

Commissioning of the New 10-m Type Autonomous Survey Boat "Jimbei"

In January 2002, a new 10-meter type autonomous survey boat "Jimbei" which belongs to the Japan Hydrographic Department was completed and commissioned into service. This name was determined through a public naming contest held in August 2001 as part of the programs to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the (JCG) Hydrographic Department. Among the 140 entries, "Jimbei" was selected.



Jimbei is a small survey vessel. Through remote-control or previously programmed commands, it can survey bottom topographies and water temperatures unmanned.

This is the third unmanned survey vessel following the remotely operated vehicle "Manbo" carried by the former Shoyo, and the autonomous survey boat "Manbo II" carried by the present Shoyo. Compared to Manbo II, Jimbei far excels in bathymetric survey and data transmission capacities.

Under ordinary circumstances, Jimbei is boarded by men to survey coastal areas. The vessel can be loaded on the large survey ship "Takuyo", for implementation of surveys in dangerous sea areas such as those having submarine volcanoes. Along with Manbo II, it will be used in surveying dangerous submarine volcanic zones, etc., around Japan.

Jimbei's main specifications:

Vessel type: 10-meter survey vessel

Length overall : 10 m

Breadth moulded: 2.8 m

Depth moulded: 1.4 m

Gross tonnage: Approx. 5 GT

Cruising speed: Approx. 9 knots

Maximum crew: 6 persons

Main survey equipment:

GPS receiver

Multi-beam Echo Sounder

Data transmission system

CTD

XBT

Magnetometer

SOgas analyzer