

Astronauts to get giant new training pool

Work is underway in Cornwall, UK, to construct the deepest research pool in the world – one that will be used to train scientists and astronauts for harsh undersea and space environments



Astronauts experience weightlessness in pool by inflating spacesuit until its density is equal to that of water – neutral buoyancy

- **Retracting roof:** Opens to allow larger apparatus to be delivered

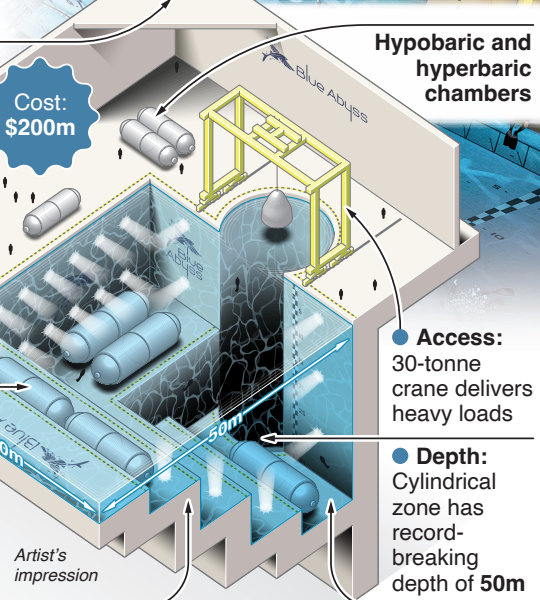
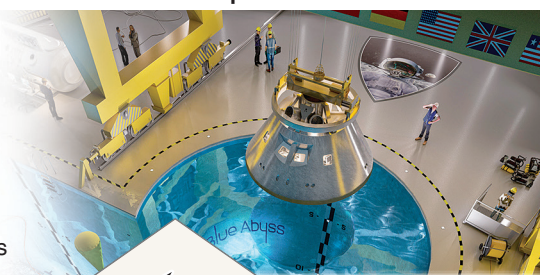
- **Lighting:** Can be adjusted to match specific environments

- **Habitation modules**



HUMAN TO SCALE

- **Pool:** 42,000m³ – same as 17 Olympic-sized swimming pools



- **Stepped design:** Different currents can be simulated at different depths

- **Conditions:** Water salinity and temperature can be adjusted to mimic real environments

Hypobaric and hyperbaric chambers

Cost: \$200m

- **Access:** 30-tonne crane delivers heavy loads

- **Depth:** Cylindrical zone has record-breaking depth of 50m

Artist's impression

● Jan 2025: NASA signs up to offer technical support and use pool for training purposes – its own neutral buoyancy pool is only 12m deep