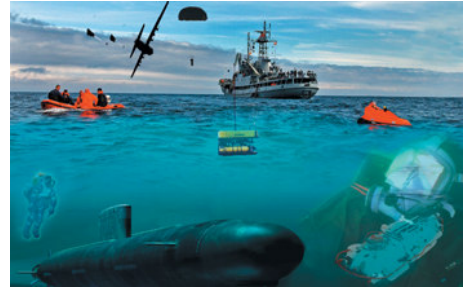


PRESS RELEASE

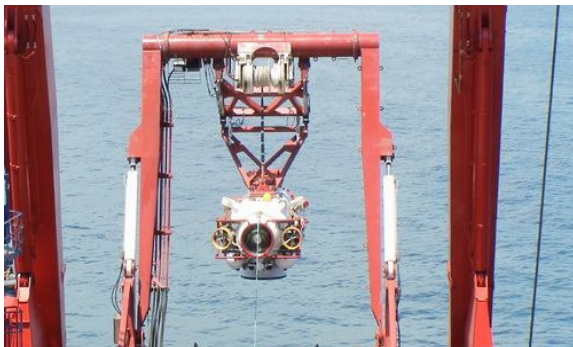


SORBET ROYAL 2005 (*More information is available at www.sorbetroyal2005.celex.net)

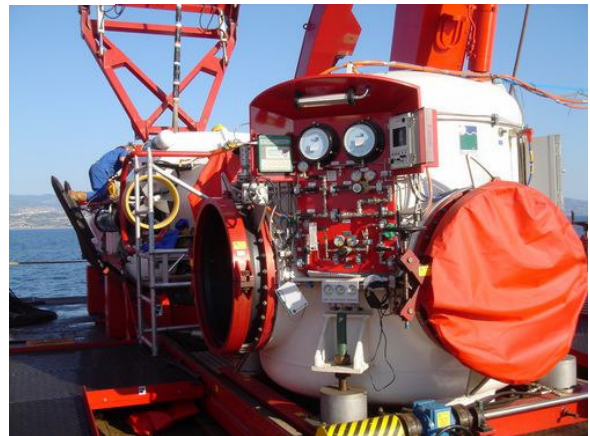
Metalcraft have recently completed a major project for the MOD replacing the Command Module, Battery Pods and Skirts for the Royal Navy's rescue Submersible LR5. Metalcraft worked with the prime contractor, James Fisher Defence from Barrow, to complete the multi million pound refit in time for the Sorbet Royal 2005* exercise in the Mediterranean off Taranto between 20th June & 1st July this year. James Fisher Defence also operate the Scorpio 45 ROV on behalf of the MOD, as part of the UK's capability along with LR5, that was recently used for rescuing the seven Russian submariners.



Sorbet Royal



LR5 Rescue Submersible being recovered after a dive. The ends of the Battery Pods & the Skirt can be seen at the sides and underneath the submersible. The Command Module is at the opposite end.



UDRC previously fabricated by Metalcraft in 2002 being prepared for action during the exercise.

Although the risk of a submarine accident is statistically low, there have been approximately 170 recorded submarine peacetime accidents in the 120 years since submarines first appeared permanently in naval forces. During the last ten years 8 accidents have been reported where lives have been lost.

In the event of a submarine accident the problems facing the rescuers are immense. The Kursk disaster in August 2000 highlighted the crucial need for international co-operation and brought about many changes within the submarine rescue community world-wide. As a result, the Sorbet Royal series of submarine escape and rescue exercises run by NATO, and held every three years in the Baltic and Mediterranean alternatively, are designed to be the most complex and demanding known.



LR5 being lowered into the water ready for its first dive on the exercise.

Now that this prestigious project has been successfully completed it will benefit both James Fisher Defence and Metalcraft, opening doors for other opportunities within the MOD & submersible markets. We already have a number of new enquiries for submersible equipment for different Navy's around the world.