

D2.4: Press release at the beginning and end of the project

Press release

Program start

### **Research in Underwater Robotics at C.U.T.**

A new 2-year research project entitled: *"An autonomous underwater robotic visual inspection system for Cyprus' offshore aquaculture industry"* has started in June 2013 at the Cyprus University of Technology. This applied research project has a budget of 155.552 euro and is funded by the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation and the European Regional Development Fund.

The aim of the project is to develop an innovative service for the Cyprus' offshore aquaculture industry by automating processes related to visual inspection of the net and mooring systems of offshore aquacultures. Cyprus University of Technology has the role of the Host Organization for this project, with Partner Organizations two medium sized enterprises: Seawave Fisheries Ltd and Marine & Environmental Research Lab Ltd. The results of this research are expected to contribute to a great extent to the competitiveness and productivity levels of the aquaculture sector of Cyprus. The anticipated results will provide the capability to systematically monitor vital parameters of the aquaculture's infrastructure, so that problems are located and tackled in a timely manner to avoid loss of production capability. The research that will be carried out in this project, will result to a systematic approach to inspecting those parameters, with completeness guarantees, avoiding human factor related errors.

The Coordinator of the project is Dr. Savvas G. Loizou, Assistant Professor at Cyprus University of Technology. Participants in the research team are also Dr. D.Skarlatos, Lecturer at C.U.T, Dr. K. Kyriakopoulos, Professor at NTUA and Mr. A. Loukaidis of Marine & Environmental Research Lab. For the needs of the project two new researchers will be employed, a PhD student and a Postdoctoral fellow.