

Report of the fourteenth meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG), held on the 18th and 19th April 2005 in St. Nazaire, France

Attending: Jacques Binot, Jean-Xavier Castrec, Colin Day, Juanjo Danebeitia, Andy Louch, Thomas Mueller, Marieke Rietveld, Mike Webb, Uli Wolf

Observer: Linda Goad

1 Welcome and approval of minutes

- 1.1 The Group welcomed Linda Goad (representing the USA's National Science Foundation) to the meeting.
- 1.2 After a brief discussion the minutes of the 13th meeting of OFEG were approved for publication on the WWW. It was noted that there was nothing to report on Action 1.2 ("Talk with BMBF about OFEG's concerns over an equivalent level of service not being provided on German barter cruises") and that all other actions would be covered later in the agenda. **(Action: Webb)**

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

The Group provided feedback on recent barter cruises and no major issues were identified. It was agreed that 'clearance issues' should be discussed under this agenda item at all future meetings. The Group advised what revisions were needed to up-date the "OFEG barter exchange data" document and agreement was reached on the barter bank balances following recent cruises. **(Action: Webb)**

3 Up-date on the deployment of OFEG ships

Information on the anticipated positioning on the ships within the OFEG fleet in 2005, 2006 and 2007 was presented and the Group agreed on the "OFEG ship deployment information for 2007" announcement for the WWW. It was noted that this announcement would be revised at each OFEG meeting before going up on the WWW. **(Action: Webb)**

4 Barter programming opportunities

- 4.1 In light of the ship deployment information, the Group discussed at length what barter opportunities existed for OFEG members in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Two new barters were identified for 2005. In addition, ten possible barter were identified in 2006, and five in 2007 (see **Annex I** for more detailed information).

5 Up-dating the OFEG booklet

- 5.1 The Group discussed the content of the booklet and a few minor revisions were approved. It was agreed that barter graphs and barter data should be added as an Annex to the barter booklet and that the revised booklet should go on the WWW. (**Action: Webb**)

6 Report from each country of fleet/major equipment changes

- 6.1 The Group noted that the *RV Poseidon* may be replaced by the *RV Gauss*, which at 69 metres in length is a slightly longer vessel than the *RV Poseidon*. It was also noted that *RV Pelagia* is having a multibeam echo sounder fitted and that NIOZ are considering procuring in the next year a ROV that is capable of operating to ca1500m water depth.

7 Any other business

- 7.1 Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the telephone numbers of all OFEG members should be added to the agenda paper. (**Action: Webb**)

Action Sheet arising from OFEG meeting on the 18th and 19th April 2005

- Action 1.2: Approved OFEG minutes to go on WWW [**Webb**]
- Action 2.1: Add 'clearance issues' to future barter report agenda item [**Webb**]
- Action 3.1: Deployment announcement for the OFEG's ships to go on WWW [**Webb**]
- Action 5.1: Published revised booklet on the WWW [**Webb**]
- Action 7.1: Add the telephone numbers of all OFEG members to the meeting agenda paper [**Webb**]

Annex I: Barter bids for 2005, 2006, and 2007

BIDS FOR 2005

1. UK requires 2-days ship-time for moorings recovery off the Canaries using Poseidon
2. France requires 2-days ship-time in the S Atlantic (15S, 25W) to recovery, and possibly drag for, moorings.

BIDS FOR 2006

1. The Netherlands requires 21 days ship-time in the Mozambique Channel – preferably in the 2nd half 2006 – for a mooring, CTD, and piston coring cruise. Discovery required.
2. The Netherlands requires 5-days ship-time in the Irminger Sea – preferably in late summer 2006 – for support of the LOCO moorings. (Discovery/Poseidon???)
3. The Netherlands requires 2-days ship-time in the Canary Basin to recovery 'lost' mooring. ROV may be required.
4. Germany require 3-days in the Vema Channel, S. Atlantic on JCR whilst on passage to the Falklands – preference for late 2006
5. Germany requires 3-days in the Irminger Sea in the summer to turnaround the ANIMATE mooring. Discovery possible.

6. The UK requires 22 days in the Celtic Sea – preferably in April-September. Possibly using Pelagia
7. The UK requires access to 40-50 days on a large dynamical positioned ship for deployment of the ROV off Portugal. Preference for the summer
8. France requires a 30-day cruise from Portugal – Greenland. Preference for summer 2006.
9. France requires 30-days ship-time off Sumatra. Preference Jan-April/Sept–Dec. Cruise will use seismics, OBS, and multibeam. (Sonne???)
10. France requires 22-days in Eastern Mediterranean, off Egypt – preference for summer – for physical oceanography (Poseidon???)

BIDS FOR 2007

1. The UK requires 35-days ship-time in Eastern Pacific (5-days steaming from Panama) for an ROV cruise (any ship)
2. Germany requires 20-days ship-time in eastern Indian Ocean, near Maldives. Preference for September (Pelagia???)
3. France requires 12-days ship-time in the Gulf of Aden. Preferably before June (to avoid monsoon). (Meteor?)
4. France require 30-days off Reunion for a multibeam, quick seismics, and coring cruise (Pelagia/James Cook???)
5. France requires 30-days in the Gulf of Aden for a multibeam and magnetometer cruise. Preferably in June. (Meteor???)