

## CASE STUDY

# AMIkids Marine Institute and VideoRay Partner to Provide Robotics Education



### AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute is a

nonprofit organization that provides marine-focused education in Florida. This STEM high school program provides pathways for students with interests in marine and environmental careers in military, oceanography, marine biology and recreational fields.



### Summary

AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute was searching for partners to provide training and certification programs. VideoRay adapted to the AMIkids curriculum to offer online courses, along with real-time half-day classes combined with a half-day in-water/hands-on training.



### Challenge

Ron Boyce, executive director of AMIkids-PCMI, explains the biggest challenge is getting youth interested in STEM and future career paths. After government funding for programs was cut, the institute looked to private companies for support.

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## Solution

Mission Specialist underwater robotic systems were added to the AMIkids curriculum, with plans to include more VideoRay camps in the future based on the success of the program. In addition, the pitching capability of these systems delivers a powerful solution to the challenges found with offshore inspections in rough seas.



**This partnership with VideoRay is just the beginning. The students are using the latest underwater robotics technology and realizing that companies are paying workers a good salary to operate the same systems the kids are using in our program.**

— Ron Boyce, Executive Director,  
AMIkids Panama City Marine Institute



## Results

The AMIkids students learned that underwater robotics and STEM programs are fun and valuable for future career paths. The program has grown to offer training at Florida State University where a new crime scene course with three-day underwater robotics training is drawing much interest.

Ron and his team are now working with professionals in the offshore oil & gas industry and the Merchant Marines. The energy companies need underwater robotics training, as do many local fire departments and sheriff's offices. They are also adding a VideoRay Mission Specialist Defender underwater robotic system and looking at opportunities with NASA.

