



A biweekly newsletter on AI and autonomy developments in Russia

CNA Russia Studies Program

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE 42

- *Kommersant* reported on June 20 that Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations (abbreviated as MChS) has requested to deploy the Safe City systems to several Russian regions bordering Ukraine, where the Russian government has noted an increased risk of terrorist attacks.
- Russian military commentators are discussing the war in Ukraine on Telegram apps, and the Russian defense-industrial enterprises are working on unmanned ground and underwater vehicles.
- Yandex has released its latest language AI algorithm for public access. The natural language processing system, "YaLM," which is trained on 100 billion parameters, is the world's largest GPT-like neural network freely available to researchers and the wider public in English.
- Sberbank and Far Eastern Federal University are working together to establish "The Far Eastern Center for the Study of Legal and Ethical Aspects of AI and Digital Technologies" to analyze and monitor regulation of ethics in AI in the Asia-Pacific.
- Skoltech rector Alexander Kuleshov recently took part in a panel on "Artificial Intelligence: Human Resources, Technologies, Prospects." In discussing further development of the field, Kuleshov noted that there are no areas of knowledge in which artificial intelligence could not lead to serious results.

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SPOTLIGHT

A NEW UNDERWATER DRONE FOR INSPECTING DANGEROUS SITES WILL BE DEVELOPED IN RUSSIA

In an interview given to Russia's daily *RIA Novosti*, Okeanos Research and Production Enterprise, which is one of Russia's main developers of unmanned and autonomous underwater vehicles, said that in three to four years, the company will launch mass production of an underwater glider drone for surveying radiation-hazardous objects, built for the Ministry of Emergency Situations. According to the developer, the first underwater drone prototypes were already tested during the Ministry of Emergency Situations exercises.

Okeanos notes that this underwater vehicle moves with the help of a wing system. Its torpedo-shaped body fills its ballast tank and is thus submerged in water. The wings prevent it from sinking and convert the vertical movement into a horizontal one. When the vehicle reaches a certain depth, the ballast tank is emptied and it rises—again not vertically, but at an angle. Okeanos can program it so that it makes five to 10 dives, and on one of the dives it can go to the surface to transmit the information. RIA notes that the Ministry of Emergency Situations has monitored potentially dangerous underwater objects for more than a decade, including radiation facilities in the Kara Sea (i.e., flooded reactor compartments and solid radioactive waste), as well as chemical weapons in the Baltic.

Okeanos noted that manned expeditions are usually launched to monitor these objects, but only once or twice a year; they are expensive to organize, and can be done only over a short period of time. In contrast, their underwater robot can stay submerged for at least a month. The glider can also conduct environmental surveys and can be used to search for minerals and hydrocarbons.

Source: "A new underwater drone for inspecting dangerous objects will be developed in Russia" [В России появится подводный беспилотник для обследования опасных объектов], RIA.ru, June 24, 2022, <https://ria.ru/20220624/bespilotnik-1797722040.html>.