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Explorers reach the deepest point in the Red Sea

Caladan Oceanic's Victor Vescovo and Saudi national Mohammed A. Aljahdli make the first-ever manned dive to the bottom of the Suakin Trough

Dallas, TX (March 4, 2020): After successfully diving to the deepest point in the Mediterranean Sea, the Calypso Deep in mid-February, Victor Vescovo and the [Caladan Oceanic](#) crew sailed through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea. In cooperation with the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, Caladan made multiple manned dives into the little-explored Red Sea and—for the first time—to its deepest point: the Suakin Trough. The team also dove the shallower, but scientifically important Kebrit Deep (Arabic for “sulfur”), 250 miles to the north.

Utilizing the state-of-the-art full ocean depth submersible *DSV Limiting Factor* from Triton Submarines, Victor Vescovo dove two deeps: the Suakin Trough [2,777 m/9,111 ft] and the Kebrit Deep [1,470 m/4,823 ft] making him the first person in history to physically reach both those points in the Red Sea. Accompanying Victor for the first dive at the Kerbit Deep was Dr. Alan Jamieson from Newcastle University who acted as an observer for the 5 hour-long mission.

A young Saudi engineer from Thuwal and member of the KAUST Coastal and Marine Resources Core Lab, Mohammed A. Aljahdli, accompanied Victor on this first descent to the bottom of the Suakin Trough and the entire Red Sea. EYOS Expeditions executed the logistics and liaison for this complex international expedition.

The Suakin Trough and Kebrit Deep exhibit remarkably unique characteristics as both have "brine lakes" on the seafloor that are significantly different in character than the seawater above them. This creates distinct "shorelines" underwater between the regular seawater on top and the ultra-dense brine pools that settle in the centers of the Deeps. The pools at these locations are approximately 10 meters deep on average. Mineral- and sponge-encrusted "chimneys" were observed dotting the “shorelines” of the Kebrit Deep, although none appeared active. The team also dived into the caldera of an extinct underwater volcano in the Suakin Trough to study its unique geology.

“It was wonderful to join a young Saudi Arabian national to the bottom of the Red Sea in a manned submersible – for the first time in history. We also believe this will make him the deepest-diving Saudi of all time,” said Vescovo. “As we continue this year’s expedition into the Indian and Pacific oceans, we hope to explore as many new areas as possible with this, the deepest diving system on the planet and investigate the 90% of the ocean that remains unexplored.”

“We are so excited about the collaboration between Caladan Oceanic and KAUST, and even more proud that our very own Mohammed Aljahdali is the first Saudi to reach the deepest point in the Red Sea,” said Justin Mynar, Executive Director of the KAUST Core Labs and Research Infrastructure. The Red Sea is virtually unexplored and is a major research priority for KAUST. "In order to protect this important resource, we need to understand it, and partnering with Victor has given us the opportunity to observe and sample the deepest and most inaccessible regions like never before.”

The next phase in the 2020 Caladan Oceanic Expeditions is in partnership with the Nekton organization in the Indian Ocean to explore the Seychelles and Maldives for Nekton’s “First Descent” program. For more details on this month-long expedition, visit: www.nektonmission.org.

For all 2020 expedition updates, please visit caladanoceanic.com and follow us on Twitter [@CaladanOceanic](https://twitter.com/CaladanOceanic), Instagram [@CaladanOceanic](https://www.instagram.com/CaladanOceanic) and Facebook [@CaladanOceanic](https://www.facebook.com/CaladanOceanic).

About Caladan Oceanic

Caladan Oceanic is a private company dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supporting expeditions to increase the understanding of the deep oceans. Founder Victor Vescovo has long had a passion for exploration and has summited the highest peak on all seven of the world’s continents including Mt. Everest and skied at least 100 kilometers to both the North and South Poles. With the completion of the Five Deeps Expedition in August 2019, Vescovo became the first person in history to have been to the top of all the world’s continents, both poles, and the bottom of all its oceans. He will be awarded the Explorer’s Club Medal in March 2020. For more information, please visit <https://caladanoceanic.com/>.

About Triton Submarines, LLC

Triton Submarines of Sebastian, Florida, is the most experienced civil submarine producer in the world today – and the only contemporary manufacturer of acrylic-pressure-hull-equipped personal submarines to deliver multiple classed and certified vessels capable of diving to 3,300 feet (1,000 meters). Triton Submarines senior staff have over 350 years of combined experience with more than 80 different submersibles, and their operations team have together logged over 25,000 dives. Triton clients also enjoy superlative after-sales service and technical support from a company dedicated to their total satisfaction. For more information, please visit <https://tritonsubs.com/>.

About EYOS Expeditions

EYOS Expeditions has been designing complex and challenging expeditions for private vessels since 2008. Drawing on the decades of experience of the company’s co-founders, the EYOS team have delivered over 1,200 safe and successful expeditions to some of the most remote destinations on Earth. EYOS Expeditions holds several “world firsts” and routinely take clients to destinations rarely or never before visited. EYOS Expeditions and sister company Expedition Voyager Consultants have worked behind the scenes on many of the industry’s groundbreaking itineraries and have a long history of delivering once-in-a-lifetime experiences for clients while

maintaining the highest standards of safety, professionalism and environmental stewardship. EYOS Expeditions is today regarded as the industry leader for planning and operating remote expeditions using submersibles. For more information visit <https://www.eyos-expeditions.com/>.

About KAUST

Established in 2009, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is a graduate research university devoted to finding solutions for some of the world's most pressing scientific and technological challenges in the areas of food, water, energy and the environment. With 19 research areas related to these themes and state of the art labs, KAUST has created a collaborative and interdisciplinary problem-solving environment, which has resulted in over 11,000 published papers to date. With over 100 different nationalities living, working and studying on campus, KAUST has brought together the best minds and ideas from around the world with the goal of advancing science and technology through distinctive and collaborative research. KAUST is a catalyst for innovation, economic development and social prosperity in Saudi Arabia and the world. For media inquiries, please contact global.pr@kaust.edu.sa

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