

**Triangular**  
**Technical Arrangements for the exchange of**  
**major marine facilities**

between the

**BMBF**

*Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung und Technologie*

**IFREMER**

*Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer*

**NERC**

*Natural Environment Research Council,*

## Technical Arrangements for the exchange of major marine facilities

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- According to the IFREMER-BMBF co-operation Agreement and to the NERC-IFREMER *MOU*,
- Recognising the major importance, mutual benefit and high quality of co-operative scientific work performed within these agreements,
- According to the technical arrangements attached to the preceding co-operation agreements, relevant to the *major marine facilities*,
- Recognising that the organisation of *cruises* with exchange of scientists on board of the major large equipments at sea of the three countries, is the chief method of research in ocean science and technology,
- Bearing in mind that France, Germany and UK must give their respective scientists the opportunities to use the most suitable and advanced equipment to face the "grand challenges" and key scientific issues by the future oceanographic research,
- Bearing in mind the increased needs for expensive research equipment at sea to improve the quality of the scientific work and at the same time the economical and budgetary constraints to maintain their leading position in ocean matter in Europe and in the world, while *lowering the marine research and ship operating costs*,

**the three organisations agree :**

*to coordinate the usage of their major facilities at sea within their co-operation as well as the European framework, and thus create opportunities for their scientists to use them as a whole, by 3 main harmonised procedures*

- . **joint cruises,**
- . **exchange of existing facilities**
- . **exchange of ship time.**

## 1. Joint cruises

*The three organisations will encourage joint working, within bi- or multi-lateral (in particular European) programmes, of mutual benefit and with a common objective, by arranging joint cruises.*

These will continue to be prepared as previously agreed upon and according to the earlier bilateral technical Arrangements (§1), by a joint *ad hoc* working group including the scientific leaders of the involved project or area who will have to

- prepare for the joint scientific projects
- identify the nature and amount of work at sea implied by its implementation
- propose the needed technical means in terms of ships and equipment
- evaluate the needed man power in terms of scientists and technicians
- prepare a detailed proposal answering the calls for proposals dealt with in the following paragraphs.

## 2. Exchange use of major marine facilities

*The scientists of each country are given the opportunity to use the existing major facilities at sea and scientific instrumentation of the two others.*

This will be achieved by creating the opportunities for scientists of each country to apply for cruises involving major equipment at sea and scientific instrumentation of the three sides as a whole, in particular by the triangular *exchange of announcements of opportunities*.

### 2.1. Exchange of announcements of opportunities

This exchange, as the *key mechanism*, should be initiated in September of each year

- . within France, by the *co-ordinator of the French Commission 'Flotte' of IFREMER*,
- . within Germany, provisionally by the *BMBF*
- . within UK, by the *Marine Planning Officer of the NERC*,

Each of them shall dispatch the relevant exchanged documents to his own scientific community.

### 2.2. Cruise proposals

*Proposals of scientists from one side for the use of a RV of another side, consist in answering the appropriate announcement of opportunity, provided that each of such proposals shall be approved by the Proposer's appropriate scientific review committee.*

2.3. Once approved, the proposals will be transmitted to the relevant ship operators. They shall jointly make the arrangements to organize the approved cruises on a suitable ship or to make available the major equivalent suitable facility, according to the following procedure.

### 3. Exchange of use of shiptime

- *The aim of this exchange is to lower the ship operating costs by exploiting the location of a ship on a given zone as well as its transit between points.*
- *The overriding principle of this procedure is that no money shall be exchanged.*

The principle of the barter consists in exchanging equipment, services and facilities, the current list of which is attached to this arrangement.

- *The key parameters of the barter are jointly defined case by case.*

The list of major facilities and their respective key parameters will be regularly and jointly updated.

3.1. Approved cruise plans (cf. § 2.2.) for inclusion in each country's cruise programme must be received by dates which fit into each country's planning cycle (provisionally April).

3.2. The mechanism for effecting the barter shall be managed

- within France, by the *Direction des Moyens et Opérations navals (DMON) of IFREMER*,
- within Germany by the involved ship operating institution indicated in the attached list,
- within UK, by the *Marine Planning Officer* for agreeing barter and by the *Superintendent RVS of NERC* for implementing barter.

In order to ensure correct and safe usage of the major facility, the host country will supply the necessary team of technical support staff for that major facility's use at sea.

3.3. Each side will compensate the counterpart of a cruise barter within a 3 years period.

### 4. Exchange of information

Scientists wishing to collaborate with their counterparts in the other country but not to apply for the allocation of a ship, will be welcome to utilise the preceding mechanism of communication to obtain information about each research ship programme. They do not need to submit formal applications for committee approval.

### 5. Evaluation of the joint works

5.1. The three countries will list every year the cruises and any other work at sea, performed during the preceding year under the present technical arrangements.

They will then review the progress of the present arrangements with a view to recommending modifications in the future, in order to improve the current mechanisms and joint works.

5.2. They will consider step by step and one by one, agreements or any relationship with other European countries having or not having major marine facilities. They will pay a particular attention to specialized fishing research vessels.

5.3. They will put their views together in order to harmonise them and recommend, in particular to the EC :

- to adopt the preceding procedure as a **European model**, to make available to European scientists 'their advanced marine facilities, by enabling institutions to develop them on a European scale, and solve specific problems linked to maintenance and development of highly demanded resources',
- to take counsel together as to how to act jointly within the European programme committees, in particular to help the funding of European research at sea performed on behalf of and for the benefit of the European scientific community.

Signed in Bonn (12 February 1996)



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