

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2007

**OceanWorks and The University of Victoria Deploy Cabled Observatory
Infrastructure in the Strait of Georgia**

The Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) project designed and manufactured by OceanWorks International, is the world's most advanced cabled seafloor observatory. Through a network of scientific instruments and cameras connected to the Internet by power and fibre-optic cable, VENUS provides scientists, educators and the general public with around-the-clock biological, oceanographic and geological data from the seafloor.



Photo courtesy of the VENUS Project

The first 3-kilometre leg of VENUS was installed in Saanich Inlet in February 2006 and continuous data has been flowing ever since. When completed, the Strait of Georgia leg will feature 40 kilometres of cable and two central nodes, to which dozens of ocean sensors will be connected. The complex installation process is taking place in several stages between now and the fall.

“The Strait of Georgia is one of the most forbidding places to deploy an ocean observatory,” says VENUS project director Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe. “OceanWorks is thrilled to be involved in the leading edge of ocean observatory systems” says OceanWorks project manager Alberto Moreno.

This phase of the installation laid the 40 km of cable and two node bases in offshore waters just north of the Vancouver International Airport. Working with UVIC's

VENUS team, Ocean Works International, based in North Vancouver, designed and built the 2.5-tonne node bases.

OceanWorks is an internationally recognized subsea technology company specializing in the design and manufacture of manned / unmanned subsea systems and specialized equipment for military, oil and gas, scientific, and other marine markets. Offering a full range of subsea system engineering, design and analysis, fabrication, testing, and project management services, OceanWorks has been at the cutting edge of deep submergence and diving technology, operations, and support for over 20 years.

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