



AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 447 BLACK BOXES LOCATED AND RECOVERED

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Washington, DC -- Phoenix International Holdings, Inc. (Phoenix) of Largo, Maryland successfully located and recovered both black boxes from Air France Flight 447. The recoveries took place in 3,900 meters of water (msw) and were made possible using the Phoenix designed and operated Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Remora.

Phoenix specializes in deep water operations and its Remora ROVs are specifically designed to work in water depths down to 6,000 msw; a rare capability for a commercial company. The recoveries were completed in a very short period of time given the technical complexities of operating in extreme water depths. Remora located the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) within 12 hours on its first dive on 27 April.

Unfortunately, the critical Memory Unit had separated from the chassis of the FDR. An intensive and methodical visual survey of the sea floor was then initiated in search of the proverbial needle in the haystack. With Remora operating around the clock, the unit was ultimately found at 0600 EDT on 1 May, and brought to the surface. Remora returned to the debris field to commence the search for the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), which records supplemental information critical to the investigation into the cause of the crash. At 1750 EDT on 2 May, the intact CVR was located and brought to deck of *Ile de Sein*, the Alcatel-Lucent cable ship supporting the recovery project. Both boxes will be returned to France for analysis. In the interim, Remora will continue to survey the debris field and recover items of interest as directed by the French Bureau d'Enquetes et d'Analyses (BEA) and the on-site investigative team.

Phoenix has a substantial history of performing deep water search and recoveries for the commercial airline industry. Past recovery projects have included Yemenia Flight IY626 (also conducted for BEA), Adam Air Flight 574, and Tuninter Airline Flight 1153. The company also provides search and recovery expertise to other publicly owned and private entities, the U.S. Navy, national and international agencies, and foreign governments. Phoenix is in its eleventh year as prime contractor to the U.S. Navy for undersea search and recovery operations.

Phoenix provides manned and unmanned underwater operations, design engineering, and project management services to clients in the offshore oil & gas, defense, and other ocean-interest industries worldwide. Expertise is available from six regional offices in the areas of wet and dry hyperbaric welding, conventional and atmospheric diving, robotic systems, and tooling. Our capabilities support plug and abandonment; underwater inspection, maintenance and repair; construction; deep ocean search & recovery; and submarine rescue.

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