

30 April 2021

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing to express my support for JCU's application to participate in the upcoming Maritime RobotX Challenge. AIMS and JCU have collaborated for many years in new and innovative technologies including hyperspectral imagery, aerial technologies, artificial intelligence and marine science.

AIMS is transforming its tropical marine monitoring program by injecting new technologies to enhance the capability and efficiency of our routine operations. Two pillars underpinning our vision are cost-effective maritime autonomy and artificial intelligence, with both being deployed in aerial, surface, and underwater observation layers. JCU is a key partner in AIMS achieving these technology pillars.

AIMS and JCU have also field-trialled many collaborative technology investigations at AIMS' [ReefWorks](#) – Australia's tropical technology marine test range, and we anticipate this facility will assist JCU in its developmental testing to support the Maritime RobotX Challenge. One of AIMS & JCU's more recent test range trials was applied marine hyperspectral imagery, which I believe may be one aspect of the upcoming Maritime RobotX Challenge.

I commend JCU on taking up the challenge to apply their skills to the Maritime RobotX Challenge, and look forward to seeing their developments used in the future to monitor and protect Australia's tropical marine estate.

Best Regards,



Melanie Olsen
Team Leader – Technology Development Engineering
Strategic Development
Australian Institute of Marine Science