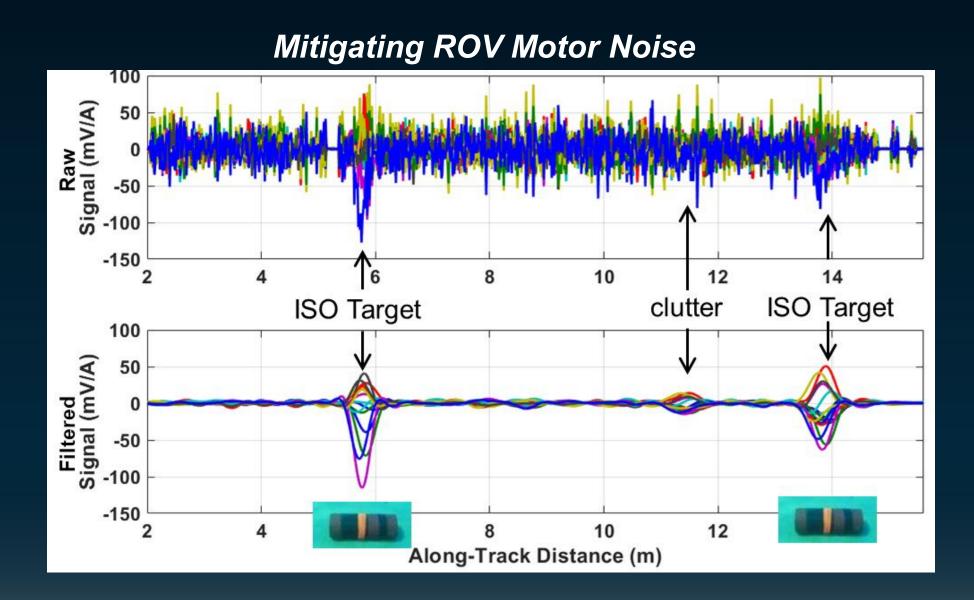
Easting [m]

Northing [m]



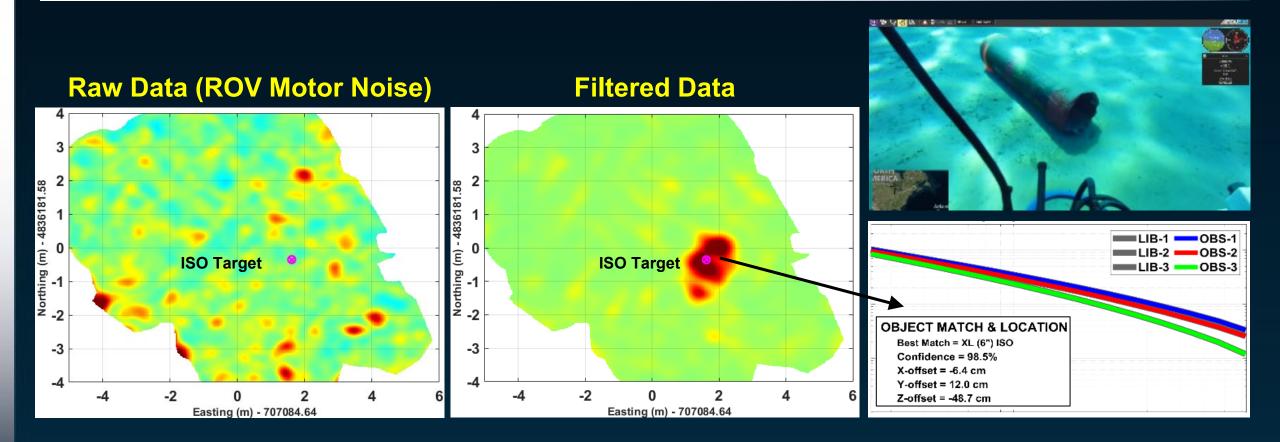
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#### **ROV APEX Sensor Integration**



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#### **ROV 3DEM Sensor Integration**

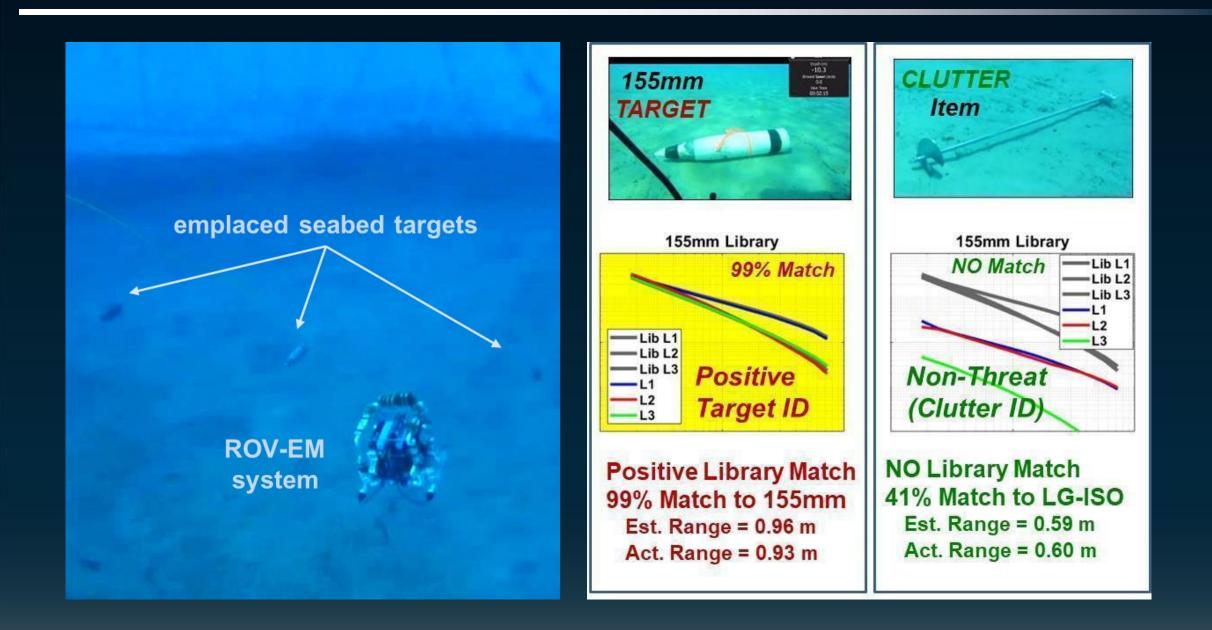


> Coherent Noise Filtering greatly reduces motor noise

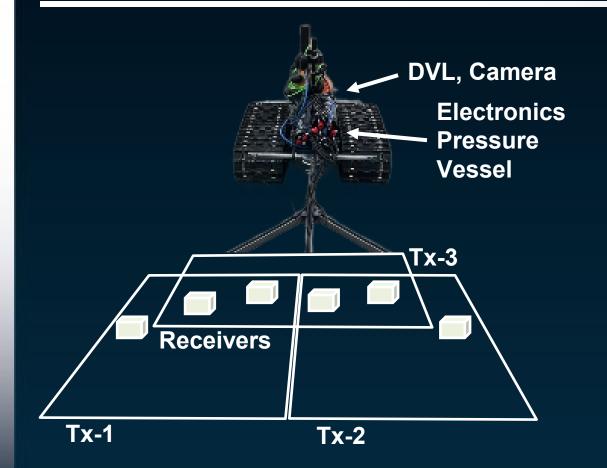
> Source Separation techniques further enable data for classification

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#### **3DEM UXO Classification**



#### **Crawler-towed 3DEM**





#### **APEX HH6 Array on Bayonet AUGV Crawler**

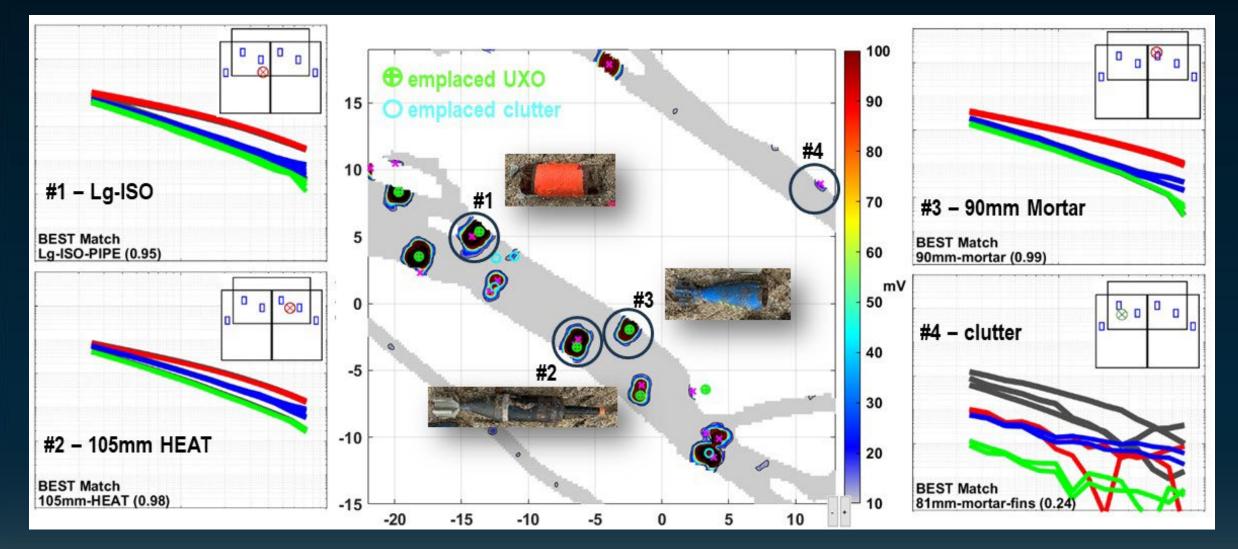
- 3 Transmitters
- 6 Receivers
- 30, 60, 120 Hz

- APEXCOM Software
- Ethernet Data to Topside
- Integrated POS & IMU

- Depth: 100m ASW
- 4-hour endurance (~10 km)
- Survey Width (1.6-2.4 m)

#### **Crawler-towed 3DEM**

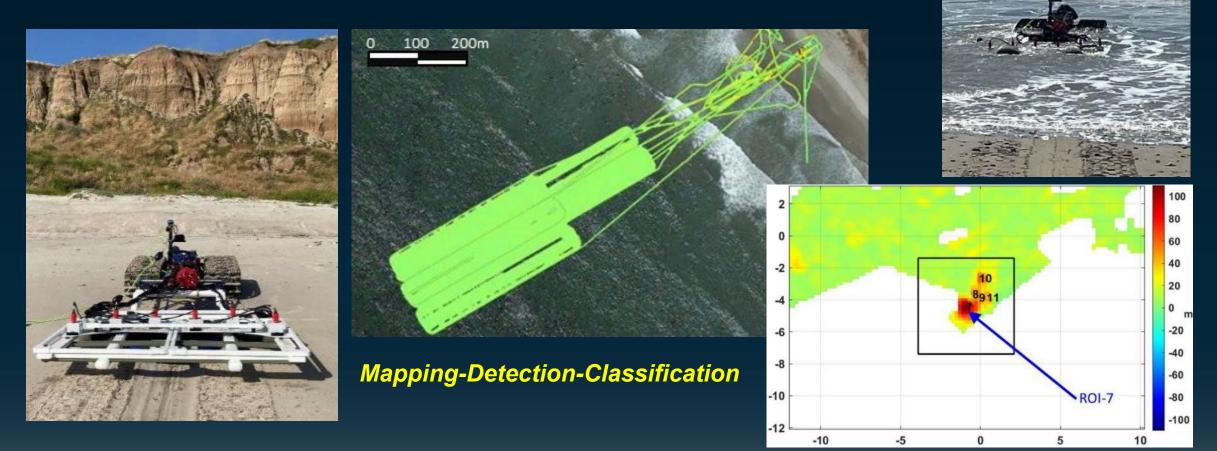
#### Blind trails in 0-2m water along Plymouth Bay shoreline (south of Boston, USA)



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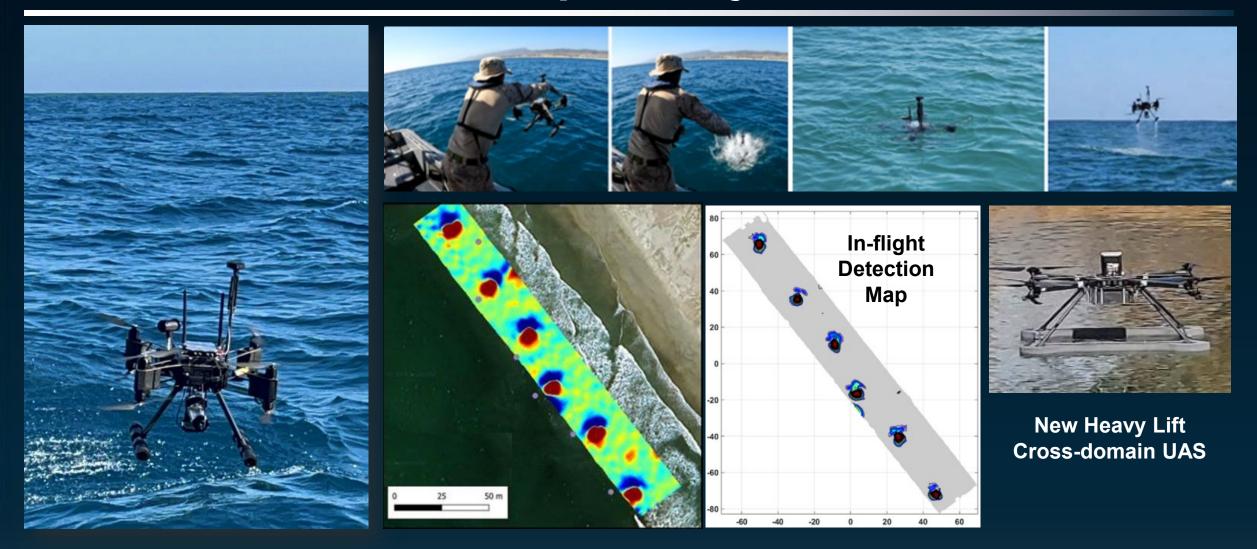
### **Crawler-towed 3DEM Operations**

- Operational tests along California shoreline
- Through surfzone to 20-25 ft water depth
- >27 acres in 3 days (TOI found day 1)



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# **Cross-domain Aerial-Aquatic System**



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Airborne / Drifting / Underwater MAD Operations in Single Mission

### Synopsis

1. Seabed 3DEM provides classification where ship-tow and divers cannot

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- 2. Tight integration on ROVs requires specialized noise mitigation
- 3. Portable and cost-effective 3DEM classification
- 4. Cross-domain deployment from AUGV (Crawlers) & aquatic drones

