



Press release
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The NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation participates for the first time in the Science Festival 2012

Three scientists present cutting-edge research and technology in underwater communication, ocean exploration and counter-piracy

How can science help fighting piracy? How are intelligent robots and cooperative networks taking over the underwater world? What's next in ocean exploration? Three scientists from the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (STO-CMRE) will share these concept and more at Science Festival in Genoa. Based in La Spezia, the Centre will participate in the event aiming at increasing general public awareness on cutting-edge research and technology in the maritime domain.

On 31 October, at 11 o'clock, at Sala del Maggior Consiglio (Palazzo Ducale), Dr. John Potter, project leader for communications and networking in the maritime environment, will explain why we need new technologies to connect intelligent robots and submarines into underwater networks in "So you think it's easy to talk underwater? (But why would you want to?)".

On 1 November, at 11 o'clock, at Sala del Maggior Consiglio (Palazzo Ducale), Dr. Ron Kessel, senior scientist on operations research of complex systems, will present the formidable scientific challenges of counterpiracy, in "How scientists help to fight piracy".

On 2 November, at 11 o'clock, at Sala del Minor Consiglio (Palazzo Ducale), Dr. Daniele Cecchi, a CMRE glider pilot, will tell the public how underwater vehicles can fly autonomously to explore the secrets of the ocean, in "Flying the ocean".

About CMRE. Formerly NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC), the STO-CMRE (Science and Technology Organization – Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation) is located in La Spezia, Italy. The Centre focuses on research, innovation and technology in areas such as defence of maritime forces and installations against terrorism and piracy, secure networks, development of the common operational picture, the maritime component of expeditionary operations, mine countermeasures systems, non lethal protection for ports and harbours, anti-submarine warfare and marine mammal risk mitigation. CMRE operates two ships, NATO Research Vessel *Alliance*, a 93-meter 3,180-ton open-ocean research vessel, and Coastal Research Vessel *Leonardo*, a smaller ship designed for coastal operations. In addition to its laboratories the Centre is equipped with a fleet of autonomous underwater and surface vehicles and a world-class inventory of seagoing sensors.

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