

20 October, 2010

To the Delegates

6th NRC-IOT Workshop on Underwater Vehicle Technology

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

21 & 22 October, 2010

On behalf of the National Research Council - Institute for Ocean Technology, I am pleased to welcome the participants in the 2010 NRC-IOT Workshop on Underwater Vehicle Technology. This year, we are pleased to collaborate with Marport Deep Sea Technologies Inc. in organizing and offering this workshop. This partnership reflects the growing interest in underwater vehicles in both the research and commercial sectors, and recognizes that the workshop has become an active forum for collaboration and problem-solving in multiple aspects of underwater vehicle research. The program features first-hand reports of current activities, which invariably generate lively technical discussions. I expect that the sessions will again be interesting and worthwhile for all participants.

Ocean technology is a thriving business in St. John's. Oil and gas development, ocean monitoring, security, and marine transportation are all stimulating a demand for new technologies, while world class experimental facilities and internationally respected education programs support new developments. The NRC-IOT role is to work with industry and academic partners to develop and launch new technologies into the international market. One stream of the IOT research program focuses on underwater vehicles, particularly intelligent or autonomous ones, and major experimental facilities support underwater vehicle projects. These include a dedicated AUV Laboratory, three different large-scale harsh-environment test tanks, and two specialized vehicle hydrodynamic test systems: the Marine Dynamic Test Facility (MDTF) and Planar Motion Mechanism (PMM). NRC-IOT staff have contributed to the development and deployment of a variety of vehicle systems, including "C-SCOUT", "Explorer", "Iver2" and ocean gliders. We are delighted to share our enthusiasm and expand our networks in this field through this workshop.

Not only is St. John's an 'ocean' place, it is also a very hospitable place. I trust that you will find the welcome warm, and that you will enjoy your stay, both here at NRC-IOT and in the other parts of the city that you visit.

F. Mary Williams, Ph.D.
Director General
NRC Institute for Ocean Technology