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Barron

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[54] **APPARATUS FOR INTERCONNECTING AN UNDERWATER VEHICLE AND A FREE FLOATING COMMUNICATIONS POD**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy**, Washington, D.C.

Apparatus for interconnecting an unmanned underwater vehicle and a free-floating communications pod includes a communications cable depending from the pod and extending to a buoy of less buoyancy than the pod, such that the cable carries communication signals between the pod and the buoy and extends generally vertically in a column of water between the pod and the buoy, the buoy being in communication with a distal station. The apparatus further includes a mobile unmanned underwater vehicle having therein guidance means for directing the vehicle to the cable, the vehicle being in communication with a control vessel, connector means mounted in a nose portion of the vehicle and adapted to intercept the cable, the connector means being further adapted to permit the cable to slide there-through as the vehicle continues movement after the intercept of the cable, and complementary alignment means on the vehicle and the pod adapted to cause the vehicle to engage the pod in a preselected orientation and azimuth, with the communication components of the UUV and pod in alignment, whereby to place the control vessel in communication with the distal station.

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H04B 13/02**

[52] U.S. Cl. **340/850; 114/312; 114/328; 114/21.1**

[58] Field of Search **340/850; 114/312, 114/328, 21.1**

[56] **References Cited**

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18 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

