

Maritime Management Secures Conversion Project

Maritime Management, Ireland's leading international marine service provider, has secured the conversion project and the crewing, technical and commercial ship management for the exploration vessel E/V *Nautilus*.

The specialised 64 metre vessel is operated by the Ocean Exploration Trust and its founder, Dr. Robert D. Ballard, an eminent pioneer in deep water exploration.

Dr. Ballard has made major contributions to the understanding of plate tectonics, including the original discovery of hydrothermal vents and their biological communities. He led the team that found the wrecks of the Titanic and the German Battleship Bismarck and he has discovered a number of significant ancient shipwrecks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. He is a leader in the development of deep submergence technology, including a unique suite of ROVs (remotely operated vehicles) capable of exploring depths to 4000 metres, and he has pioneered the use of satellite-based *telepresence* to bring live imagery of the deep sea to students and the public. These systems will be installed aboard the E/V *Nautilus*.

The vessel will support ocean exploration and archaeological oceanographic programs and will spend its time primarily exploring the Black Sea, Eastern Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean.