



## Press Release

### **Autonomous Maritime Surveillance System: Project Steering Committee Meeting for the EU-Project AMASS in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.**

The research and technological development project AMASS – *Autonomous Maritime Surveillance System* – co-funded within the framework of the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme of the European Union – started on 1st March 2008. The project will run for 42 months and includes the Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas (ICCM) and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The project is co-ordinated by Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH (Germany) and contains 7 further partners: Crabbe Consulting Ltd. (UK); the Armed Forces Malta; OBR Centrum Techniki Morskiej (Poland), Fraunhofer Institut Informations- und Datenverarbeitung (Germany), IQ Wireless (Germany); HSF (Czech Republic), and Fugro Oceanor (Norway).

The objective of the project is to develop an autonomous surveillance system for the observation and security of wide critical maritime areas in order to reduce actual and potential illegal immigration and the trafficking of drugs, weapons and illicit substances.

The surveillance system is expected to consist of unmanned surveillance platforms with active and passive sensors, the key sensors being un-cooled thermal imagers connected as a network with wideband radio. Alarms from the system will be displayed on a map system in command centres providing information on detected object location and direction. It is foreseen that operators will also be able to switch directly to video streams to view detected images.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 representatives from the project and the European Commission will visit the Canarian Search and Rescue team to receive first hand experience of the problems faced by the Canarian Islands concerning illegal immigration and further input on the requirements for the system. Between 5-6 June 2008 the partners will hold a joint meeting at ICCM to review the results from the first months of work and to plan the next stages of the project.

#### Contact/Information:

Carlos Barrera, Departamento de Oceanografía, Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas (ICCM), Tel: +34 928 132900, E-mail: [carlos@iccm.rcanaria.es](mailto:carlos@iccm.rcanaria.es)

Thomas Anderson, Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH, Tel:+49 73 64 20-28 33, E-mail:[t.anderson@optronics.zeiss.com](mailto:t.anderson@optronics.zeiss.com)