

## Towards an alliance of European research fleets

*Kick-off meeting – Cité des Sciences PARIS*

Daily newsletter, Nr 3/September, 24<sup>th</sup>

### Acceptance of a new associated partner

The objective of IFM-Geomar, located in Kiel (715 staff), is to understand physical, chemical, geological processes of oceans and their interactions with the seafloor and the atmosphere. They have already established many European and international collaborations. They are owners of 2 vessels: RV ALKOR, RV POSEIDON and their equipment. The main themes of their research agenda are focused on the role of the oceans in climate change, the human impact in Marine ecosystems and the Marine resources. Moreover applied researches like gas hydrate technology or marine substances are also some subjects of interest. IFM-Geomar intention in Eurofleets is to share their vessels and have access to other European vessels.

Fritzz ABEGG, IFM-Geomar



The general Assembly has decided to permit to the Coordinator to negotiate with IFM-Geomar for its introduction as Associated partner in Eurofleets.

### Advisory Committees; Club of Industrial Interests building up

Jacques Binot explained the roles of the advisory groups. Beneficiaries have to suggest about possible candidates for these committees. The Executive Committee will propose a selection of members for these committees during the next General Assembly session. Moreover Eurofleets has to establish a Club of Industrial Interests to maintain and increase the industrial interest to Eurofleets works.

Jacques Binot, Eurofleets Coordinator

### Contractual and financial aspects

Edi Bertolotti from Eurofleets management team has presented the contractual obligations of the Consortium Agreement between beneficiaries. Official reporting to the EC have to be submitted in 18; 36 and 48 months. However a 9 months interim reporting review (none requested by the EC) has to be submitted to the Coordinator for a better follow-up of the project. It was reminded the importance to record all the expenses related to the project and in particular timesheets. Certificate audits should be requested by the EC from beneficiaries with more than 375000 Euros. Agnes Robin, the Scientific Officer in EC for the



project, presented some examples for better organisation of these audits.

Edi Bertolotti, IFREMER

### Procedures and management tools

The number of work packages, deliverables and milestones documents to be provided emphasizes the crucial need for procedures and management tools. These tools will be based on two components:

- The Quality Assurance Plan: governance skills, communication means including management website, meetings, document management and approval process, and financial follow-up.
- The management website and the associated ftp site which are different websites from the public website. The management website is the project official document repository and will make visible all the progress of the project for all beneficiaries and enable exchange of information (forum, e-mailing, calendar, news flash...) and project material (links to templates...). The associated ftp site will be dedicated to the storage of documents and will be the working area of the project. Only final version of documents will be published to the management site. Any suggestion regarding the websites is welcome. Regarding



#### AGENDA

*General Assembly 3rd day (closed session)*

Work Package meetings / For NA and TNA activities :

- NA1 launching meeting
- NA7 in parallel with NA6 meetings
- NA5 and TNA together (meeting by eco-region, organisation for 2010) in parallel with NA2

Work Package meetings / For JRA : WP10 first meeting

Conclusions of the kick-off meeting

- Actions to be carried out and associated schedule
- Confirmation of next meetings

financial and technical reporting, the key aspect is to be ready for the periodic reporting and cost statement. Valérie Mazauric tackled the deliverable and reporting scheme and detailed the financial templates to be provided by beneficiaries to ensure a proper monitoring of the work and the costs.

Valérie Mazauric, IFREMER

## Meeting coordination and communication

The idea is to plan a meeting each 2 months for the ExComm. The next meeting is fixed in Barcelona Nov 27<sup>th</sup> connected with OFEG meeting. Whenever possible, Video Conferences will be planned in priority. Press release established by the PMT should be translated to the different languages of the project for the national press of each country and journal newspaper extracts fed back to EurOcean.

Jacques Binot, Eurofleets Coordinator

## First Activity Workshops

### Networking Activities by P.Nieuwejaar / IMR

Presentation of the organisation of various Work Packages and coordination between them. The NAs are very open and many tasks are not well defined. A good coordination is necessary to realise the work in good conditions and time. The key item is to

transform this bureaucratic work in useful for marine research vessels results. The proposal by the Coordinator



is to realise short but practical reporting with concrete proposals. The NA coordinator presented the different WPs and explained the objectives together with specific proposals to better define the tasks. Deliverables have been also presented and the connections of each one with needed inputs or outputs from other WPs in the project have been identified. Costs for training activities people have to be clarified in order to better implement the different events. Responsibility from all beneficiaries for a good communication has also been underlined. Some other issues to clarify have been identified to be discussed during Friday session.

### Trans National Access Activities by Dimitris Georgopoulos / HCMR

The TNA activity has very strong connection with the NA/WP5 - Scientific user access modalities and peer review. Indeed the participants of this Work package will collaborate on the preparation of 3 Eurofleets calls (1 for Ocean, 2 for Regional vessels). The first key challenges are the call implementation and dissemination to set up durable TNA modalities. Many points need to be

clarified regarding the evaluation panels (how many experts? External/internal?), the preconditions for call opening (info about RV features and equipment, time slots for cruises, areas of operations) and the cooperation with existing institutions like ERVO and OFEG. In order to ensure that a maximum of propositions will be submitted for the first Eurofleets call, it has been decided to prepare an expression of interest as an advertisement before the 2010 launching. This will allow a pre-selection and will help to better define the review panel and procedures. The finalizations of scientific and logistic panels are planned in mid January and the first call opening is foreseen for February 2010 for both Ocean and Regional calls.

### Joint Research Activities By Gerrit Meinecke/MARUM and Marc Nokin / IFREMER

This meeting has officially started the JRA research work. Many sub developments are expected during the first 6 months and the first actions will be dedicated to the design and specification of the different modules.

The next technical meeting is planned in January 2010.



Thank you  
for your  
participation!

For more info:

<http://www.eurofleets.eu>