# Decatur Chapter #4 Newseyletter

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# Vietnamese Mega-Conglomerate Vingroup Launches South China Sea Tourism with New Submarine

I wrote about this mini-sub in a previous Newseyletter. At the time I wondered what would happen to this amazing craft. She will start entertaining tourists under the name of VINPEARL



From Forbes May 22, 2020

Vietnam's mega-conglomerate, Vingroup, announced earlier this month that it bought a submarine from Florida-based manufacturer Triton Submarines as a tourist ride attraction. The DeepView 24 submarine will operate off Hon Tre Island in the South China Sea and can board up to 24 passengers. The submarine's panoramic windows are ideal for sea viewing. Vingroup says. It did not reveal ticket prices for the submarine rides, but tourist submarines in other countries charge about \$100 to \$150 per person-close to a month's minimum wage in parts of Vietnam. Vingroup, chaired by Vietnam's richest man Pham Nhat Vuong, operates shopping malls, convenience stores, an automaker and a smartphone brand. It reported 2018 revenue of 122 trillion dong (about \$5 billion) and profits of 6.2 trillion dong. The conglomerate's Vinpearl chain of resorts covers 43 properties with 17,000 rooms and villas. The submarine will operate near one of the resorts.

## Unmanned Research Vessel 'Mayflower' Launched in England



One of the world's first fully autonomous vessels has been launched and is ready to traverse the world's oceans in order to gather vital data to help scientific research on critical issues impacting the marine environment. Technology giant IMB announced the launching of the Mayflower Autonomous Ship on Wednesday. The vessel was developed along with the ocean research non-profit ProMare. After two years of design, construction and training of its Al models, the new fully-autonomous trimaran has now been lifted into the waters off the coast of Plymouth, England ahead of its official launch today (9-17-20).

## Late pictorial requests

