

ASI GROUP LAUNCHES NEW REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLE (ROV) FOR INSPECTION OF UNDERWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

ST. CATHARINES, ON, March 15, 2006 – ASI Group Ltd. (ASI), based in St. Catharines, ON, Canada announces the recent addition to their fleet of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) for inspection of reservoirs, dams, long tunnels and pipelines. The growing requirement to monitor and inspect aging infrastructure has led to ASI's procurement of a Seabotix **LBV300XL** ROV system that is easily transported and deployed as an affordable alternative to expensive dewatering.

Remote inspection technology eliminates structural and human risk that can be incurred in dewatered inspections of tunnels and pipelines, while reducing the cost of spillage and lost revenue incurred during lengthy shutdowns. Sonar and video data collection technology provides the capability of accurate dimensioning of voids or debris fields in these confined spaces.

The **LBV300XL** supplements ASI's already extensive fleet of specialized ROVs. It is a highly transportable ROV, easily maneuverable and performs long inspections up to 750 m/2,460 ft. The **LBV300XL** features include:

- ▶ high resolution video
- ▶ profiling sonar
- ▶ manipulator
- ▶ depth rated to 300 m/1,000 ft.
- ▶ weighs less than 13.6 kg/35 lbs.
- ▶ fits into a 40 cm/16 in. pipe
- ▶ umbilicals 250 m/520 ft. and 750 m/2,460 ft.



To augment the ROV capabilities, ASI Engineers create custom tooling packages for specialized projects. To date, these include an ultrasonic thickness probe with a rotary scrub brush, and a methodology for remote attachment of lift lines for salvage operations.

ASI's decision to acquire the **LBV300XL** was based on its proven utilization of fibre-optic technology, small vehicle profile, modular thruster configuration and the high thrust to weight capability of the ROV. These aspects have already contributed to the successful completion of several ASI projects including visual inspection of reservoirs and pump wells, pipelines, UT measurements, and salvage operations.

ASI Group was founded in 1987 as Aquatic Sciences Inc. by technical professionals committed to providing engineering, marine and ecological services to industry and utilities worldwide. The Company is widely recognized for long tunnel inspections utilizing the *ASI Mantaro*, a long tunnel inspection ROV, tethered by a sophisticated 10 km umbilical that transmits sonar and video data real-time to the surface via fibre optic telemetry. ASI has completed continuous surveys of 10 km from a single access point using the *ASI Mantaro*, including inspections of a 120 km water supply tunnel in Finland, 10 km tailrace tunnel in New Zealand and an 8 km headrace tunnel in Chile.

ASI employs a full time staff of seventy engineers, technologists and commercial divers and is headquartered in St. Catharines, ON, Canada. Branch offices are located in Sarnia, ON and Orchard Park, NY.

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