

BACKGROUND ON THE DEEPFLIGHT SUBMERSIBLES



DeepFlight I (1995)

- The Deep Flight project started in the late 1980's as a program to provide a new generation of ultra-lightweight, cost-effective vehicles for science, exploration and adventure. World-renowned engineer, Graham Hawkes, decided that to move efficiently through the 3-dimensional space of the ocean territories, his submersibles had to sprout wings and fly.



DeepFlight Aviator (2003)

- Hawkes has since built four generations of Deep Flight submersibles including: Deep Flight I, the first to break through the barriers to sustained underwater flight; Deep Flight Aviator, the first two-seat underwater flight trainer; and Deep Flight Challenger, the first full ocean depth (37,000 foot) manned submersible, originally commissioned by the late adventurer Steve Fossett. Most recently, HOT has introduced its first production submersibles, DeepFlight Super Falcon, commissioned by venture capitalist, Tom Perkins and DeepFlight Merlin, commissioned by Sir Richard Branson.



DeepFlight Challenger (2007)

- With the Deep Flight series of manned craft, Hawkes Ocean Technologies has successfully engineered the required fundamental advance in the basic way submersibles operate, making the leap from “underwater balloons” (sinkers) to underwater flight, an intrinsically safer, simpler and dramatically more efficient means of moving through the water. The transition to underwater flight enables the unprecedented freedom to move with big animals beneath the sea. Essentially, Hawkes has made the same transition sub-sea that the Wright Brothers did in air, moving from ballooning to fixed wing aircraft.



DeepFlight Super Falcon (2007)

- With their unique ability for underwater flight, and unprecedented range, speed and maneuverability, the DeepFlight submersibles offers exotic new capabilities to explore one of the least understood parts of our planet. The experiences can range from the most relaxing, gentle panoramic undersea tour of a sun-lit reef, to "barrel rolls" with the whales in the depths, to flying in formation, wing-tip to wing-tip over ancient shipwrecks.

- Call the DeepFlight subs what you want – The Ferrari of the oceans, the Lear jet of the seas. Strap into your seats and prepare to do barrel rolls with dolphins, spyhops with whales, or flyovers of ancient shipwrecks. DeepFlight pilots are on their way to a unique underwater flight experience. In all preceding history, humankind has never before had the freedom to fly beneath the sea, access the full 3 dimensions of sea space, and engage in encounters with large oceanic life on equal terms.

- Motivated by the same irresistible dream that drove mankind to soar with the birds, Graham Hawkes invites you to fly underwater in his state of the art Deep Flight submersibles.



DeepFlight Merlin (2009)

Graham Hawkes

Graham Hawkes is an internationally renowned ocean engineer and explorer. He has been responsible for the design of over 300 remote operated vehicles and a significant percentage of all manned underwater vehicles built for research or industry worldwide, including the Wasp and Mantis Atmospheric Diving Suits, the Deep Rover research submersibles, as featured in the latest James Cameron's 3-D Imax film, and the Deep Flight series of winged submersibles. Mr. Hawkes currently holds the world record for the deepest solo dive (3,000 feet).

Graham has founded five high tech companies. He is currently President of Hawkes Ocean Technologies (HOT), an award-winning design and engineering

“skunkworks” company he founded with his wife, Karen, in 1996 to develop innovative technologies for sub-sea exploration.

Hawkes Ocean Technologies (boilerplate)

Hawkes Ocean Technologies (HOT), founded by world renowned marine engineer Graham Hawkes, is a privately-held company based in the San Francisco Bay area that designs and builds state of the art manned and remote vehicles for deep ocean exploration. HOT is best known for its DeepFlight series of ultra-lightweight, winged submersibles which have introduced the concept of underwater flight and opened the oceans to all depths for cost-effective exploration. Most recently, HOT has built DeepFlight Challenger, the only submersible capable of reaching 36,000 feet and commissioned by the late adventurer, Steve Fossett; DeepFlight Super Falcon, commissioned by venture capitalist, Tom Perkins; and DeepFlight Merlin, commissioned by Sir Richard Branson.