This presentation will first settle the status of the operational ROV “Victor 6000” and AUV “ASTERX” operated by Ifremer, and will described cross usage and access to those systems at the European level.

“Victor 6000” is part of a global system integrating, “scientific module”, winch and cable, dead weight and umbilical, positioning subsystem through acoustic ultra short base line (USBL) techniques, and all the exploitation software for the data and dives management. In 2005 The system have been equipped with a second module dedicated to high resolution mapping of the sea bottom, with acoustical and optical devices.

The first Ifremer’s AUV named AsterX is 4.5 meters in length with a diameter of 0.69 meters. Depending on the payload its weight is between 600 and 800 kg in air, with a diving depth of 3000 meters. Its cruising speed is between 0.5 to 2.5 meters per second. The AUV is capable of carrying various payloads in its payload sections for wide spectrum of applications. The vehicle can cruise up to 100km range. For coastal applications this vehicle is operated by a limited crew team possibly from small non-specialized or opportunity vessels.

The vehicle have made numerous cruises in Mediterranean sea and in the Atlantic on board IFREMER ships in 2004. Numerous requests to use it on European ships (Missions on the R/V Meteor in 2006 and on the AWI R/V Heincke in 2005) and more than 200 days at sea are requested in 2006.

Operational AUV as AsterX with a wide spectrum of possible payloads, and with a fully integrated chain of exploitation is, to day, unique in Europe for oceanographic aspects.

A second vehicle will be design and build in 2005. Cross cooperation with AWI, St Johns university in Canada, and Mississippi University will be active in 2005 and 2006.

The presentation will introduce future perspectives in term of exchange and interoperability at European level for underwater systems, including Man submersibles, towed systems ROVs, AUVs landers and observatories.