

~ Announcement ~

**Upgraded *DSV Alvin* slated for operations in 2013;  
proposals encouraged.**



Built in 1964 as one of the world's first deep-ocean submersibles, the *DSV Alvin* has made more than 4,400 dives, carrying over 2,500 scientists and observers to the seafloor. Now, after 46 years of incredible exploits, the *DSV Alvin* is being heavily upgraded. In particular, the *DSV Alvin* has more viewports, and the scientists and pilot now have a shared field of view. This, along with the HD video systems, makes it easier to coordinate activities and see the ocean as never before. With a predicted payload capacity of 400 lbs, *DSV Alvin* can now deliver and recover heavier payloads/samples. For more information on the *DSV Alvin* upgrade, see <http://www.whoi.edu/page.do?pid=51855>.

*DSV Alvin* is slated to be operational in 2013. *DSV Alvin* will be readily available for operations in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and of course the Pacific Ocean. Given the typical duration required for scheduling ship and submersible time, you are highly encouraged to submit your *DSV Alvin*-oriented proposals to NSF for the July/August, 2011 and January/February, 2012 deadlines. As always, the *DSV Alvin* is available to those with other support, such as from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative.

Should your science be facilitated by enhanced mapping and water column chemical analyses, you might also consider requesting use of the *AUV Sentry* alongside the *DSV Alvin*. Recent users of the *DSV Alvin* and *AUV Sentry* were notably impressed by how well these two vehicles work together to accomplish high-resolution mapping, water column chemical analyses and seafloor sampling.

The upgraded *DSV Alvin* will continue to play a key role in advancing our understanding of the deep ocean and its denizens, and the NSF is looking to ensure that the vehicle is available to support existing and future efforts. Be among the first to take advantage of this new, highly capable vehicle.

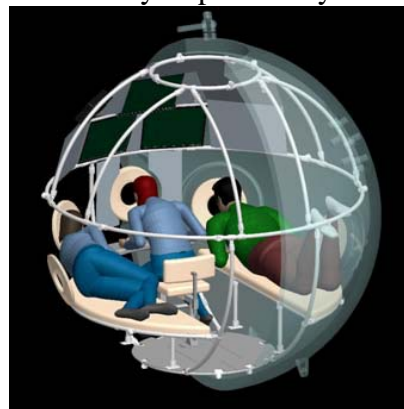


Image credits: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution