

Minutes of the 35th meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG)

07- 08 October 2015, CSIC, Barcelona

Attendees: Juanjo Danobeitia, Miguel (Miki) Ojeda, Erica Koning, Colin Day, Per W. Nieuwejaar, Klas Lackschewitz, Barbara Tanner, Olivier Quedec

Apologies: Odd-Jarle Pollen, Beth Woodward

1 Welcome & introductions

CD, as acting chair, and PN as acting vice-chair, opened the 35th OFEG meeting, and JD and MO welcomed all to sunny Barcelona.

2 Approval of minutes, action list

The group reviewed the minutes from the 34th meeting as presented. One comment was made by OQ to para 10, on top of page 5, saying “French vessel (don’t recall name) to be decommissioned in 2016”. OQ explained that the Le Suroit is to be laid up in 2016 while Ifremer evaluates if they can cover their cruise activities with three oceangoing vessels instead of four. PN commented that Action 5.2.3 from 33rd OFEG meeting about particular MLC information from the different OFEG operators have not been completed and is therefore still open.

The list of Actions ongoing is appended to these minutes.

3 Update of the OFEG activity document and barter balances

See updated activity list and barter bank balance in Attachment A to the minutes.

Barters done in 2015:

1. NERC cruise on the Sonne, 30 days (Category 2)
2. NERC cruise on the Pelagia, 20 days (Category 2)
3. Two Ifremer AUVs (AsterX and IdefX) on Sarmiento de Gamboa, 23 days (Category 3)
4. BMBF cruise on Håkon Mosby, 4 days (Category 2)

The group also verified all former barter cruises in the activity list and barter bank balance in order to change status from “red” (unconfirmed), to “black” (confirmed) on cruises that have been executed and points agreed.

3.1.1 Action: CD to circulate activity list, all members to verify status ASAP

The group also updated the barter bank balance, except for the “Overall balance at the end of 2015”. EK will do the update of the overall balance and the group agreed to stop the word document with the barter bank balance for the period 2004-2015 and archive it on the OFEG website.

3.1.2 Action: EK to update the barter bank balance at the end of 2015 and send it to EurOcean to be archived on the OFEG website - end of 2015

It was also agreed to start a new OFEG barter bank balance in Excel in order to simplify the update of the bank balance.

EK volunteered to develop the spreadsheet for the new barter bank balance, using the end of 2015 barter bank balance as the “starting point” for the new barter bank balance tool.

3.1.3 Action: EK to develop a spreadsheet (Excel) barter bank balance tool for 2016 and onwards, using the end of 2015 barter bank balance as the start values for each OFEG member barter point balance – early 2016

4 Obligations for barter cruise participants

A proposed update of the “Obligations for barter cruise participants” that is presented on the www.ofeg.org website under “About OFEG” was presented by EK and in the following discussion it was agreed that it would be more beneficial to develop a “Barter cruise planning guide”. This process description should present the different steps in the barter process, who is involved in each step, and who is responsible for the activities in each step of the way to make it clearer what is done by the OFEG representatives at the beginning of the process, such as agreeing on a barter (time period, start port, end port, number of barter points etc), and what is to be done by the PI together with the barter ship operator and instrument technical staff involved in the barter cruise etc.

4.1 Action: EK to develop a new proposal for a “Barter cruise planning guide” to replace the “Obligations for barter cruise participants” - ASAP

5 Review of proposed Mission Statement and OFEG brand/logo

CD presented alternative logos to be used as the OFEG logo, together with a banner. The group agreed on a logo and a banner layout, and CD will modify the proposal according to the consensus of the group and PN will hand it over to EurOcean.

It was also agreed that the mission statement should be “A bottom up approach to European marine research fleet coordination and harmonisation”

5.1 Action: CD to complete logo, banner and mission statement for PN to hand over to EurOcean - ASAP

6 Insurance of equipment

EK introduced the topic of insurance for large, complex and expensive equipment that are available for barter, but is today the responsibility of the owner if the equipment is lost or seriously damaged during a barter cruise on board some other OFEG partner’s vessel. The lack of insurance could seriously reduce the willingness to barter expensive tools since the cost of replacing it is very high and usually means getting extraordinary funds from the owner (which is not a trivial task in most cases).

It seems that some insurance companies are not very interested in insuring marine research equipment to be deployed from a vessel in deep waters far from the nearest coast, but at the same time some companies seems to be comfortable with such insurance schemes. OFEG as the owners of most of the large, complex and expensive marine research tools in Europe could be an interesting group of customers for an insurance company with a special interest in maritime and marine insurance objects. The group would therefore do a kind of “market survey” to see if there are insurance companies interested in such a business case, and if we as a group can achieve better offers for insurance than as individual operators.

6.1 Action: All members to propose equipment types, operational profile and frequency of use to EK – end 2015.

6.2 Action: EK to compile a list of equipment types, operational profiles and frequency of use based on group member inputs, and prepare a market survey letter that all members can send to national insurance companies to check out their interest in such a business, price levels, insurance conditions etc – Spring mtg 2016.

7 Review of new barter points (ships/equipment)

CD introduced the topic, starting with the barter equipment points. The OFEG-Tech group had their meeting just before the OFEG meeting, and they had a go on the barter point matrix that was referred to by CD in the OFEG meeting.

Some adjustments were made to the matrix developed at the 34th OFEG meeting, and in particular points for ROVs was discussed at length. At the moment, only depth rating is used as a criteria, but also endurance, motor power and tools/payload should be considered when establishing the barter points for different ROVs.

An updated matrix for barter equipment was made and can be found as attachment B to these minutes of meeting. New points to be effective from 1 January 2016.

7.1 Action: CD to publish the updated equipment barter point matrix on the OFEG website - ASAP

The group continued with the vessels and had a long discussion on the algorithm and vessel points matrix developed at the 34th OFEG meeting. There seems to be a need for another analysis of the algorithms used to develop the matrix since some capacities have a very strong impact on the individual vessel barter points compared to other capabilities. One of the two key topics were if the barter points for vessels frequently operating in remote areas such as Antarctica should have two sets of barter points, one when operating in remote areas and another when operating in “home waters”. The other one was if there should be two different barter points for the same vessel, one if it is bartered as a “bare boat”, not utilizing any of its scientific equipment, e.g. when recovering moorings, and another if the hydro acoustic suite is used and/or the oceanographic equipment etc is being utilized.

Then the barter point table was revisited and some adjustments were made to NERC and IMR vessels, see attachment C for more details. New points to be effective from 1 January 2016.

7.2 Action: All members to look at the algorithms for vessel points with respect to “Category”, “Available score” and “Weighting” to see if there is a need for adjustments - ASAP.

7.3 Action: CD to publish the updated vessel barter point matrix on the OFEG website – end of 2015.

8 Barter bids/barter options 2016/17

Barter bids and barter options list updated. See attachment D for more details.

9 Cruise and logistics planning

NERC and NIOZ have jointly developed a cruise and equipment planning tool with “tailor made” views and functions for each user organization. EK and CD presented the main features of the toolbox. The future developments and proliferation of the tool was discussed and the group will be kept updated on the progress in the development of the tool box.

10. OFEG cruise programmes update

Each member did a quick presentation on their 2016, and if already available 2017, cruise programs.

11. Ship issues, fleet and major equipment changes

PN presented IMR plans for phasing out Håkon Mosby and taking over existing Dr. Fridtjof Nansen during the summer of 2016. HE also gave a short update on the ROV Ægir 6000 installation on G.O. Sars.

CD presented NERC procurements of container based general purpose winch, seismic equipment and long range AUV, deep sea hybrid camera/video/grab system, upgrade of SeaSoar, large net drum/mooring winch, gliders and SAVs, profilers.

OQ presented planned and ongoing upgrade of Ifremer seismic systems, hybrid ROV project status and plans to modernize the Thalassa and make it in to a multifunctional vessel.

12. OFEG-Tech proposal to establish an EIA working group

OFEG-Tech has discussed the Environmental Impact Assessment issues at their meeting just ahead of the OFEG meeting. They propose to establish a working group looking at the ways the different nations do their EIA. It seems that the procedures are very close in content to each other, so the potential to make a common standard for EIAs is evident. OFEG was asked their opinion on this proposal and the group was all in favour of this proposal. Ifremer staff will take the lead on this and other OFEG members are asked to appoint their representatives if they wish to participate in the working group.

12.1 Action: All members to propose EIA working group members to CD - ASAP

13 AOB

No items.

14 Future meetings/venues

Spring 2016: Germany, Hamburg 6-7 April

Autumn 2016: Norway + OFEG-Tech

Spring 2017: France

Autumn 2017: Netherlands + OFEG-Tech

Spring 2018: Spain

Autumn 2018: UK+OFEG-Tech

Ongoing Actions

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 30	Action 2.1	BT and OL to send minutes and/or actions from 30 th OFEG meeting to partners before 31 st 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 33	Action 5.2.3.1	Gather information on MLC from all partners and collate a suitable format for the OFEG website	PN	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.1	Investigate if the data can be normalised and what parameters could be applied to give a better representation of the barter point spread.	BH	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.1.4	Write wording around adding new equipment to the barter pool to be agreed by group and uploaded onto the OFEG website.	CD	ASAP
OFEG 34	Action 5.2.1	Prepare a document which tracks/explains the background for the ship points allocation/algorithm.	BH	Next meeting
OFEG 34	Action 7.1.1	Advise whether individual OFEG partners are planning to certify their vessels according to the Polar Code (and which ones).	All	Next Meeting
OFEG 34	Action 7.1.2	Create a matrix for Polar code adherence/standards and put on the OFEG web page	MO/PN/OJP	Next Meeting
OFEG 34	Action 11.1.3	Barter "stories", videos and pictures to be put on the web-site. Agreed stories include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hobbs cruise (CD/BT) - link to IMRs web-site for the new icebreaker, new ROV etc. (OJP) - Talling barter on Pelagia (EK) - Spanish paper (referenced by JD in meeting) All Stories to be sent to BH.	All	Ongoing

Actions from the 35th Meeting

Meeting	ACTIONS	DETAIL	RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
OFEG 35	Action 3.1.1	Circulate activity list, all members to verify status.	CD	ASAP
OFEG 35	Action 3.1.2	Update the barter bank balance at the end of 2015 and send it to EurOcean to be archived on the OFEG website.	EK	End of 2015
OFEG 35	Action 3.1.3	Develop a spreadsheet (Excel) barter bank balance tool for 2016 and onwards, using the end of 2015 barter bank balance as the start values for each OFEG member barter point balance.	EK	Early 2016
OFEG 35	Action 4.1	EK to develop a new proposal for a "Barter cruise planning guide" to replace the "Obligations for barter cruise participants".	EK	ASAP
OFEG 35	Action 5.1	Complete logo, banner and mission statement for PN to hand over to EurOcean.	CD	ASAP
OFEG 35	Action 6.1	Propose equipment types, operational profile and frequency of use to EK.	All	End 2015
OFEG 35	Action 6.2	Compile a list of equipment types, operational profiles and frequency of use based on group member inputs, and prepare a market survey letter that all members can send to national insurance companies to check out their interest in such a business, price levels, insurance conditions etc.	EK	Spring 2016 mtg
OFEG 35	Action 7.1	CD to publish the updated equipment barter point matrix on the OFEG website.	CD	ASAP
OFEG 35	Action 7.2	All members to look at the algorithms for vessel points with respect to "Category", "Available score" and "Weighting" to see if there is a need for adjustments.	All	ASAP
OFEG 35	Action 7.3	Publish the updated vessel barter point matrix on the OFEG website.	CD	End of 2015
OFEG 35	Action 12.1	Propose EIA working group members to CD – ASAP.	All	ASAP

Attachments:

A - Activity list and barter bank balance

B - Barter equipment matrix

C - Barter vessel matrix