Daniel Martin
The Richards Group
214.891.5722
Daniel_Martin@richards.com

Caladan Oceanic Completes First Mapping of Key Deep-Sea Features in Indian Ocean

Victor Vescovo and team map an area the size of Rhode Island and document previously undocumented seamount near Seychelles

DALLAS (April 09, 2020) – After making the first manned dive to the deepest point in the Red Sea, investor and explorer Victor Vescovo's Caladan Oceanic team conducted the first-ever mapping of the Amirante Trench near Seychelles. The Amirante Trench is approximately 610 km long and 30 km wide. The oceanography of the trench has been highly debated among geologists and geophysicists since the late 1970s. While early theories suggested the trench formed through traditional subduction methods, more modern assessments argue that the evolution of the Amirante Trench is more complicated and tied to the separation of India and the Seychelles.

"Over 90% of the seafloor remains unexplored, and with our unique sonar and submersible assets, we are trying to help map the deepest areas that remain a mystery," Vescovo commented. "We are doing all of this mapping *pro bono* for the greater scientific good, and we will be donating this and other data to the GEBCO 2030 mapping initiative."

The Amirante Trench was mapped over three days from March 26 to March 29, 2020. Two passes about five kilometers apart were collected along the full shape of the trench to produce a full-coverage map. These data sets, along with 14,830 square kilometers of transit data (to and from the trench), were collected within the Seychelles EEZ in collaboration with the Government of Seychelles, represented by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. Except for a large – and previously undocumented – seamount on the southern end, the trench is wide and featureless with a very small, gentle slope (less than one degree) running north to south.

"These data have shown the previously unknown topography of the Amirante Trench in surprising detail," said marine geologist Heather Stewart. "A previously unknown seamount was discovered in the southernmost part of the trench. [It's] unbelievable that this underwater mountain was previously undiscovered, considering it is over 1000 meters high. The newly discovered 'Amirante Seamount' adds to this global database of knowledge, and further study will reveal the geodiversity and biodiversity it hosts."

"The Amirante Trench is a really interesting deep-sea topographic depression. It has all the hallmarks of a deep subduction trench, but is not," said lead scientist Dr. Alan

Jamieson. "As the deep Indian Ocean is often lacking in very high-resolution mapping, work like what has just been done on the *Pressure Drop* is incredibly important in understanding what the seafloor looks like now, how it got to be like that, and the geological processes that are underpinning it. Any new maps of the deep Indian Ocean are great and long overdue. Compared to the satellite-derived maps, our new echosounder's 3D digital renderings are like Caravaggio going back to redraw a Monet."

For the next – and last – phase of the 2020 expeditions, Caladan Oceanic will travel to Guam for multiple dives around the western edge of the famed "Ring of Fire" in the Pacific Ocean. The Caladan crew plans to revisit the bottom of Challenger Deep up to six times for scientific mapping purposes, as well as dive in never-before-visited deep areas in the northern part of the Mariana Trench. In July, they hope to explore the seafloor off Samar Island, Philippines, and execute what could become the deepest wreck dive in history.

For more information, visit CaladanOceanic.com and follow us on Twitter @CaladanOceanic, Instagram @CaladanOceanic and Facebook @CaladanOceanic for ongoing updates.

About Caladan Oceanic
Caladan Oceanic is a private company dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supporting expeditions to increase the understanding of, and support, the productive sustainment of the 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, Vescovo became the first person in history to have been to the top of all the world's continents, to both poles, and to the bottom of all its oceans.

About Triton Submarines, LLC
Triton Submarines of Vero Beach, 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 members 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.

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 has 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 takes 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.