

# MINUTES OFEG-TEC 2008 TEXEL

2<sup>nd</sup> Ocean Facilities Exchange Group – Technical (OFEG-TEC) meeting 2008  
12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## Attendees:

NERC: Colin Day, Ian Rouse, Jez Evans  
NIOZ: Marck Smit, Jack Schilling, Ruud Groenewegen, Theo Hillebrand  
IFREMER: Olivier Lefort, Marc Nokin  
GENAVIR: Hubert Lossouarn  
IFM-GEOMAR: Thomas Mueller, Friedrich Abegg  
MARUM: Gerrit Meinecke  
CSIC: Pablo Rodriguez, Joel Sans  
IMR : Einar Osland, Hans Petter Knudsen

## Outstanding actions from the 2007 OFEG-TECH meeting:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Contact OFEG-TECH participants for outstanding details of seismic equipment available for the OFEG barter, and enter information onto the web site.	Colin Day

## Actions from the October 2008 OFEG-TECH meeting:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
CSIC to register OFEG-TECH members on the web forum and OFEG-TECH members to test the system out!	CSIC/All
Colin/Sally to get 2008 presentations and minutes uploaded onto the web site	Colin
OFEG-TECH members inform group if training berths are available on their ships	All
NERC & MERUM to set up ROV meeting at MARUM	NERC/ MARUM
Update on synthetic coring ropes at 2009 meeting	NIOZ/IMR
Set up coring meeting with NERC/NIOZ/IFREMER	NERC/NIOZ/IF REMER

### **Minutes/actions from 2007 meeting:**

Minutes discussed and agreed.

Presentations and discussions took place on the following issues:

CSIC:	Sensor calibration / 'in house' ship data management system
IMR:	Fibre optic cables / deep sea coring systems
NIOZ:	Fibre optic cable development / deep sea mooring design
NERC:	ROV, AUV & towed vehicle capability
IFREMER:	Data acquisition/IFREMER software portfolio, Eurofleet
CSIC / NERC:	Coring operations: Capability and overview
Germany:	Presentation on ROV/AUV/JAGO projects

### **Comments and observations**

#### **CSIC web forum**

CSIC presented and discussed their web based information exchange forum. During discussion views were mixed as to the benefits of web based information forums with email being identified as a suitable medium.

It was suggested that members should register with the system and try the system out and assess its effectiveness and discuss at the next meeting

Action

#### **Working groups from 2007 meeting**

The three proposed working were:

- *Calibration working group:*

This group was to generate information and data on the existing OFEG member sensor calibration capabilities and requirements, with a view to assessing potential for collaboration. The output from this working group was that most members of OFEG-TECH saw limited scope for collaborating on general sensor calibration as their sensors were either being completed in house or send to companies such as Seabird for calibration.

- *CTD cables fibre optic capabilities; necessary or not?*

During the meeting it was noted there are differing views of the necessity/requirement for fibre optic CTD cables. This working group was asked to determine which OFEG organisations use fibre optic CTD cables, what equipment this capability is used for, and which equipment manufacturers plan to provide sensors requiring fibre optic capability in the future. The output was that there are no sensors requiring fibre optic cables in general use on CTD sensor frames, further discussion with a number of manufactures suggested there is limited scope for this capability in the short to medium term.

- *Ship borne software/data acquisition/processing; where are we? Where do we want to be? What are the possibilities for standardization and collaboration?*

This broad topic has direct relevance to all OFEG members; the overview of this working group was to assess the current position of ship borne scientific software, overall future direction and the potential for collaboration. It was determined that although this is an important topic the inclusion of this area as a main theme for the EUROFLEETS working groups suggested it should be left to this group rather than duplicating work so no further action was taken on this topic.

The overview on whether further working groups should be set up as standing agenda items for OFEG-TECH was discussed and it was agreed not to. It specific items of interest are flagged by the meetings then working groups can be set up as required.

### **Technician exchange**

Discussion took place regarding the interest and viability of identifying spare berths on OFEG ships to allow for technician exchange between organisations for training and to gain experience. Although in general this was seen as a positive idea it was widely considered that most staff are too busy to have time available to carry out extra cruises on OFEG ships for training. It was left that if opportunity was to arise for spare berths on science cruises or if any berths were available on trials cruises offer of berths could be made via the OFEG-TECH contacts.

Action

### **ROV operations & collaborations**

NERC and Germany presented on their ROV and deep towed vehicle operations and capabilities. A range of discussions took place regarding the potential for information exchange, sharing experience and technical staff and opportunities for interoperability of equipment and vehicles. It was suggested to set up a meeting at MARUM to exchange information and ideas.

Action

### **Coring synthetic cables**

NIOZ presented and discussed their synthetic coring rope replacement trials and the problems with the design that lead to its failure during the trials. NIOZ planned to identify a new design and progress with the replacement. IMR also discussed their requirement and intent to purchase a synthetic cable.

Discussions took place around the area of a common requirement for synthetic coring/conducting/fibre optic cables and the potential to collaborate on a common design.

It was noted that NERC would be interested in how the replacements were progressing as this is also a requirement for NERC in the near future.

NIOZ and IMR will update OFEG-TECH at the next meeting.

Action

### **Coring operations, specifications & interoperability**

NERC and CSIC presented on their coring capability and operations. A discussion took place around the existing project to integrate the NERC 'NIOZ' corer onto the RV Sonne for the February 2009 barter cruise. The discussion moved to the area of generating a generic specification so each members coring equipment could be integrated onto each others ships but no further action was planned.

It was suggested that a meeting could be set up between NERC/NIOZ/IFREMER in Jan 09 to discuss common issues.

A trials cruise is planned on the RRS James Cook in 2009 and it was discussed if any OFEG-TECH members would be interested in joining.