



Deep Flight I

A New Way of Exploring the Ocean

Imagine diving to an ocean depth of 3,000 feet in an “unsinkable” submersible vehicle designed for one passenger. This is just what the Maritime Museum of San Diego’s latest acquisition can do. *Deep Flight I* is the creation of Graham Hawkes, a true pioneer in underwater exploration and an imaginative and daring advocate of pushing the boundaries of human experience in the ocean depths.

The Design

Produced in the late 1990s, *Deep Flight I* was intended as the prototype for a series of small submersibles created with specific purposes. Hawkes employed state-of-the-art technology to see his vision to fruition. What made *Deep Flight I* unique? Hawkes developed an imaginative design concept, backed up by thorough

scientific research, employing the sturdiest of materials and robust life-support systems. Specifically, *Deep Flight I* was designed to fly under water, using wings and propellers



just like aircraft. *Deep Flight I* was a single-person experimental design, laying the groundwork for later models. It remains, therefore, a seminal moment in the story of human achievement in the ocean depths.

The Star Trek Connection

It’s perhaps no coincidence that *Deep Flight I* features briefly in the introductory film sequence to *Star Trek Enterprise*. As any Trekkie will tell you, the *Enterprise* and its intrepid voyagers are constantly engaging with the mysteries of deep space. Graham Hawkes has long maintained that human knowledge of the deep oceans is still in its infancy and his inventions have formed the cutting edge of exploring this strange and fascinating realm.

