

Robot sub to search seabed for MH370

An unmanned submarine is expected to be deployed in the coming days to search for wreckage on the sea floor, after acoustic signals consistent with an aircraft black box narrowed down the likely search area

BLUEFIN-21

Length: 4.93m

Speed: 4.5 knots

Weight: 750kg

Autonomy: 25 hours



Sonar buoys dropped in 600 square km area to help triangulate source of signals detected by Australian navy ship since April 5



250km
150 miles

Underwater search area

Zenith Plateau

Cuvier Plateau

RAAF Learmonth

AUSTRALIA

INDIAN OCEAN

Perth Basin



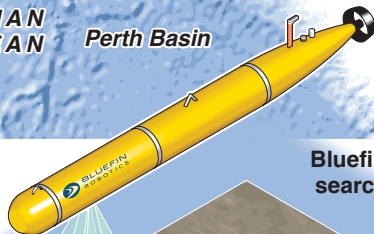
Last trickle of sunlight

Sperm whale max depth

Titanic (3,784m)

Air France 447 (3,900m)

Seabed thought to be around 4,500m deep, maximum operational capability of Bluefin-21



Bluefin-21 can search 100km per day

Track line

Bluefin-21:

Side-scanning sonar and multi-beam echo sounder can examine underwater objects in minute detail