

**Report of the twentieth meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG), held at  
IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel, Germany on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**Attending:** Jean-Xavier Castrec, Juanjo Danobeitia, Colin Day, Linda Goad, Terje Hindenes, Thomas Mueller, Marieke Rietveld, Mark Smits, Barbara Tanner, Mike Webb (Chairman)

**Observers:** Klaus Brockel, Andreas Krell, Saad el-Naggar

**Apologies:** Jacques Binot, Per Nieuwejaar

**1 Approval of minutes and matters arising**

The minutes from the last meeting were confirmed. The Group approved the draft OFEG position statement on the OFWG Report's recommendations, and it was agreed that this statement should be posted on the OFEG website. The draft OFEG roadmap for ship replacements was considered and it was decided that it should be developed further before going on the OFEG website. [**Action: Rietveld**] The Group confirmed that the Statement of Requirements (SOR) for new ships should be shared with OFEG members so that there is an opportunity to improve the interoperability of the OFEG fleet. It was agreed that the SOR for the Discovery replacement would be sent to members by NERC. [**Action: Day**]

The Group was given a brief presentation on the new OFEG website. It was noted that there were a number of immediate changes that were required to the website before it went 'live' and all members agreed to forward their proposed changes to the website immediately after the meeting. The Group welcomed the development of the new website. It was recognised that considerable progress had been made with the website and that there was now a need for members to commit a limited level of resource to the further develop the website. [**Action: All**].

Following discussions it was agreed that there was a need on the new website to manage the expectations of community and so carefully defined descriptions of the capabilities of OFEG ships were needed for the website. It was agreed that the one-page platform description for *RV Poseidon*, which is designed to provide a brief overview of its capabilities for scientists, was very effective and that members should completed similar overviews for all of the OFEG ship based on this description. [**Action: Mueller** – to share the *RV Poseidon* one-page description with members; **Action: All** – to complete descriptions for their ships]

**2 Feedback on barter cruises in 2008 and any clearance issues**

2.1 Feedback was provided on recent barter cruises and a number of minor diplomatic clearance issues were discussed.

**3 Up-date on the 2008 and 2009 cruise programmes and new barter opportunities**

3.1 All members provided a brief outline of their cruise programme plans for 2008 and 2009, and a number of barter opportunities were identified. It was agreed that all members would provide their revised bids for barter cruises by email for inclusion in the barter bids document. [**Action: All**]

3.2 Some concerns were raised over the level of support that will be provided on barter cruises programmed on German ships. It was agreed that Barbara Tanner would contact BMBF to express OFEG partners concerns over the lack of support for technician and equipment support for barter cruises on German ships, and secure a response from BMBF by the next OFEG meeting. [**Action: Tanner**]

#### **4 Fleet and major marine facilities changes and proposed procurements**

- 4.1 A brief presentation was provided on the proposed new 'global-class' Norwegian icebreaker, which it is projected will become part of the OFEG fleet in 2012/13. It was noted that a short discussion meeting might be convened in Spain in the next month or so to inform the development of the statement of requirements for a new Spanish deep-water Remotely Operated Vehicle.

#### **5 Up-date of OFEG documentation – including barter activity and bank balances**

- 5.1 All members agreed to provide up-dates to all of the OFEG documentation following the meeting. [**Action: All**] Following a discussion it was agreed that the barter 'costs' of *RV Hespérides* and *RV Sarmiento de Gamboa* in the OFEG barter points should be changed to 10-points per day and 9-points per day, respectively.

#### **6 Any other business**

- 6.1 The Group confirmed that its next meeting will be held in London on the 24<sup>th</sup> November (immediately after the OFEG-TECH meeting) and the Spring 2009 meeting will be held in Texel on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April. In addition, the autumn 2009 meeting was provisionally set for the 5<sup>th</sup> November in Barcelona, Spain.