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Beam Unveils Self-Driving Subsea Robot Set to Revolutionise Wind Farm Operations

Scout, a first-of-its-kind autonomous underwater robotics solution, will transform daily operations and help plug the offshore wind skills gap

LISBON, Portugal, 13th November 2024: Beam, a leading provider of high-technology offshore wind services, has announced Scout at Web Summit: an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) driven by artificial intelligence (AI). Scout, a concept expected to enter the market in 2025, will put the power of subsea inspection directly in the hands of wind farm operators.

This is an important step in Beam's journey to develop cutting-edge underwater technologies that transform the viability and scalability of offshore wind. The breakthrough solution will combine advanced AI, real-time 3D reconstructions, and precise navigation to deliver inspections that are quicker and more cost-effective. As demonstrated in a successful world-first deployment at SSE's Seagreen Wind Farm in September 2024, the system's fully autonomous self-driving capabilities also require minimal human intervention.

Unlike traditional inspection methods that demand specialised vessels and expert crews, Scout is designed to be self-driving and will perform inspections by itself, reporting back at the end of the mission. Beam intends for Scout to be deployed directly by people from existing Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs) during routine visits. This will enable a wider pool of people to confidently manage subsea maintenance of wind farms, helping to alleviate the pressing offshore wind skills gap that threatens the sector's ability to scale.

This new way of conducting operations will eliminate the need for expensive, third-party services. This means that once infrequent inspections can become routine management. Scout will enable 4K 3D reconstructions, such as year-on-year site comparisons, equipping teams with unprecedented insights into asset integrity and structural health. This will minimise the need for reactive repairs and reduce long-term operational costs.

Scout will also significantly reduce the carbon footprint of subsea inspections. By eliminating the need for dedicated inspection vessels, Beam's autonomous robotics solution will lower fuel consumption and the emissions associated with specialised underwater campaigns.

Beam's CEO, Brian Allen said, *"Our mission has always been to make offshore wind not just a viable energy source, but the most desirable one. Scout will place world-leading technology directly into the hands of wind farm operators and accelerate the industry's growth at a critical time. Meeting national and international capacity targets will require all operators, not just those with extensive resources, to scale their operations at pace. Scout is therefore a crucial part of enabling the future of offshore wind."*

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About Beam

Beam is a leading deep technology company, using AI and autonomy on robotic ships and underwater robots to service offshore wind farms. Beam is empowering the global energy transition by delivering cutting edge automation that provides immediate time and cost savings across all lifecycle stages of a wind farm. Through these innovations, the company's mission is to change ways of working in the sector and improve the commercial case for offshore wind compared to oil and gas. Headquartered in the UK and recognised as one of Europe's fastest growing tech companies, Beam operates across global markets and employs over 200 people. For more information, visit www.beam.global.

Press contact: Rachael Bolton
Phone: 07732517602
Email: **rachael@fightorflight.com**