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Explorers map coral world By Joseph Frey jgfrey@rogers.com



A

Expedition members pose with the Explorers Club flag: (l-r Front row) Paul Mockler, Larry Wood, Dr. Barbara Brunnick, Harvey Oyer, (Back row) Dr. Stefan Harzen, Jonathan Frey, and Joseph Frey.

recent expedition by members of the Explorers Club will change the way coral reefs will be mapped throughout the world.

It was serendipitous that the explorers were in the Bahamas where Christopher Columbus first discovered the Americas.

This event sparked Europe's exploration of our planet and initiated an era of modern

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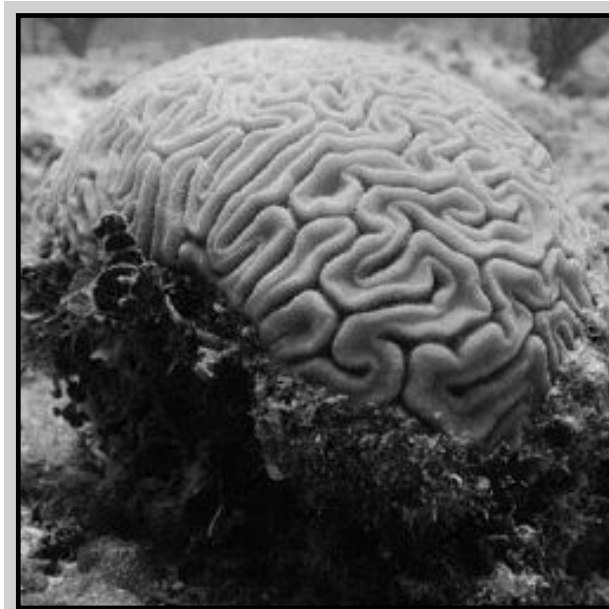


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cartography.

The expedition, entitled the "2008 International Coral Reef initiative: First Ever Precise Digital Coral Reef Mapping In The Bahamas and Wider Caribbean," will produce a unique, highly accurate biodiversity map of a coral reef, the first of its kind for the Caribbean region and possibly the first in the world.

The team worked around Tropical Storm Fay and raced to beat the storm cell over the mid- Atlantic Ocean that would develop into Hurricane Gustav. The August heat was intense as the team worked frantically gathering the vital pieces of information needed to complete the data- intensive map.



Brain coral on Peterson Cay reef.

When completed in late October, the map will have integrated satellite and aerial photography with Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies along with ground- truthing, which consists of collecting scientific data above and below the ocean's surface. These technologies have been used by civil engineers and land surveyors, but its use in conservation biology is new and very recent.

Various species of fish, algae, grass, and coral were identified along with their distribution patterns allowing the team to discern the various

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community types existing on the reef. The next step is to assess its biodiversity.

It took Dr. Barbara Brunnick of the Taras Oceanographic Foundation in Jupiter, Florida, almost a decade to develop the intricacies of this methodology. Together with her husband Dr. Stefan Harzen and Joseph Frey of Toronto, Canada, she led this historic Explorers Club expedition. Other Explorers Club members included Harvey Oyer of West Palm Beach and Jonathan Frey, a student member of the Club.



Elkhorn coral near the surface off Peterson's Cay, Grand Bahama, The Bahamas.

detailed map will provide great value for natural resource management and education. It will provide information against which possible changes in the future can be measured, monitored, and charted. It will also serve as an educational tool to provide a better understanding of the ecology of coral reefs. This map will be gifted to the government of the Bahamas and the Bahama National Trust who manage Peterson Cay National Park where the study was conducted.

The Explorers Club, founded in 1904, is the world's premier field science's organization, whose members were the first to the North and South Pole, to the top of Mount Everest, to the

Fuel cell company to locate in Midlands Technical College's Business Accelerator

Contributed by Midlands Technical College

The four charter members of the USC Columbia Fuel Cell Collaborative, Midlands Technical College and Trulite, Inc. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop a pilot manufacturing facility in Columbia, S.C. The pilot facility will be located at Midlands Technical College's Enterprise Campus Business Accelerator and will serve as Trulite's North American manufacturing site for its high energy density Hydrocell™ fuel cartridges. Trulite, Inc. is the only fuel cell company to offer both fuel cell and fuel source in one fully integrated system, and its Hydrocell™ stores over 400 watt-hours of energy in one cartridge, which is then utilized by Trulite's KH4 250 watt portable generator.

"This MOU lays the groundwork for Trulite to establish a high rate manufacturing facility in the Columbia, S.C. area. High rate manufacturing of our Hydrocell™ cartridges is an important step in the scale-up and commercialization of our KH4 generator and other related technologies," said Ken Pearson, COO, Trulite, Inc. Trulite will receive up to \$750,000 in assistance to build the new manufacturing capability. Of this assistance, \$300,000 comes from SCBTA's SC Launch program. Trulite expects to break ground within the next 60 days.

The pilot project has been a region-wide collaborative effort supported by SCBA, SC Launch Program, the City of Columbia, Midlands Technical College, the USC, Richland County, the Central SC Alliance, and the S.C. Department of Commerce.

"The unprecedented level of collaboration between state, regional, and local government and the public and private sector speaks to the community's commitment to make S.C. a leader in the emerging hydrogen and fuel cell economy," stated Bill Mahoney, CEO of SCRA. "This partnership gives us an opportunity to help launch the first fuel-cell related manufacturing facility in the state."

Trulite, Inc. selected S.C. after attending the National Hydrogen Association's Military Users of Hydrogen Forum in Columbia in October 2007.

Ken Seifick, president of Trulite, stated that "This Memorandum of Understanding exemplifies S.C.'s confidence in our ability to commercialize our technology. This support and facility will provide Trulite the ability to accommodate our growing list of Fortune partners and clients who are interested in our renewable energy technology platform."

"This pilot facility will be the first stage of what we hope will be a long-term strategic relationship with Trulite," stated Bob Coble, Mayor of the City of Columbia, and co-chair of EnergySC, the region's public/private knowledge economy leadership organization. The pilot facility will also leverage Midlands Technical College's next generation fuel cell technology program, which aims to address the workforce development issues facing today's fuel cell companies.

Dr. Marshall Sorenst Blaine II, president of Midlands Technical College (MTC), said, "MTC understands the importance of alternate energy research and production to the economy of our region and to the future of the community. The college is impressed with the work Trulite is doing, and believes that the company's location in the MTC Business Accelerator will be a valuable addition to the college's Enterprise Campus."

In addition, Trulite plans to create a collaborative research and development partnership with the USC that will lead to the development and commercialization of additional Trulite products. This collaboration will leverage the university's growing reputation as a thought leader in clean technology, hydrogen and fuel cells. Trulite already has begun negotiations with USC, Future Fields™ and Innovis.

"The University has solid credentials in hydrogen fuel cell research and is committed to becoming stronger," said Dennis Pastorek, president of the USC. "Trulite will add to our critical mass of scientific talent and array of strong partnerships working to make S.C. a center of excellence in hydrogen and fuel cell technology."

This

deepest part of the Earth's oceans, and first to the Moon. The local chapter of The Explorers Club meets monthly. For information, contact Nena Powell Rice (803-777-8170 or nrice@sc.edu).