

OFEG meeting n° 24
27/28 april 2010

Attendees :	Per NIEUWEJAAR	IMR
	Terje HINDERNES	IMR
	Erica KONING	NIOZ
	Barbara TANNER	PTJ/BMBF
	Helen BEADMAN	NERC
	Thomas MUELLER	IfM-GEOMAR
	Colin DAY	NOC

1/ Approval of last minutes

No remarks

2/ Actions list from 22nd and 23th OFEG meetings

22/01 Standard OFEG Barter cruise Offer Letter. It is convinced that there is no need for an official letter from OFEG to be send to the scientists to indicate that there cruise is planned on a foreign vessel through barter. Relationships with the scientists stay managed on a national level.

22/02 See further

22/01 Record trial and training activities including heavy equipments are concerned by barter points. Cooperation (like seismic between UK and Spain) is not concerned by barter points but mentioned during OFEG meetings.

23/05 Terms and reference documents

It is convinced to make reference to the initial tripartite agreement (on line on OFEG Webb site) and complementary documents signed by NIOZ, IMR, CSIC. Action Helen Beadman for collecting them and putting them on line on OFEG Webb site (**Action 24/1**)

In parallel all partners to go through those documents and analyse if there are some gaps, and the necessity of re-writing a complete document including Ofeg-Tech (**Action 24/2**).

Decision to be taken at November 2010 session.

23/09 ROV interoperability – Five years objectives :

- Pilots and technicians exchanges
- ROV interoperability in between OFEG vessels

Dedicated meeting to be planed in October or September 2010. Colin to address an invitation email to concerned people (Volker Ratmeyer (MARUM), Fritz Abegg (IfM-GEOMAR), Vincent Rigaud (Ifremer), ...) with copy to OFEG national representatives (**Action 24/3**).

23/10 CTD cables. It is useful to work on systems and cables portability or compatibility. To be conducted by a dedicated group under OFEG-Tech.

3/ Recent and planned barter cruises

Germany

- PACENPAL (for France) has been conducted on board *Sonne* in French Polynesia.
- Joint deployment of Mesocosm with a Norwegian team (University of Svalbard) on board « *Vicking Explorer* » in May
- German cruise on *Discovery*

Norway

- Joint campaign on *Shakleton* in Weddel Sea
- Data logger deployment for NSF on board *G.O Sars* beginning of November. IMR to rent a 1000 m depth ROV > 1000 m and shall barter points with NSF. France to transmit *Victor6000* interface documents to other OFEG partners. (**Action 24/4**)

UK

- Joint seismic trials CSIC-NERC

France

- Tobi (NERC) to be deployed on *Marion Dufresne* in September/ October through barter between Ifremer and NERC.

4/ Update on OFEG cruise programmes for 2011

Germany

- Opportunities onboard *Meteor* from mid-February to mid March in Mediterranean sea
- *Maria S. Merian* opportunities from mid April to mid-May on West African Coast.
- *Sonne* open for charter in October, November and December 2011. No Barter possible in 2011.
- *Sonne* cruise in Pacific ocean for NERC with the common seismic system (Germany, Spain, NERC) operated by a joint tripartite team.

Netherlands

Financial tensions. No visibility on the program after august 2010 at the date of the meeting.

5/ New barter and training

Thomas Müller and Olivier Lefort to look at the feasibility of NSF request for a ROV campaign in Mediterranean Sea in 2010 (**Action 24/5**)

CABTEX to be added to Joint cruise under training category.

6/ Update of the OFEG activity document and barter balance

Revue of document online

7/ Revision of OFEG ship deployment information

Revue of document online

8/ Barter Output Performance Measures

Helen Beadman to address to all OFEG members NERC methodology for calculations. Each member to calculate its own performances till next OFEG meeting (**Action 24/6**)

9/ Major equipment change in 2010

Norway

- IMR has bought jointly with the Norwegian Ministry of Defense one Hugin AUV from Kongsberg (3000 m depth capability) . A pool of technicians to be constructed between IMR and MoD.

France

- A new synthetic cable with a 15 tons capacity has been implemented and tested with success onboard *Pourquoi pas ?*
- Last development made on the Reson 7111 and 7120 have been tested with success (*Pourquoi pas ?*).
- EM 300 Kongsberg multibeam of *Le Suroît* has been upgraded in EM 302.
- *Victor6000* major overhaul (rebuild of electronics, shelter, video) is online with the schedule. Tests to be conducted at sea in September.
- *L'Atalante* modernization (see presentation)

UK

- Colin Day present NERC plan for streamers and seismic equipments acquisition (1,71M£ over 5 years). This equipment is used for 1,5 campaign/year.
- 150 k€ have been invested on ROV *Isis* (camera, projectors)
- A call for tenders is on the way for one new clean CTD system,
- The new *Discovery* has been confirmed for delivery in 2014

Germany

- *Alkor* refit has been postponed for administrative reasons,
- *Poseidon* refit (phase 1) is ended with the change of a 12kHz transducer. The second part is planned by the end of this year (hull and superstructures). The total for the 2 phases is 3M€
- New *Sonne*. Negotiations are on the way with 4 pairs of shipyards and operators,
- *Poseidon* replacement to be decided during autumn 2010,
- *Polarstern*. The scientific technical group recommend to build the new vessel with a design as close as possible to the existing vessel.

Netherlands

- A new synthetic cable (coring, video, ..) has been implemented on Kley France winch for service onboard *Pelagia*,
- New tilting bottles system has entered under service,
- A new mooring winch has entered under service.

10/ OFEG-Tech activities

- Joined work on synthetic cables operations is going on (Ifremer, NIOZ, NERC) : 2 technicians from NIOZ et 2 from NERC shall participate to Ifremer trials onboard *Pourquoi pas ?* (CABTEX campaign),
- Seismic (NERC, CSIC) : one first joint cruise on *James Cook* in June ; one campaign onboard *Sonne* in 2011. To be seen if Ifremer acquisition system should be interoperable with CSIS seismic system (**Action 24/7**) ,
- Management of data onboard. A presentation from Ifremer systems and developments could be done at next OFEG Tech meeting.

11/ Extension of OFEG and relationships with Eurofleets

11.1 Extension to NSF

The request for belonging to OFEG is

- to be a Global or Ocean operator
- to be active in the Barter

Before going further NSF is invited to present to OFEG what could be its offer in the barter. They shall be invited to do that presentation in spring 2011 (**Action 24/8**).

If OFEG decide to go ahead, the question shall be to consider if it is an agreement between NSF and OFEG, or NSF becomes member of OFEG.

11.2 Relation of OFEG with Eurofleets

Presentation by Per Neuwejaar of the proposition of association of OFEG to Eurofleets on work packages NA1 to NA4.

German representatives indicate they need to refer to BMBF for validation of a national advice.

Netherlands, Norway and France representatives agree with that idea.

NERC representative is personally favorable, but point out that recent past was painful and suggest to be prudent.

Two subjects of interest are pointed out :

- Possibility for OFEG to influence strategic vision of Eurofleets,
- To take benefits from NA4 on interoperability subjects

It is proposed that Jacques Binot, as Eurofleets project manager write to Erika Koenig with the proposition that OFEG become an associated partner. But as Eurofleets as no legal entity it is finally proposed that Eurofleets become stakeholder partner. Per Neuwejaar to do that proposal to Eurofleets during the executive committee next week (**Action 24/9**).

12/ OFEG website

The parties agree that OFEG Website shall be maintained and developed by Eurocean.

It is decided to stay with a separate site from Eurocean, with a link to OFEG web site in the Eurocean Portal. There are two options:

- 1st option : just posting the requested evolutions to Eurocean which also insure the links maintenance
- 2nd level : OFEG wants to improve the portal with a public domain and a private/technical domain only opened to OFEG members.

First option is kept.

Eurocean to invoice 1/6^{ème} to each OFEG member.

It is decided to implement News on OFEG website (decision of new barter, summary of a barter campaign, new buildings,...). News to be send to Terje Hindernes (IMR) who shall be the 'press officer'. OFEG News to be re-used in Eurocean newsletter.

Revue of website during OFEG 2011 spring meeting.

13/ Medical and safety training

Safety : see Per Neuwejaar presentation at ISOM.

It is proposed to establish a minimum safety training requirement document valuable for each OFEG vessel (**Action 24/10**).

Medical certificate. Medical specifications from NERC to be send to other OFEG members for information and eventual common document (**Action 24/11**).

14/ Cruise planning software

Presentation by IMR of they new workflow planning software. This system to be operational in September 2010.

Other countries (Netherlands, France, UK) are interested for similar applications.

It is proposed to have a workshop on that subject during Autumn 2010.