

Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG), held on the 29th and 30th September 2005 in Warnemuende, Germany

Attending: Jacques Binot, Jean-Xavier Castrec, Juanjo Danobeitia, Colin Day, Thomas Mueller, Marieke Rietveld, Mike Webb (Chair), Uli Wolf

1 Welcome and approval of minutes

- 1.1 After a brief discussion the minutes of the 14th meeting of OFEG were approved for publication on the WWW. It was noted that clearance issues had been added as a standing agenda item and that contact details for members would be up-dated at every meeting. It was also noted that the revised OFEG ship deployment announcement would be published on the WWW shortly after each meeting.

2 Feedback on barter cruises in 2005 and any clearance issues

Feedback was provided on recent barter cruises. The only major issue that was raised was over the difficulty that NERC had experienced gaining diplomatic clearances for work in the Mozambique Channel.

3 Up-date on the 2005 and 2006 cruise programmes and new barter opportunities

Reports were provided on members' cruise programmes and a number of barter opportunities were identified. These included an intervention using Poseidon to recovery a drifting RAPID mooring for NERC near the Canaries and an intervention by the Pelagia to recovery two NERC moorings in the Faeroe channel whilst the ship was on passage back to NIOZ. No major new barter cruises were identified.

4 Up-date of the OFEG activity document and barter balances

- 4.1 The Group discussed all of the recent barter cruises and agreement was reached by members on changes to the barter points balances in the barter bank document, and on the revised data for the OFEG activity document.

5 Revision of the OFEG ship deployment information for 2007

- 5.1 Following a discussion of the anticipated movement of OFEG ships in 2007 and 2008, agreement was reached on a revised announcement for OFEG ship deployments, which would be publicized after the meeting by members [**Action: All**]

6 Review of barter exchange graphs

- 6.1 The Group reviewed the graphs and requested that the projected barter exchange data for future years should be included in the next version of the graphs that go on the WWW. [**Action: Webb**]

7 Report on fleet and major equipment changes

7.1 The Group was informed that the option of replacing the Poseidon, which is nearing the end of its scientifically useful life, with the Gauss, which is *ca.*20-years old, is still being considered. An up-date was provided on the new Spanish multidisciplinary research ship, which is to be launched in early 2006, and on the Pourquoi Pas?, which is currently undergoing sea trials. An up-date was also provided on the build of the James Cook, which is to be delivered in the autumn of 2006, and on the development of the case for support for the replacement of the Discovery. The Group was informed that there is no plan in place at this time to replace the Sonne.

8 Any other business

8.1 The Group briefly discussed the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Group's trilateral arrangement and it was suggested that the Group should consider issuing a press release and producing a small brochures to publicize the achievements of the trilateral arrangement. It was agreed that members would consider this matter, and decide at the next meeting what action to take. [**Action: All**]

8.2 The Group reviewed the new web pages that had been developed for the NIOZ marine facilities and it was felt that a common format for WWW pages would be a positive step forward toward the formation of a 'virtual' OFEG equipment pool. The Group considered the NIOZ equipment pool WWW pages to be excellent and it was suggested that the equipment pools managed at IFM-GEOMAR (Kiel, Germany) and UKORS (Southampton, UK) could consider using a similar format. The Group decided that an item on the WWW should be added to the agenda of its autumn meetings. [**Action: Webb**]

8.3 It was agreed that all of the revised OFEG documents would be circulated to members following the meeting [**Action: Webb**]

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

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

Action 5.1: Members to publicize revised deployment announcement for the OFEG ships [**All**]

Action 6.1: Revise barter exchange graphs to include projected barter exchange data [**Webb**]

Action 8.1: Members to consider what the Group might do on the 10th anniversary of the trilateral arrangement [**All**]

Action 8.2: Add a WWW item to the agenda of OFEG's autumn meetings [**Webb**]

Action 8.3: Circulate revised OFEG documents to members [**Webb**]
