

Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG), held on 5th November 2004 in Barcelona, Spain.

Attending: Jacques Binot, Jean-Xavier Castrec, Juanjo Danobeitia, Thomas Mueller, Marieke Rietveld, Uli Wolf

1 Approval of minutes and actions arising

- 1.1 A number of revisions were suggested for the minutes and the Secretary agreed to make the amendments before publishing the minutes on the OFEG website (**Action: Webb**)
- 1.2 The Group noted that under Action 3.2 it had been agreed that a letter would be written to the BMBF expressing OFEG's concern that German cruises are not providing an equivalent level of service to that provided by other partners and suggesting that financial provision be made to cover some technician support costs. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a letter should not be sent and that Mueller and Wolf would talk with BMBF about this matter. (**Action: Mueller/Wolf**)
- 1.3 The Group noted that the deployment information on the OFEG fleet in 2006 had been announced to the seagoing communities in France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. It was agreed that the Group would continue to release this announcement on an annual basis (after OFEG's Spring meeting) and that the revision of the deployment information should be on the agenda for all future meetings. (**Action: Webb**)

2 Up-date of the OFEG activity and barter balance documentation, and feedback on barter cruises

The Group briefly provided feedback on recent barter cruises and no major issues were identified. The Group outlined what revisions needed to be made to the barter exchange data document and the barter bank balances document, and it was agreed that revised drafts of these documents would be circulated after the meeting. It was also agreed that the Group would review each Autumn the barter exchange graphs before they are placed on the OFEG website. (**Action: Webb**)

3 Up-date on the deployment of OFEG ships

The Group noted the anticipated positioning of the OFEG fleet in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and it was agreed that a draft announcement for 2007 (that was based on this information) should be developed for OFEG's Spring 2005 meeting. (**Action: Webb**)

It was noted that the provisional plans for the *L'Atalante* in 2006 would require the ship to do a considerable amount of passage time as it circumnavigated Africa. Following discussion it was agreed that Ifremer and NERC would consider an option that would reduce the *L'Atalante*'s passage time by moving a *ca.*50-day Monsoon cruise in the Gulf of Guinea on to the *RRS Discovery*. This exchange would then allow for a *ca.*50-day ROV cruise for

NERC in the summer of 2006 to be programmed on the *L'Atalante*. It was agreed that Ifremer would provide NERC with further information on the Monsoon cruise following the meeting. (**Action: Castrec**)

- 3.3 It was also noted that BMBF and NERC were examining the possibility of using the *Poseidon* to mount a mooring redeployment cruise for NERC at short notice to replace a mooring that had just been lost to trawling.

4 Up-dating the OFEG booklet

- 4.1 The Group discussed the content of the booklet and a few minor revisions were agreed.
- 4.2 The number of barter points against facilities in the booklet were considered and it was agreed that the *Poseidon* was over priced given her size and that there was a case for reducing her cost down to 6-points. It was agreed that this change would be implemented from January 1st 2005. It was also agreed that the *Pourquoi pas?* would be introduced to the barter points table at a cost of 12 points and the German ROV would also be included in the table at a cost of 4 points (inclusive of technician support).

5 Fleet up-date

- 5.1 The Group noted that it was thought likely that one large ship would be constructed to replace the *Sonne* and the *Poseidon*.

6 Dates and venues of future meetings

- 6.1 The Group noted the following dates and venues for its future meetings: 18 and 19 April 2005 in Saint- Nazaire, France; Friday 5th November 2005, Kiel, Germany; and Spring 2006 in the Netherlands.

Action Sheet arising from OFEG meeting on the 5th November 2004

Action 1.1: Approved OFEG minutes to go on the WWW [**Webb**]

Action 1.2: Talk with BMBF about OFEG's concerns over an equivalent level of service not being provided on German barter cruises [**Mueller/Wolf**]

Action 1.3: Review of OFEG deployment information to be an agenda at all OFEG meetings [**Webb**]

Action 2.1: Review of barter activity data and graphs to be a standing item on OFEG's Autumn meeting agenda [**Webb**]

Action 3.1: Develop draft announcement on 2007 OFEG ship-time [**Webb**]

Action 3.2: Ifremer to provide NERC with information on the Monsoon cruise [**Castrec**]