

MINUTES OFEG-TEC 2009 BARCELONA

3RD OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE GROUP – TECHNICAL (OFEG-TEC) MEETING
2008
24TH – 25TH NOVEMBER 2009

Attendees:

NERC: Colin Day, Jez Evans
NIOZ: Marck Smit, Jack Schilling
IFREMER: Marc Nokin, Loic Dussud
GENAVIR: Hubert Lossouarn
IFM-GEOMAR: Joerg Bialas, Friedrich Abegg
CSIC: Pablo Rodriguez
IMR: Hans Petter Knudsen, Hilde Spjeld
IMM: Aodhán Fitzgerald

Actions from the October 2009 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
CSIC to send tutorial on the new forum and register OFEG-TECH members on the web forum and OFEG-TECH members will test the system out!	CSIC/All
Colin/Sally to get 2008/9 presentations and minutes uploaded onto the web site	Colin/Sally
OFEG-TECH members inform group if training berths are available on their ships	All
IFREMER to confirm if their seismic equipment is within the barter arrangement	Colin/IFREMER
Set up ROV collaboration meeting	Colin
NERC, CSIC, IFM-GEOMAR to discuss proposal for IFM-GEOMAR involvement with seismic collaboration	NERC, CSIC, IFM-GEOMAR
Plan and continue piston coring collaboration	NERC, CSIC, IFREMER
Contact Lebus for rope spooling doc and circulate	Colin
Update contacts list for OFEG	Marck

Minutes/actions from 2009 meeting

Minutes of the 2008 meeting discussed and agreed.

Presentations and discussions took place on the following issues:

CSIC web electronic information forum:

A range of discussions took place about the benefits and viability of using the CSIC web based information system. There is still reticence but it was agreed that CSIC will send out a tutorial sheet on the system and members will register and put some effort in to use the system to test it and give a chance to assess the benefits.

It was suggested that if the system could be modified so it sent out automatic emails to members if a new entry had been made to a thread, this could make the system more practical and encourage members to use it as members would not need to periodically check the system. The tutorial is appended to these minutes.

Action: CSIC and all members

Seismic equipment available for barter:

It was discussed whether the IFREMER seismic equipment is available within the barter process. It was decided that the chair would approach the OFEG members and confirm the position.

It was specifically asked if the IFREMER streamer birds would be available loan/barter/hire for the 2010 CSIC/NERC cruises in 2010.

Action: Chair OFEG-TECH

Pelagia major refit and equipment installation:

NIOZ have a major refit planned for the Pelagia in January - February 2010 including major main propulsion work, lab refurbishment and scientific equipment installation. NIOZ also plan to install the TECHSAS data management system and a hull mounted pole USBL system.

Sea trials will be carried out 1st – 10th April 2010. Berths may be available for OFEG staff during the trials, NIOZ plan to commission their TECHSAS system, USBL system and further test and trial their clean CTD system. NIOZ would welcome any technical assistance for familiarity with their TECHSAS system, NERC would be interested in observing the trials of the NIOZ clean CTD system.

The presentation is available to view at www.ofeg.org

Action: NIOZ to advise if any berths are available on the trials cruise.

ROV and AUV discussions:

IMR outlined their plans to purchase a Hugin AUV (3km operating depth, 24hr duration, 1x20ft container for the whole system, Multibeam, side scan and CTD capability).

IFREMER discussed their 10yr Victor ROV rebuild programme. The system has completed around 300 dives, 400hrs operating at mean depths of 2000m plus), the rebuild costs are in the region of 3.5M Euro. Germany discussed the fact that the Keil6000 rebuild is also in the early stage of planning and could be around 2012.

Discussions took place about the need to for ROV users to plan this type of investment well in advance. It was asked if the RRS Discovery replacement would be compatible with deployment of a range of OFEG ROV/AUV systems.

During the meeting it was agreed to set up a meeting between OFEG parties to begin the formal discussions concerning ROV collaboration and interoperability. The first meeting will be during the 1st quarter of 2010. The presentations are available to view at www.ofeg.org

Action: Chair to contact members, prepare agenda and set up meeting

CSIC/NERC seismic collaboration:

All seismic equipment has now been bought by CSIC.

NERC are in process of buying a portable streamer winch, second tow-in & lead-out sections for the streamer and a second tail buoy.

The post for the NERC/CSIC seismic technician will be advertised in January 2010, this was later than planned so this technician will not be in post for the trials cruise.

2010 seismic cruises are planned as follows:

Trials February 2010	– Sarmiento De Gamboa
CSIC science cruises April & May 2010	– Sarmiento De Gamboa
NERC science cruise July 2010	- James Cook
NERC science cruise April 2010	- James Cook

IFM-GEOMAR suggested they may like to send a technician on the trials cruise.

IFM-GEOMAR expressed interest in working with CSIC and NERC with the collaboration. IFM-GEOMAR suggested they might be able to make some money available to add equipment to the collaboration.

Action: Chair to discuss with CSIC and German members

NERC/IFREMER/NIOZ piston coring trials:

Presentations were given on the James Cook coring trials. There was a real interest by all parties to continue with these joint coring trials. It was decided that all parties should look to the next step in this collaboration and identify ways of securing ship time and funding to continue the collaboration. NERC has secured some funds to process the cores taken during the trials cruise and this will be progressed in the New Year.

CSIC requested that they be involved in any future coring collaborations to develop their skill base, CSIC have a piston coring system from the University of Oregon and plan trials when possible.

The presentation is available to view at www.ofeg.org

Action: NERC/NIOZ/IFREMER discuss next steps and potential funding

Ships stern gantry loading and equipment deployments:

IFREMER discussed the Mebo drill rig deployment on the Ppq? It was discussed that dynamic loads up to 23T were encountered. It was noted that that RV Sonne replacement has a 30T SWL stern gantry specified. It was suggested that OFEG members assess what equipment may induce high loads for stern gantry operations and advise this group with a view to feeding into any up and coming ship build projects.

The presentation is available to view at www.ofeg.org

IFREMER presentation on EUROFLEETS WP10 work:

IFREMER gave a presentation on their plans to produce a suite of software packages, guidelines and methodologies in the area of ship board data quality, consistency, post cruise metadata management, pre-archiving processing, and data and document management processes.

There are three on board aspects, a documented QA process intended to aid monitoring of on board instrumentation and to provide consistency between ships, using a 'traffic light' approach to identify the operational status of equipment, a bolt on module for TECHSAS to overview data circulating around the system, and a post cruise pre-archive processing system to correct aspects such as position and time stamping, read and check data, check data acquisition rates and check QA status of instrumentation data. A further web based documentation and data base system supports shore based preparation of data for provision to central data archive centres.

The presentation is available to view at www.ofeg.org

IMR synthetic rope procurement:

IMR discussed their synthetic electro/optical rope procurement to support their camera system. The specs are as follows:

MBL - 240kN; SWL -20kN; Bend dia. - 800mm; 3 fibre optic cores; 2 copper conductors;
Direct pull winch with Lebus scrolling with 25 – 30 lays.

The rope was initially spooled onto the drum with minimum tension which caused problems with the rope 'digging in' during initial operations, the rope was fully streamed and the spooling has since worked well during the past five 3000m camera deployments. The system is working well.

There was a discussion about terminations and NIOZ advised that their synthetic rope is splices which gives 100% of MBL, they then add a 33% MBL weak link.

NIOZ also advised that Rochester can provide a spooling 'best practice' document which provides useful information.

The presentation is available to view at www.ofeg.org

Action: Chair to ask Lebus if the spooling doc could be uploaded onto ofeg.org

Maintenance systems:

A discussion was held to get advice on what maintenance systems the various members are using to support their shore based portable equipment.

CSIC advised they are using and assessing a commercial package from CMMS software (www.cogz.com).

GENIVIR use a commercial package for both their ship and shore equipment from www.interschalt.de which is a web based system, they have been using it for 3yrs, it needs no dedicated shore based support, and costs around 8K Euro per ship.

NIOZ use an assess database system for their three shore based engineering departments, the system generates worklists, manages resource requirements for jobs, it ties in with the NIOZ post cruise assessment process, provides reports on time for job completion.

NIOZ would be happy to demonstrate the system if required.

AOB:

NIOZ suggested that members could invite a junior member of each organisation to the next meeting to either present or as an observer to develop links between younger members of OFEG. It was agreed that the average age of the membership was 'getting on a bit' and a kick up the backside from some younger technicians may be a good idea!

The proposal was agreed and can be implemented at the next meeting.

Date and venue of next meeting:

It was proposed that if the OFEG meeting was at Kiel in autumn 2010 then the OFEG-TECH should also be at Kiel.

C. Day