First Descent Solutions
a division of
First Flight ROV

“We are based in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina; the location of Orville and Wilbur Wright’s first historic flight. They took the world to new heights; at FDS, we take ROV technology to new depths.”

2016 Staff (pictured left to right)

- Sam Weybright – CEO, Pilot, Senior, 3rd year with company
- Ricky Carroll – CFO, Poolside manager, Senior, 3rd year with company
- John Lawson – Payload tool specialist, Junior, 1st year with company
- Mac McClary – Electrical specialist, Sophomore, 1st year with company
- Luke Potter – Construction manager, Junior, 3rd year with company

History of FDS
Here at First Descent Solutions, we stand by our previous successes and reputation as former Ranger Class International Award Winner.

- 2014 International Competition 9th overall
- 2011 International Competition 4th overall
- **2010 International Competition 1st overall**
- 2010 International Competition Engineering Award
- 2008/2009 International Competition 6th overall
- 2008 International Competition Top Engineer Award

New For 2016!

Safety Features

- All thrusters have become more efficient with well-fitting kort nozzles that are clearly marked with caution signs.
- Separate shielded lines for cameras ensures superb video quality.
- Manipulator has been integrated into the machine’s frame to minimize size and danger of catching on edges.

Special Features

- FDS-2016 has been designed to be faster, lighter, and more versatile while keeping the price low.
- 300° field of view with fish-eye cameras facing forwards and back.
- Smaller and more flexible tether makes maneuvering more fluid.
- ROV retail price only $1750: $520 in reused parts, $1230 in new parts.

More than 200 man hours to build ROV

76 miles to Old Dominion University 1,404 miles to the Neutral Buoyancy Lab