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TRACKING NO.	SLS-203
PROGRAM	SALMON
CATEGORY	Subsea Vehicles (UUV)
FISCAL YEAR	FY2024
CONTRACT AWARD	21 NOV 2023

## CAPABILITY BRIEF

**SOUNDER**

SLS-PROPRIETARY

## Survey &amp; Bathymetry UUV

Sounder is the survey and bathymetry UUV and the first subsea platform in the catalog. SALMON maps the seafloor ahead of the fleet — charting approaches, locating hazards, and building the prior maps that CEDAR's planners depend on. A workhorse rather than a hunter, it is optimized for area coverage and data quality.

**KEY CAPABILITIES**

- Multibeam echosounder and side-scan sonar for high-resolution bathymetry.
- Coverage planning with A\*/D\* and sampling-based paths over prior charts.
- Sub-bottom profiling and water-column (CTD) logging on the same sortie.
- 24–36 hr endurance with lawn-mower and adaptive coverage modes.
- Post-mission products feed directly into the Salish prior-map library.
- Recoverable by crane or A-frame with transponder homing.

**PLATFORM AT A GLANCE****30 hr**

ENDURANCE

**300 m**

DEPTH RATING

**90 nm**

RANGE

**6× depth**

SWATH

**NOTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS**

LENGTH	3.6 m	PROPULSION	Electric, Li-ion
DIAMETER	0.32 m	SURVEY SPEED	3 kt
WEIGHT (AIR)	85 kg	ENDURANCE	30 hr
DEPTH RATING	300 m	RANGE	90 nm
PAYLOAD	Multibeam, side-scan, SBP, CTD	AUTONOMY	CEDAR (SLS-301)
NAVIGATION	INS + DVL, terrain-aided	POSITIONING	USBL-compatible
COMMUNICATIONS	Acoustic + Iridium (surfaced)	ONBOARD STORAGE	1 TB
LAUNCH & RECOVERY	Crane / A-frame	RECOVERY AID	Transponder homing

**CONCEPT OF EMPLOYMENT**

SALMON deploys ahead of operations to survey approaches and chokepoints, generating high-resolution bathymetry that seeds the prior-map library. Its products enable CEDAR (SLS-301) route planning and de-risk USV and UUV transit through poorly charted littorals, with results fused into the ALDER (SLS-305) common picture.