

**Minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)****16 October 2014, IFREMER Headquarters, Paris**

**Attendees:** Juanjo Danobeitia, Erica Koning, Klas Lackschewitz, Per Nieuwejaar, Odd-Jarle Pollen, Barbara Tanner, Olivier Quedec.  
Beth Woodward (joined by telephone)

**Apologies:** Colin Day

**1 Welcome & introductions**

1.1 EK opening the meeting noting that the agenda was quite short today, and some items for discussion have been postponed to the next meeting as CD and BW were unable to be at the meeting in person.

1.2 EK noted that it had been agreed that she will step down as Chair following this meeting, and that at the next meeting BW will chair. She called for nominations for a new Vice-Chair to take over from the next meeting. The group briefly discussed this, and IMR then nominated themselves as Vice Chair (to be fulfilled by OJP or PN depending on attendance of IMR at the next meeting). The group supporting this nomination.

**Action: BW/EK to Check TOR for VC and Chair rotation and recap at next meeting**

**2 Approval of minutes, action list**

3.2.4 – Action closed, but the group were asked to contact BT directly if you want to visit Sonne on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov in Kiel, or 20<sup>th</sup> Nov in Hamburg

4.5.1 – Re: Interoperability, it was noted that Eurofleets have developed a matrix for this, and most equipment has been checked – OFEGtech could use as a starting point perhaps.

5.3.1 – This item was proposed to be on the agenda at the next meeting (EU Funding). The group noted that ERVO have internal working group for EU funding for shiptime in the future, and that OFEG should keep in touch with this group through OQ.

**Further Action: OQ to provide update from this working group as a start to discussing this item at the next OFEG**

10.1.1 – BT gave an update on delivery of the new Sonne; some delays in trials, but looking available and on schedule again to deliver cruises in the Pacific. She also noted that the Leistelle want to have a meeting with UK technicians for delivery of the joint UK/German geophysics cruises

**Further Action: KL and CD to arrange this meeting – period of 26Oct – 5<sup>th</sup> Nov identified as currently available.**

10.1.2 BT noted that as the new Sonne will soon be in operation, the group needs to talk about points at the next meeting. The group agreed that points for barter across the OFEG fleet should be discussed at next meeting – papers to be prepared by CD and BW as already stated in actions, and to be circulated two weeks ahead of the meeting

(at least). Items to discuss may include whether we need a points matrix? How do we (standardly) work out points? What are the parameters that count (to calibrate points)?

### 3 Brief update on cruise programmes 2015 and further

3.1 Each member gave an update of their cruise programmes looking forward from 2015. Key points from the discussion include the following:

#### Geomar/BMBF

- KL; Meteor – in Mediterranean at the moment then at end of the year Atlantic, Azores and across to the Caribbean. There are several cruises using Mebo. There is a full programme in 2015 and no time currently available for barter.
- Merian in shipyard currently probably until Mid-March 2015, first cruise planned in April.
- Posidon – currently in Shipyard for 6-8 weeks as planned. 2015 is a full programme including work in the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic and North Sea.
- BT; Update on Sonne – first cruise Las Palmas to Balboa then will undertake a barter cruise with the UK. Then several cruises with JPI oceans where Germany is contributing the shiptime; Two at Clarion Clipperton Zone (Manganese Nodules), Geophysics cruise with Christian Berndt. Plans after this are not certain, but Sonne will go to the western Pacific – either to New Zealand or Indian Ocean potentially.

#### CSIC

- JD; Saramiento de Gamboa; will be in the Black Sea at the end of 2014. Refit is planned Feb/March 2015, and then there are 3 weeks free for barter in April. Mid October to end of the year currently not used, and again free for barter. 2016 – some work planned Vigo – Reykjavik in summer, but the rest of the programme is still open and so there is the possibility for barter in 2016.
- Hesperides- Mid-october to end of November – currently can offer a barter for NERC for the AMT cruise on Hesperides planned passage to the Southern Ocean. As IMR can no longer support this, this is an option for NERC, subject to confirmation from NERC.

#### NIOZ

- NIOZ have had a cruise cancelled in the Caribbean, which may leave a possible option for Pelagia for barter in early 2015.

### 4 New barter & training berth opportunities

4.1 The new opportunities for barter were discussed and the document updated.

**Action: EK to circulate the updated document**

5 OFEG members: ship issues, fleet and major equipment changes, MLC2006 and consequences for OFEG (Note items 4,5 and 6 from original agenda discussed together)

5.1 EK recapped the issues that arose from a barter cruise for NERC on Pelagia in summer 2014 as the scientist wanted to go further than 70 degrees north, which was not possible due to the MLC specifications/restrictions, as employed on Pelagia (and

NERC ships). Following this misunderstanding, EK suggested that as a group we should our research ship users available of the limits of where our vessels can go to, and what the restrictions are.

5.2.1 The group discussed the MLC2006. They reflected that this had been discussed also at IRSO 2014 and talked about the potential consequences for OFEG vessels and barter. PN asked the group whether we should include this as additional information for barter and/or how it will affect barter cruises.

5.2.3 EK asked how we could best communicate information about the MLC to our research communities. PN suggested that we should write an item for inclusion in the News section of the OFEG website including information on what the MLC means, and specifically what it means for barter, and potentially developing a matrix for the OFEG partners. The Group agreed to this approach and PN volunteered to gather the information from partners by the end December 2014, and then to collate this and formulate something for the website.

**Action: PN to gather information on MLC from all partners and collate in a suitable format for the OFEG Website.**

**Action: PN to ensure that the piece on the MLC for OFEG be published on the OFEG website by end Feb 2015**

5.3.1 PN asked the group to think proactively about the Polar Code, as this is something that affects all partners, and that we should think about whether there is anything that we can do jointly in reacting to this, rather than developing policies/initiatives in isolation.

5.3.2 The group discussed that as OFEG, how should we interact with the Polar Research communities, and how can we improve on this from what is done currently. JD stated that the Polar Code is likely to have a strong influence on all polar ships, but that it is currently unclear what the effects will be. EK proposed that we should look at this at the next meeting.

**Action : BW to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting.**

**Action : PN to scope a briefing paper on the Polar Code and OFEG to present at the next meeting.**

## 6 Discussion on further ship issues.

6.1 KL noted that the Poseiden replacement was delayed, but planning will start at the beginning of 2015. For the replacement of the Polarstern, bidding for shipyards will be released in December.

## 7 Revision of OFEG ship deployment information

7.1 The Document was updated by all partners.

**Action: EK to circulate updated ship deployment information document.**

## 8 Any Other Business

8.1 OQ noted that there are several changes happening within Ifremer, and so in terms of membership and structure from Ifremer, OQ will confirm at the next meeting.

8.2 The group discussed the date of the next meeting, likely to be held in London. It was proposed that either 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April would work well. BW/CD to check and come back to the group.

**Action: BW/CD to confirm the date of the next OFEG meeting ASAP**

### Ongoing Actions

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 30	Action 2.1	BT and OL to send minutes and/or actions from 30 <sup>th</sup> OFEG meeting to partners before 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	BT/OL	ASAP
OFEG 31	Action 3.2.3	BW to circulate the list of NSF ships available for barter.	BW	By next meeting
OFEG 32	Action 4.4.1	Make clear what equipment is to be made available for barter, and allocate appropriate points as per the protocol agreed and previously circulated, and then send to CD	All	
OFEG 32	Action 4.4.2	Collate information on barter equipment from OFEG partners and construct a new table - to be discussed and agreed at next meeting.	CD	
OFEG 32	Action 4.4.3	Review the protocol and the table produced to ensure that the protocol includes the 'general rule' rather than being specific to individual pieces of equipment.	CD	
OFEG 32	Action 4.5.1	OFEG tech – add a session for the group to think about the specifications for interoperability	CD	Next OFEG Tech
OFEG 32	Action 5.1.2	Coordinate a future meeting of relevant OFEG partners and the relevant partners in Manzanillo.	CD	Prior to next OFEG
OFEG 32	Action 5.3.1	Add a discussion on EU funding to the agenda of the next meeting.	EK	Next OFEG Meeting
OFEG 32	Action 7.4.2	Ensure that these principles of technician availability and contracting are highlighted at the next OFEG-Tech	CD	Next OFEG Tech
OFEG 32	Action 8.8.1	Partners to exchange last EIA for a Geophysics cruise so we can all review what each partner is doing – send to CD to collate	All	
OFEG 32	Action 8.8.2	Geophysics policies and EIAs to be put on the next agenda (to be led by CD)	EK	Next OFEG Meeting
OFEG 32	Action 9.4.1	Ensure that there is a dedicated session at OFEGTech on ROVs and AUVs, and look at	CD	Next OFEG

		the potential of extending the length of the meeting to 1.5 or 2 days to accommodate this.		Tech
OFEG 32	Action 10.1.2	CD/KL to draft a news story on barter cruise on Meteor	CD/KL	ASAP
OFEG 32	Action 10.1.3	CD/JD to draft a new story for the OFEG website on the recent barter on the James Cook	CD/JD	ASAP
OFEG 32	Action 10.1.4	EK to provide some NIOZ news	EK	ASAP
OFEG 32	Action 12.2.1	Speak to Mike Webb regarding how the original ship points were calculated.	BW	Next OFEG Meeting
OFEG 32	Action 12.2.2	BW to report back to group regarding the ship points and facilitate further discussion	BW	Next OFEG Meeting

### Actions from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 33	1.2	Check TOR for VC and Chair rotation and recap at next meeting	BW/EK	Next Meeting
OFEG 33	2.0	OQ to provide update from this working group as a start to discussing EU Funding item at the next OFEG	OQ	Next Meeting
OFEG 33	2.0	Set up a meeting between the Leistelle and UK technicians for delivery of the joint UK/German geophysics cruises	CD/KL	ASAP
OFEG 33	4.1	Circulate the "opportunities for barter" document	EK	ASAP
OFEG 33	5.2.3.1	Gather information on MLC from all partners and collate in a suitable format for the OFEG Website	PN	ASAP
OFEG 33	5.2.3.2	Ensure that the piece on the MLC for OFEG be published on the OFEG website	PN	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2015
OFEG 33	5.3.2.1	Add an agenda item on the Polar Code for the next meeting	BW	Next Meeting
OFEG 33	5.3.2.2	scope a briefing paper on the Polar Code and OFEG to present at the next meeting.	PN	30 <sup>th</sup> March
OFEG 33	7.1	circulate updated ship deployment information document	EK	ASAP
OFEG 33	8.2	BW/CD to confirm the date of the next OFEG meeting	BW/CD	ASAP