

Y is for Yellow Submarine

One of the largest objects in the collection is this One Man OSEL (Offshore Systems Engineering Ltd) Mantis submersible. The submersible joined the collection in 2009 as its previous home at the sea life centre was given over to another ocean going being – penguins. A submersible is different to a submarine in that it does not operate fully by itself. Rather it is transported by another vessel to an area and then launched. Designed over thirty years ago by Graham Hawkes and built by his Norfolk based company. On each production drawing was written "Take care – a man's life depends on you".

Its manipulators for moving objects outside the craft were unique at the time for their use of pressurized seawater. This reduced the possibility of a hydraulic leak as the replacement reservoir was all around the craft.

In 1981 this type of craft appeared in the James Bond film 'For your eyes only' and was piloted by the inventor himself.

Would you like to go in a submarine? What would you go and see?

Can you make your own museum of 'Y' objects from around your home?



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