

Newport

Navy, URI in sea technology venture

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SOUTH KINGSTOWN — The Newport-based Naval Undersea Warfare Center has awarded the University of Rhode Island a contract to establish a Center of Excellence in Undersea Technology.

“The center will foster advancement of undersea technologies to meet the Navy’s needs and identify civilian applications for emerging technologies,” Donald Aker, technical operations manager at the Warfare Center, said in a statement.

Kate Moran, associate dean for research and administration at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, and Malcolm L. Spaulding, a URI professor of ocean engineering, will head the center. Representatives from the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, the Warfare Center, the university and private industry will make up an advisory board.

Private companies, URI and other schools will be able to combine their research and development efforts at the center, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

The Navy is providing URI \$150,000 to help with the development of the center and its first project — designing and building a wireless undersea communications network that would link submarines, sensors, and other military platforms to more efficiently evaluate and process data.

“This innovative partnership will enable us to tap the expertise at both NUWC and URI to develop cutting-edge marine and defense technologies,” Governor Carcieri said in a statement.