CLAIMS:

1. An underwater manipulator arm robot comprising:

a plurality of links that are connected to one another by joint modules for generating a flexural motion of the robot, wherein the joint modules actively drive movement of the links relative to one another and are actuated by one or more actuators;

multiple thrust devices located at different points along the length of the robot for applying thrust to the robot for propulsion and optionally for guidance; and

at least one tool, or at least one connection point for a tool, attached to the robot;

wherein the flexural motion and/or thrust devices enable movement of the robot and control of the orientation and/or location of the tool.

2. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thrust devices comprise a thrust device for applying lateral thrust and/or a thrust device for applying longitudinal thrust.

3. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in claim 2 comprising a thrust device for applying lateral thrust, this thrust device being a thrust module with one or more thrusters.

4. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in claim 3, wherein the thrust module comprises thrusters oriented in two perpendicular directions.

5. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed any preceding claim, comprising a thrust device with a controllable direction of thrust.

6. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a thrust device for applying a longitudinal thrust.

7. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the thrust devices are capable of moving the robot in translation and/or rotating the robot in roll, pitch and/or yaw.

8. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the flexural motion generated by the joint modules is an undulating motion capable of propelling the robot.

9. An underwater manipulator arm robot as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the robot comprises at least three links joined by joint modules allowing for articulated motion.