



Project Kaisei Expedition Departs for North Pacific Gyre
Two Vessels Launch Voyages to Assess Marine Debris Impacts on Ocean and to Find Solutions

(San Francisco, July 27, 2009) -- Project Kaisei is an environmental organization established to research and develop innovative solutions to the accumulation of marine debris in convergence zones of the world's oceans. The two ships of this expedition to the North Pacific Gyre will depart on August 2, and August 4, 2009. Project Kaisei is focused on finding solutions both in terms of the cleanup and remediation of marine debris, and the education and awareness needed to stop the flow of refuse into our oceans.

The 174 foot *New Horizon*, a ship owned by Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, one of the top oceanographic institutions in the world, will depart from San Diego with members from the Project Kaisei team onboard the Scripps Environmental Accumulation of Plastic Expedition (SEAPLEX). The 150 foot *Kaisei*, the organization's flagship vessel, will depart from San Francisco on August 4, 2009 with a team of leading marine scientists and experts in marine debris capture. R/V *New Horizon* will conduct a 21-day expedition to the gyre for scientific research, whereas the *Kaisei* will travel for 30 days into the gyre for further studies, netting and capture testing, and mapping/tracking observations.

The Northern Pacific Gyre, an area of the Pacific Ocean located North East of Hawaii, contains, among other waste products, quantities of plastic which present a formidable hazard to marine life due to its abundance and, in many cases, its inability to fully degrade. Project Kaisei's immediate aims are to study the types and quantities of this prevalent pollutant in the ocean, the biological impacts that these materials have on the planet, to investigate what technologies are available to economically clean up the marine debris and if there are solutions available to convert the marine debris into fuel and/or other products.

"We're eager to get in the gyre as soon as possible," said Doug Woodring, Co-Founder and Project Director of Project Kaisei. "The sooner we see the extent of the problem, the better we can work out feasible ways to clear up the mess. But the real solution lays in assuming responsibility for the outcomes of our actions, to start using environmentally-friendly products and to start disposing of our waste responsibly on the shore."

Project Kaisei is collaborating with Scripps Institution under the umbrella of the "Ocean Recovery Alliance", a format that Project Kaisei will seek to follow with other third-party institutions or organizations in the future.

For more information, to donate, and to pre-register to follow the expedition in real-time with the 'Project Kaisei Interactive Voyage Tracker' please visit: <http://www.projectkaisei.org/>

About Project Kaisei

Project Kaisei consists of a team of innovators, scientists, environmentalists, ocean lovers, sailors, and sports enthusiasts who have come together with a common purpose. To study the North Pacific Gyre and the marine debris that has collected in this oceanic region, to determine how to capture the debris and to study the possible retrieval and processing techniques that could be potentially employed to detoxify and recycle these materials into diesel fuel.

Project Kaisei is organized under the Ocean Voyages Institute, which is a non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of the Maritime Arts and Arts and Sciences and the Ocean Environment. Ocean Voyages Institute is a "501 C 3" California Registered non-profit organization.

About Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, at UC San Diego, is one of the oldest, largest and most important centers for global science research and education in the world. The National Research Council has ranked Scripps first in faculty quality among oceanography programs nationwide. Now in its second century of discovery, the scientific scope of the institution has grown to include biological, physical, chemical, geological, geophysical and atmospheric studies of the earth as a system. Hundreds of research programs covering a wide range of scientific areas are under way today in 65 countries. The institution has a staff of about 1,300, and annual expenditures of approximately \$155 million from federal, state and private sources. Scripps operates one of the largest U.S. academic fleets with four oceanographic research ships and one research platform for worldwide exploration. Scripps Institution of Oceanography: scripps.ucsd.edu.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Camelia C. Checeanu
Camelia.checeanu@fleishman.com
Office: 415 318 4101
Cell: 949 413 6695
Fleishman-Hillard

Pete Hillan
pete.hillan@fleishman.com
Office: 415 318 4111
Fleishman-Hillard

Ryan Yerky
ryan@projectkaisei.org
Office: (415) 332-4681
Cell: (805) 405-6407
Ocean Voyages Institute

###