

Tennessee Reef Welcomes Vanguard Underwater Research Habitat

MARATHON, Fla. — July 7, 2026

DEEP announced the deployment of Vanguard, a modern underwater research facility designed to advance marine science, medical research, and astronaut training. Deployed in May 2026 on Tennessee Reef in the Florida Keys, Vanguard allows scientists to live underwater for extended periods, study marine life, conduct research experiments, and engage in aquanaut excursions. The company's shoreside facility is located in Marathon, Fla.

The habitat was installed on a sandy site reported to lack coral and other sensitive marine life, making it well suited for marine research while minimizing environmental impact.

Norman Smith, Chief Technology Officer at DEEP, said: *"Tennessee Reef provides Vanguard with a home in one of the world's most important marine environments. We couldn't be more excited to begin this next chapter. Seeing Vanguard deployed and ready to host aquanauts underwater will mark the start of a continuous human presence on the seafloor, in service of science, learning, and ocean stewardship."*

Located at a depth of 17 meters, the facility is constructed of steel and features acrylic windows. A foundation plate and tethered buoy support the habitat, while the nearby shoreside facility houses medical equipment and operational support to help ensure the safety of research teams during missions and underwater excursions.

About DEEP

DEEP is an ocean technology company developing subsea habitats and systems that support long-term human presence underwater for scientific research, exploration, and innovation. Learn more at DEEP's website or follow @deepengineered on social media.

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Note: This press release was written as a class assignment based on information from DEEP's official newsroom. The quotation from Norman Smith and portions of the company description are taken from DEEP's official press materials

Source: DEEP Newsroom, "Florida Keys Selected for Vanguard Deployment."

<https://www.deep.com/article/florida-keys-selected-for-vanguard-subsea-habitat-deployment>