

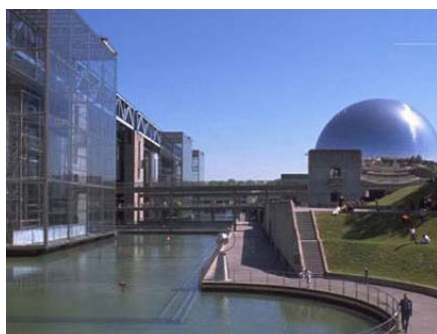
Towards an alliance of European research fleets

Kick-off meeting – Cité des Sciences PARIS

Daily newsletter, Nr 1/September, 22 nd

EUROFLEETS officially starts in "Cité des Sciences"

Eurofleets is an ambitious project integrating 24 Marine Institutes, Universities, Foundations and SMEs, from 16 European and Associated countries in a common approach of use of large facilities proposing European access to their research vessels, associated marine equipment and their know how.



AGENDA

General Assembly 1st day (opened session)

Welcome by the Coordinator

Description of Activities and of main Work Packages by the Activity coordinators

Official lectures

- Claudie HAIGNERE, Chairperson of the "Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie"
- Jean-Yves PERROT, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ifremer
- Urmas LIPS, Technical University of Tallinn,
- Karin LOCHTE, member of the German Council of Science and Humanities and Director of AWI
- Hervé PERO, Head of Research Infrastructures Unit, European Commission
- Ronan STEPHAN, General Director, Research and Innovation, French Ministry for Higher Education and Research

EUROFLEETS kick-off meeting will take place during three days (September 22nd to 24th) in "La Villette" Conference Centre in the heart of the "Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie" a major establishment promoting scientific culture in France.

Its international reputation for innovating architecture attracts visitors from all over the world.

The centre offers meeting, convention, conference, exhibition and corporate hospitality organisers, a unique opportunity to stage a multitude of events. Business and pleasure combine in a versatile venue, which adapts itself to become your home for EUROFLEETS kick-off meeting.

President of this Scientific Site is Claudie Haigneré, Deputy Minister for Research and New Technologies from 2002 to 2004, then European Affairs Minister from 2004 to 2005, Claudie Haigneré has served as advisor to the Director General of the ESA (European Space Agency) since November 2005. She is the only woman astronaut to have been selected by the CNES (French Space Agency) and the ESA. Claudie Haigneré has taken part in several space flights and stays aboard Soyuz spacecraft, the Russian MIR space station and the International Space Station.



Member of the Academy of Technologies, the Academy of Air and Space, the Academy of Sports and vice-president of the International Academy of Astronautics, she is also a commander of the Légion d'Honneur.

Enjoy your stay in Paris and in Cite des Sciences.

EDITORIAL

WELCOME ON BOARD



Welcome to all by this magnificent building where Science has found a very favourable showroom.

We wait this moment since two years when the pioneers began to trust in a possible European project to foster cooperation within research fleets in Europe, and choose to name it plural EUROFLEETS.

We are a team of 24 coming from different horizons, and from 16 countries, from Estonia to Turkey, from Portugal to Romania.

Of course we have to fulfill the contractual obligations we have signed towards the European Commission and the Project management team will help to achieve that. I am sure that our partnership spirit will be of great importance to manage fruitfully our numerous interfaces respecting also the Quality Assurance Plan we are about to finalize.

Let's be optimistic about our first EUROFLEETS year and wait for our next General Assembly to appreciate all together our first common results and realizations.

Jacques Binot
Coordinator of EUROFLEETS

Overall Eurofleets strategy

Eurofleets will demonstrate through resources sharing Europe can reach complex technical and scientific challenges in marine research. In order to reach these ambitious objectives Eurofleets proposes to concentrate the efforts on 3 coordinated activities (Networking Activities-NA, Trans National Access-TNA and Joint Research Activities - JRA) embedding 12 Work Packages.

Trans National Access (TNA)

EUROFLEETS is a European initiative of 24 organisations aiming at improving substantially the coordination and efficiency of EU research vessel operations in the oceans and regional seas.



The project involves 5 Ocean/Global and 14 Regional vessels and their

equipment (ROV, submersibles, corers AUV, and sensors as echosounders, sonars, Automatic Doppler Current Profiler) as a first step to coordinate European efforts in the frame of Marine Sciences.

At the very centre of this EUROFLEETS I3 project, the Trans National Access (TNA) component will act as a "real-scale" demonstration attempt for a future coordination of the scientific cruises and the multi-annual programming of European research fleets. It is one of the main objectives to be achieved in the long term, together with rare equipment interoperability and common strategy for new investments. This TNA will be proposed to the European marine science community through an unprecedented transnational upstream process of evaluation and selection of the cruise projects and of cooperation for deciding the corresponding ship time allocations. Up to 17 partners declared they were confident in the benefits of such

coordination, accepted to propose their research vessels and equipments for this demonstration during three years.

EUROFLEETS will demonstrate that the sharing of resources could reach to concrete objectives on complex technical and scientific challenges. Shared and interoperable existing large infrastructures will be used in numerous adjacent EU research projects related to a wide spectrum of activities from hotspot ecosystems, margins, to coastal environmental surveys related to accidental pollutions or new rules as the Water Framework directive and Marine Strategy one, in parallel with international initiatives as the Ministerial Round Table towards the "Building stewardship for the Ocean: the contribution of UNESCO to Responsible Ocean Governance".

Dimitris Georgopoulos
TNA coordinator

Joint Research Activities (JRA)

During the last decade several Institutes across Europe successfully installed innovative underwater



technologies like ROVs, AUVs, submarines and other platforms to foster marine research on highest level. These technologies act as enormous driver to start new scientific activities in different fields of research, e.g. development of new tools and techniques. On the other hand, most common only direct involved Institutes do benefit from this success and operational needs for crews, ships and infrastructures are growing rapidly.

Within the Joint Research Activities (JRA), the EUROFLEETS consortium has selected relevant themes for "joint development", means development of software packages (JRA1) easy to

install on every European research vessel and development of innovative tools for underwater equipment (JRA2), strongly reflecting the EUROFLEETS goals of "sharing" and "interoperability" among the European research groups. The results will most likely have a positive impact on marine research efficiency, especially on operational issues as listed in NA, and will deserve the needs for greater interoperability and resource sharing listed under TNA.

Gerrit Meinecke,
JRA coordinator

Networking Activity (NA)

The Networking Activity (NA) consists of seven Work Packages (WP), covering the key aspects of sharing information, knowledge, vessel time, large instruments, technical experts and more, all in order to produce as much marine science as possible with the available resources.



The European nations own and operate some of the most sophisticated vessels and instruments available in the world, and the combined expertise and knowledge regarding research vessels and instruments is also in the forefront.

The challenge is to make the infrastructure and human resources available to as many European nations, research institutions and marine researchers as possible and ensure that "best practice" is implemented across Europe.

The EUROFLEETS project is an unique opportunity to achieve these goals, and in the coming four years we shall all do our utmost to make it happen!

Per W. Nieuwejaar
NA coordinator

For more info:

<http://www.eurofleets.eu>

