VESON UUV System

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The VSW Expendable Standoff Neutralizer (VESON) Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) system is an explosive loaded autonomous unmanned system. The system will provide reacquisition and neutralization of very shallow underwater mines previously located by other Mine Countermeasures (MCM) assets.

Target mine reacquisition is accomplished through precision navigation using a GSP receiver and an USBL homing array. Navigational precision relies on a prepositioned acoustic transponder (marker) that is in close proximity to the target mine. The marker would have been placed near the target by another type of UUV, and the marker placement data would have been provided to the VESON UUV as mission data.

Target mine neutralization is accomplished through detonation of the main charge in the VESON UUV, which also destroys the VESON UUV.

ACQUISITION STATUS

The VESON UUV system does not have an ACAT designation. It will potentially be designated an Abbreviated Acquisition Program (AAP) or an ACAT-IV(T) program.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Resource Sponsor: **OPNAV N9**

Milestone Decision Authority: NAVSEASYSCOM

Program Executive Office: NAVSEASYSCOM

Program Management Office: PMS-408

CAPT James E. Stein, Program Manager

Mr. Rob Simmons, Assistant Program Manager (APM)

Mr. Matt Zalesak, Deputy APM and Project Manager

Project Engineer : Mr. Bryan Johnson, NSWC PCD

System Engineer: Mr. Paul Moser, NSWC PCD

Principal for Safety: Mr. James Morris, NSWC PCD

Technical Warrant Holder, Mine Warfare Systems:

Mr. John Horton, NSWC PCD

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VESON
Acquisition Strategy

- Use a comprehensive system's engineering process by vendor(s) to integrate, proven or low risk, sub-systems into a functional unmanned mine neutralization system. The primary acquisition strategy elements are:
  1. Use only validated TRL 6 or higher sub-systems;
  2. Use commercial competition:
     1. Educate vendors through industry days prior to the RFP release;
     2. Write a focused RFP with weighted source selection criteria biased towards proven performance of sub-systems and vendor past performance in system's engineering;
     3. Award notionally 4-5 contracts for an initial demonstration of limited capability (i.e. transit 5 miles and reacquire an acoustic beacon and passes within 1 meter of the beacon)
     4. Down-select to one to two vendors based on in-water demonstration wrt meeting OPNAV validated requirements;
  3. Use "User Operational Evaluation System" process to maximize user input and TT&P development into the final design after the down-select;
  4. Structured T&E throughout the acquisition process to support effective down-select and to validate operational effectiveness and suitability

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Near-Term Events (Notional Dates)

- Apr 2012 Release the Request for Information (RFI)
- Apr 2012 Conduct a virtual Industry Day
- TBD 2012 Approval of VESON UUV Requirements Document
- TBD 2012 Approval of System Safety Program Plan
- TBD 2012 Completion of Preliminary Hazard List
- Oct 2012 Conduct an Industry Day
- Nov 2012 Release the VESON UUV Request for Proposal (RFP)

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Schedule (Notional Dates)

Event	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17
EUNS (VESON) AoA Completed	▲					
Requirements Document Approved	△					
Program Initiation	△					
Industry Day	△					
Release RFP		△				
Source Selection & Down Select		△				
Devel / Prototype Contract(s) Awarded		△				
Prototype Delivery				△		
RCT&E				□		
V UOES					▭	
Production Option Awarded					△	

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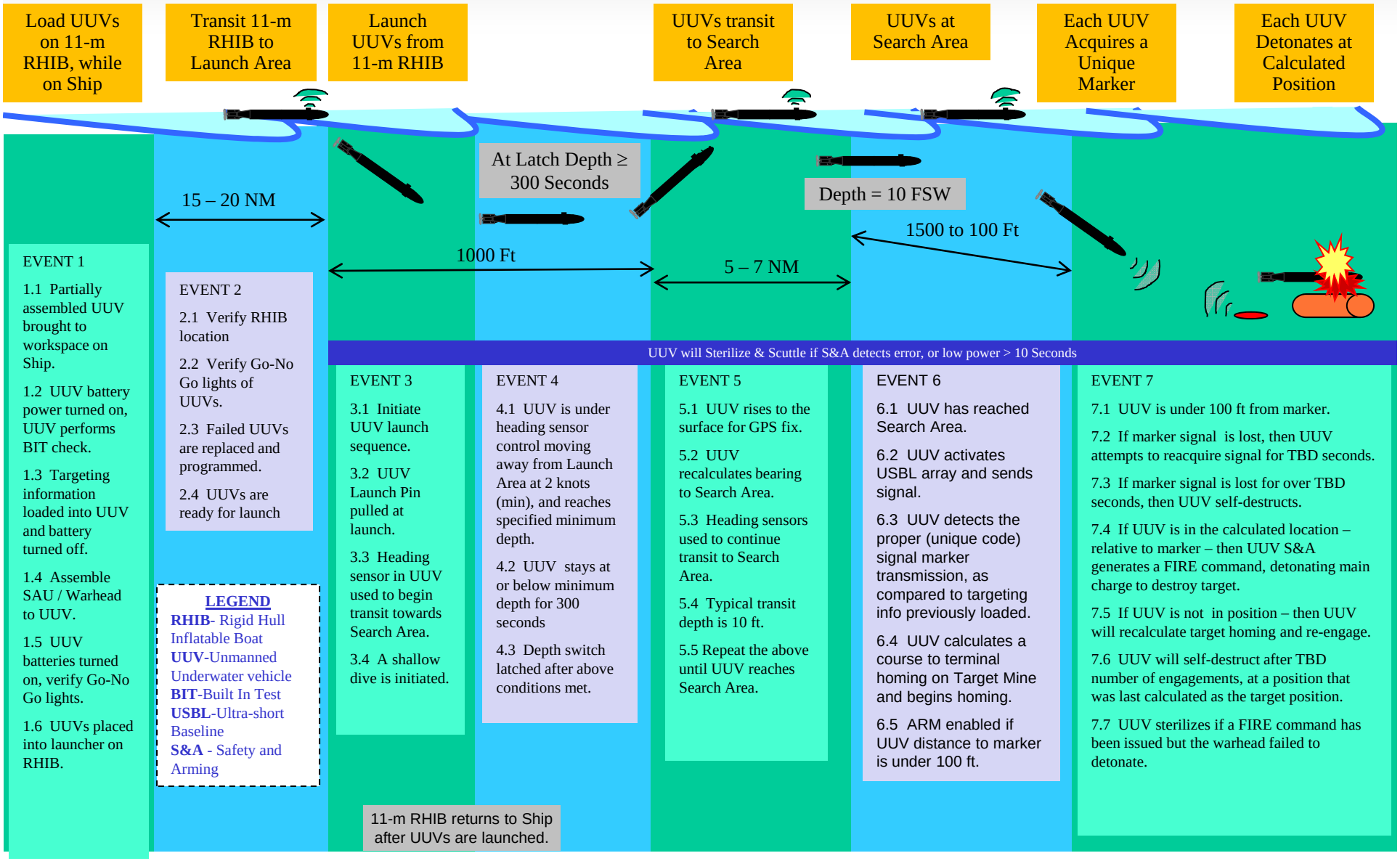
Events to ARM and FIRE (Notional)



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