

EXPERIENCED ROV ENGINEER/PILOT (multiple positions)

Status: Independent Contractor, Seasonal

FLSA Classification: Non-exempt

Compensation Type: Contracted Day Rate

Benefits Eligible: No

Reports to: ROV Operations Manager (Contract)

Location: Onboard E/V *Nautilus*, worldwide

BACKGROUND

The Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—founded in 2007 by Dr. Robert Ballard—with the aim of exploring the ocean and seeking new discoveries while pushing the boundaries of technological innovation, education, and outreach. OET owns and operates E/V *Nautilus*, a 224-foot exploration vessel equipped with acoustic mapping systems, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and other state-of-the-art exploration technologies. Expeditions aboard E/V *Nautilus* are conducted in partnership with the organization’s primary sponsors, NOAA Ocean Exploration, and the National Geographic Society, as well as in close collaboration with the ocean exploration community. Through telepresence, E/V *Nautilus* expeditions are streamed live to provide scientists and the public with real-time access to exploratory research and the excitement of discovery. Data and samples from expeditions are made publicly available in order to provide a foundational resource to stimulate further research, exploration, and management activities.

POSITION OVERVIEW

An experienced ROV Engineer/Pilot is nominally on board for four to eight weeks at a time. They are typically part of a 6 person ROV team, and report to the onboard ROV Lead. Applicants must have proper authorization to work in the US and have a current passport and no travel restrictions.

A ROV Engineer/Pilot’s general responsibilities are to prepare the ROVs for scientific and exploration deployments and work with the OET team to safely pilot the ROVs and assist in the execution of scientific objectives. The must perform the following duties in close collaboration with the rest of the science and operations team:

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Will assist in the day-to-day operation and maintenance of OETs ROVs with direction from the ROV team lead.
- Will lead and assist in troubleshooting problems as required.
- Will assist with mentoring ROV interns and junior members of the team.
- Will perform pre and post dive checks of the ROVs.
- Will pilot the ROVs to the best of your ability and participate on science part line (SPL) in a polite and professional manner.

MUST BE ABLE TO

- Obtain a US Passport or appropriate visa.

- Understand a sophisticated operational system from a high-level so as to quickly resolve issues and craft solutions.
- Deploy at sea for up to 30-60 contiguous days.
- Be physically and mentally capable of meeting the demands of living and operating aboard a working exploration vessel, and must be able to live in close quarters with other expedition team members (including a shared stateroom).
- Maintain a pleasant and professional demeanor under challenging conditions while interacting with fellow expedition team members and while interacting with the public online.
- Contribute to an inclusive work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity.
- Support OET's mission of training the next generation of STEM professionals by helping to support junior personnel participating in the expedition by engaging with them and helping to provide a positive learning experience at sea.
- To the level that is relevant to this position, contribute to OET's mission to inspire and engage youth and the public by participating in outreach and/or port tours during the expedition.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Preparing and operating 4000m to 6000m rated ROVs and their auxiliary systems at sea
- Training other engineers and technology novices in preparing, maintaining and troubleshooting ROVs and other related equipment
- Mentoring and training ROV engineering interns
- High to expert level troubleshooting
- System documentation
- PC high level functional skills
- Strong team player with a proactive, self starting, service-oriented attitude
- Ability to work collaboratively with an international, multidisciplinary, diverse team of engineers, scientists, educators, and students
- Possess strong creative, analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Excellent multi-tasking and time management skills
- Excellent management and interpersonal skills
- Excellent verbal and written communications
- Excellent analytical and organizational skills

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Engineer in one or more disciplines. Examples - mechanical, electrical, data, ocean engineering or other science degree
- ROV Operations Experience
- ROV Pilot Tech Training
- Sea Crane Training Certificate
- High Voltage Training
- Hydraulics Training
- Offshore safety training (STCW)

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

This role requires at-sea activity to launch and recover equipment over-the-side, maintain and troubleshoot vehicles, and carry up to 50 lbs is required.

POSITION TYPE/EXPECTED HOURS OF WORK

This is a contract position with an estimated at-sea duration of 4 weeks to 8 weeks at a time. A typical day includes 2x4 hour ROV pilot watch during remotely operated vehicle dives, plus up to 6 additional hours of work per day maintaining and troubleshooting vehicles.

COMPENSATION

Day rate will be competitive with standard research vessel rates and commensurate with experience. OET will cover all costs associated with travel, room, and board.

ELIGIBILITY & WORK AUTHORIZATION

In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification document form upon hire. Please see our [Waters/Ports Entry Requirements for Expedition Travelers](#) for more details.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Ocean Exploration Trust is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. It is our policy to prohibit discrimination and harassment of any type. We provide equal employment opportunities to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, disability, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. Ocean Exploration Trust is committed to creating an inclusive work environment and organizational culture. [Learn more about our organizational diversity and inclusion efforts and current priorities.](#)

TO APPLY

Deadline: Open until filled on a rolling basis

Application: To apply, please submit your CV to the form linked below.

Upload your application at: <https://nautl.us/2023ICA>

Please contact us at careers@oet.org if you have any questions or issues with your application submission.