



## “Regional 2” selection meeting report

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## 1. NA5, SRP and LRP working procedure and results

This report covers Deliverable D5.7 “Regional 2” selection meeting report as part of Work Package NA5, Task 5.3. The EUROFLEETS Work Package NA5 is primarily dedicated to define common procedures and criteria for user access to the infrastructures provided through the EUROFLEETS Trans National Access (TNA) activities. It is devoted to the practical management of the three calls to be organised under the TNA activities: “Ocean” (TNA1), “Regional 1” and “Regional 2” (TNA2). In this context, Task 5.3 encompasses the organisation of a number of meetings dedicated to the scientific peer review of proposals and a logistics review for research vessel and ship-time allocation.

The original date for the release of the “Regional 2” call was envisaged for M24, i.e. end of August 2011. This was changed to the beginning of 2011 (7<sup>th</sup> of February 2011) accomplishing milestone M5.2 “Regional 2 call opening”. The originally planned publication date was shifted to an earlier date to allow the call and evaluation process to be completed by September and enable ship operators to include funded EUROFLEETS cruises into their vessel schedule of 2012, which would otherwise logistically not be possible. Deadline for the submission of proposals was the 2nd of May 2011.

### 1.1. Evaluation procedure for the “Regional 2” call

The EUROFLEETS evaluation procedure has been described in detail in the combined Deliverable D5.3 and D5.4. It will therefore not be repeated here. But based on the experience gained during the first “Ocean” and “Regional 1” calls in 2010, a number of improvements were introduced for the “Regional 2” call, mainly related to the timing of the call announcement, the application form and the subsequent evaluation process. The improvements for the “call definition” and “application procedure” have been described already in Deliverable 5.6: “Regional 2” Call definition including remote access aspects.

An improvement for the “Regional 2” call was the introduction of different templates for the reviewers. A template of an “Individual Assessment Form” to be used by reviewers to carry out the evaluation was prepared for the “Regional 2” call, as well as the “Guidelines for evaluators” (Appendix III). This was much appreciated by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP) members since it greatly facilitate the evaluation process. The use of the online submission

and handling tool for proposals proved to be very efficient to support the whole management and organization involved with the application/evaluation process.

The evaluation process commenced immediately after the calls closure on 2nd of May 2011. The EUROFLEETS SRP was kept at a size of 10 members and the composition of experts did not change. The composition of the Logistics Review Panel (LRP) was adapted depending on which of the research vessels were requested.

After an initial eligibility check carried out by the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office (EO), a so called “watchdog”, i.e. a member of the SRP, who is an expert on the respective proposal topic, was allocated to each proposal by the chair of the SRP and the EO. The first task of the “watchdog” was to recommend and suggest suitable reviewers for the individual assessment of proposals. It was aimed at having three individual experts/reviews for each proposal. With regard to this task the “watchdog” was supported by the EO which contacted the suggested reviewers and surveyed the preparation and reception of individual assessments. Reviewers were asked to hand in their individual assessments by 8th of July 2011 and the SRP Consensus Evaluation meeting was held in Brussels 6th of September 2011. During this meeting the “watchdog” gave a report and commented on the received reviews for a given proposal followed by an open discussion. In a second round the proposals were assigned to categories defined previously in the Guidelines for Applicants:

A – Recommended for scheduling

B – Additional proposals

C – Not recommended

When several proposals for one ship attained the category A an inter-ranking amongst these proposals was carried out. As a result of these discussions a table of inter-ranked proposals was produced and forwarded to the EUROFLEETS LRP as the basis for its discussion. The LRP meeting took place on 20th of September in Oostende, Belgium. After the decision of the LRP, PIs of successful proposal were put in contact with the respective vessel operator to clarify any open logistical questions and to ensure that funded cruises will take place before final approval of the granted funding through the EUROFLEETS ExComm.

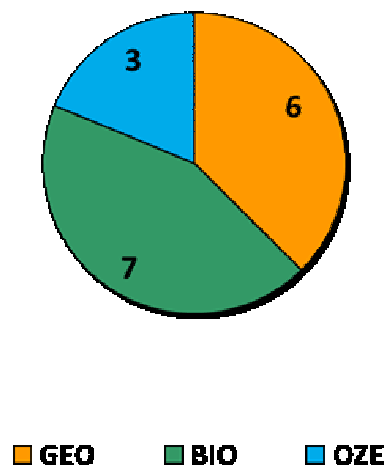
## **1.2. Evaluation results**

A total of 17 full proposals were submitted on the “Regional 2” call by the deadline of 2nd of May 2011. All applications were eligible but one was withdrawn by the PI at a later stage. All regional research vessels opened in the frame of this call were requested except RV Heincke. 135 days of ship time in total have been requested. The distribution of proposals amongst the different RVs is shown in table 1.

RV	Proposals	Days
Aegaeo	4	29
Belgica	2	12
Bilim 2	1	8
Celtic Voyager	2	18
Garcia del Cid	2	18
Oceania	1	9
Ramon Margalef	2	16
Salme	1	20
Urania	1	5
	16	135

*Table 1: Number of full proposals requesting ship-time on the regional research vessels available in EUROFLEETS.*

In comparison to the tendency already perceived from the previous calls, that most of the proposals requested ship-time for a geology-related project, the distribution between bio- and geoscientific proposals has been nearly equal for the “Regional 2” call (Fig. 1).



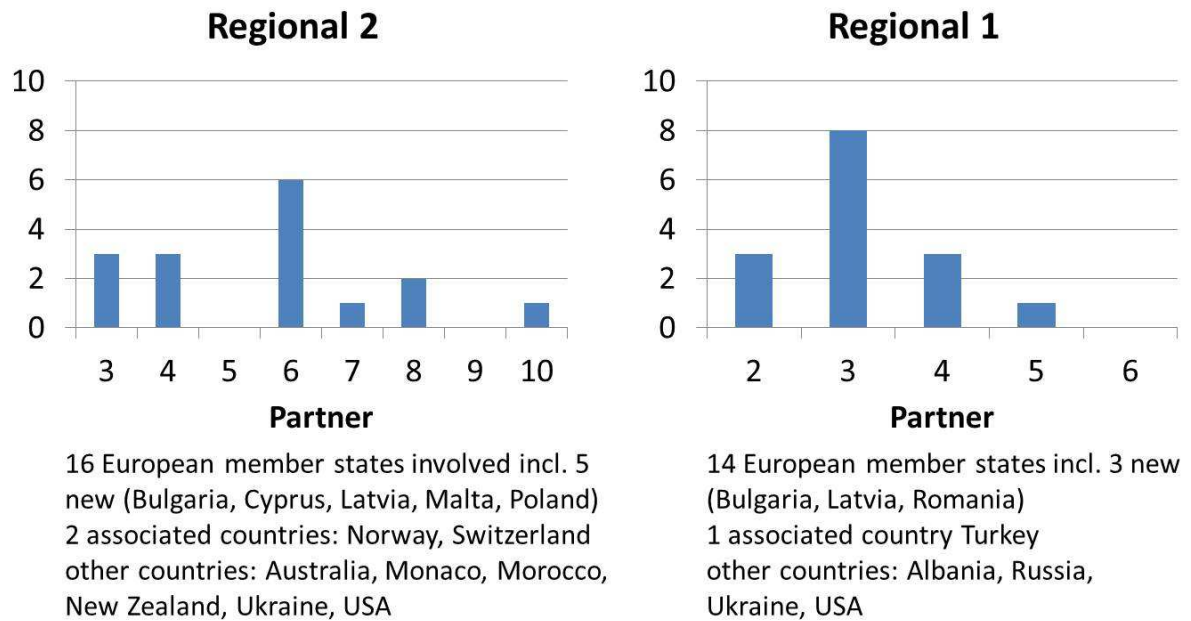
*Fig. 1: Distribution of full proposals in major scientific disciplines.*

The different steps of the evaluation procedure were accomplished as described in D5.3 and D5.4. The evaluation of the proposals went much smoother than during the first round of proposals. This might be in large extent explained by a better timing of the evaluation process especially by the avoidance to request the reviews during the peak holiday season in summer. At the time of the SRP Consensus Meeting 46 of maximum 48 (96%) reviews were available. Therefore, all proposals received a sound foundation for the consensus judgement of the SRP. After careful consideration of the reviews and taking into account the above mentioned secondary criteria, the SRP concluded on the inter-ranking of proposals as depicted in Appendix I.

The LRP meeting took place on 20th of September in Oostende, Belgium. The meeting was very successful in matching high-ranked proposals with a suitable research vessel. In this round all PIs of the highest ranked proposals received ship-time on vessels of their first choice. As Oceania was requested only one time and the proposal was evaluated with C- not recommended for funding, no Regional 2 cruise with Oceania will be carried out.

In total **8 projects** could be allocated on Regional class vessels (Appendix II) representing **72 days of funded ship-time**.

To summarise, of the 16 proposals requesting ship-time on a regional class RV, 15 projects were evaluated as A – recommended for scheduling – and only 1 proposal was not recommended (“**scientific success rate**” **94%**). In comparison to that, the Regional 1 call has had a “scientific success rate” of 47% only. These figures reflect that the alteration in the application system that have been introduced for the Regional 2 call have proven to be successful. Additionally, the applications for the Regional 2 call contain more proposals from new European Member States or other countries than the proposals for the Regional 1 call, showing that the call for proposals have reached a bigger audience and the guidance given for the applications helped also scientists from new member states to successfully apply for ship-time (Fig. 2).



*Fig. 2: Comparison of the proposal partnership of the Regional 1 and Regional 2 calls.*

## 2. Appendix I – Scientific Review Panel Inter-ranking “Regional 2” call

sid	Watchdog	Project titel	Akronym	disciplines	Ship 1	Ship 2	Ranking	Remarks
10	Jean-Pierre Henriet	Canyon processes in sediment-undersupplied margins: A geomorphometric investigation of the Malta Escarpment submarine canyons	CUMECS	Geology, Sedimentology, New technologies	Aegaeo	Urania	A1/A1	first priority for Aegeao and Urania
17	Jean-Pierre Henriet	Natural CO2 seeps near the Aeolian Islands of Panarea, Salina, Lipari, and Vulcano	SalivuCO2	Physical Oceanography, Biological Oceanography, Biogeochemistry	Aegaeo	Urania	A2	
20	Laura de Santis	Geochemical Characterization and Mapping of the Santorini Caldera's Hydrothermal Vent Field using Deep Submersibles	Caldera 2012	Physical Oceanography, Geophysics, Geochemistry, New technologies, Training	Aegaeo		A1	work plan needs to be clarified, requests also Thetis and Max Rover
22	Karin Lochte	Cold water coral habitats of Cyprus	COWACOCY	Physical Oceanography, Geochemistry, Biology	Aegaeo	Ramon Margalef	A1/A1	first priority for Aegeao and Ramon Margalef, 4k per diem needs to be clarified
5	Gilles Reverdin	EUROGOUF - Deep-sea Habitats, Fish and Fisheries, CapBreton (Bay of Biscay)	EUROGOUF	Physical Oceanography, Geochemistry, Sedimentology, Fisheries research, Biology, Biogeochemistry	Belgica		A4	



sid	Watchdog	Project titel	Akronym	disciplines	Ship 1	Ship 2	Ranking	Remarks
11	Laura de Santis	Cold-water coral ecosystems from the Moira Mounds (NE Atlantic): affinities and differences with modern and Pleistocene Mediterranean counterparts	CWC-Moira	Geology	Belgica	Celtic Voyager	A3	why use two ROV, NIOZ box corer causes too much damage, work plan needs to be adapted
19	Fidel Echevarría	Population genetic structure, life-history and morphology of Black Sea turbot (Psetta (maxima) maotica) and brill (Scophthalmus rhombus).	TURPOP	Fisheries research, Biology	Bilim 2		A	permission to conduct fisheries research needed
9	Urmaz Lips	Finescale hydrodynamic control of top predator habitat use in macroscale estuarine environments.	TiDol	Physical Oceanography, Fisheries research, Biology, Biological Oceanography	Celtic Voyager		A2	
12	Luis Menezes Pinheiro	Amplified Growth of Sediment Waves in the Irish Sea	AmSedIS	Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, Sedimentology, Biogeochemistry, Training	Celtic Voyager	Belgica	A1/A1	first priority for Celtic Voyager and Belgica, only 9 days of ship time granted
8	Gilles Reverdin	Early path and transformations of the Mediterranean outflow	MedOut-2012	Physical Oceanography	Garcia del Cid	Ramon Margalef	A2	
23	Fidel Echevarria	Long-term effects of continued trawling on deep-water muddy grounds	IMPACT	Physical Oceanography, Sedimentology, Fisheries research, Biological Oceanography, New technologies, Training	Garcia del Cid	Ramon Margalef	A1	

sid	Watchdog	Project titel	Akronym	disciplines	Ship 1	Ship 2	Ranking	Remarks
16	Urmaz Lips	MELTSTORM-OCEAN	MELTS-O	Physical Oceanography	Oceania		not recommended	
4	Luis Menezes Pinheiro	South Alboran Research in Active Systems	SARAS	Geology, Geophysics, Sedimentology	Ramon Margalef	Belgica	A2/A2	second priority for Ramon Margalef and Belgica
6	Karin Lochte	Multibeam acoustic survey of pelagic fish shoals for biomass estimation and behavioural modelling	MULTISHOAL	Fisheries research, Biology, Biological Oceanography, New technologies, Training	Ramon Margalef		A3	
15	Karin Lochte	Complex investigation of pelagic-benthic ecosystem interaction	CIPEC	Physical Oceanography, Biology, Biogeochemistry	Salme	Oceania	A	
18	Gilles Reverdin	CLlimate variability effects on Mediterranean Ecosystems of Extreme Depths	CliMED	Physical Oceanography, Biology, Biological Oceanography, Biogeochemistry, Training	Urania		A2	

### 3. Appendix II - Logistics Review Panel recommendations for scheduling

Regional vessels	Application Ref No	Lead Organisation	Cruise Name	Scientific ranking	Timing	Duration	Geographical Area
<b>Aegaeo with Thetis &amp; Max Rover</b>	20	Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)	Caldera 2012	A1	13.- 23. July 2012	9	Caldera area of Santorini island, Greece
<b>Belgica</b>	11	University of Fribourg	CWC-Moira	A3	May-July 2012	7	Eastern slope of the Porcupine Seabight
<b>Bilim 2</b>	19	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research	TURPOP	A	November 12	6	western Black Sea (Bulgarian coast) - Sea of Marmara - eastern Mediterranean Sea (Aegean)
<b>Celtic Voyager</b>	12	University of Liverpool	AmSedls	A1	4.-11.April 2012	8	Irish Sea
<b>Garcia del Cid</b>	23	Universidade do Algarve	IMPACT	A1	20.-27.May 2012	8	South coast of Portugal
<b>Ramon Margalef</b>	4	University of Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC-Paris 6)	SARAS	A2	7.-17.August 2012	9	Alboran Sea
<b>Salme</b>	15	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	CIPEC	A	2012 (split in several cruises)	20	Gulf of Riga (Baltic Sea)
<b>Urania</b>	10	University of Barcelona; University of Malta	CUMECS	A1	April-September 2012	5	Malta Escarpment



# EUROFLEETS

## Guidelines for Evaluators

### “Regional 2” Call 2011

Project website:

[www.eurofleets.eu](http://www.eurofleets.eu)

Version 19.05.2011

# Introduction

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On the first of September 2009 the EU project EUROFLEETS “Towards an alliance of European research fleets” was launched, bringing together 24 partners, from 16 member states of the European Union or associated countries forming the EUROFLEETS consortium whose main objective is to develop the coordination within European research fleets. This project fosters the shared use of European research vessels and associated equipment to enhance their efficiency and help reducing costs, also by providing scientists on land with real time data from cruises.

A central aim of EUROFLEETS is to provide access to research vessels for all European scientists and their partners, in particular for scientists from nations with limited, or no, access to research vessels and other marine infrastructure. Access will be granted on the basis of scientific excellence. Thus, the individual assessment of proposals by experts in the respective field of research forms an integrative and essential part of the access modalities. We are well aware of your crucial role, the time and effort associated with this task and hence highly appreciate your valuable contribution.

# Evaluation of Proposals

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The EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel established by the EUROFLEETS Consortium consisting of international experts covering all fields of marine science, will judge eligible proposals based on the evaluation of each proposal by at least three independent reviewers. All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure **Objectivity, Transparency, Equality of Treatment, Impartiality, Quality and Confidentiality**.

The membership of the EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel is personal and public. For more details concerning the Panel’s mandate and members please consult the EUROFLEETS [Scientific Review Panel](#) document.

## 1) Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation of proposals is managed by the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office. The process aims to be fair and transparent and will provide constructive feedback to applicants.

Evaluation is conducted in three steps, as follows:

Step	Undertaken by
------	---------------

Reference : EUROFLEETS-NA5-D5.7  
Security : Public

1. Eligibility Check	EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office
2. Individual Evaluations	Individual Evaluators, overseen by the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office
3. Consensus Evaluation	EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel

## 2) 1. Eligibility Check

Proposals for funding received by the notified submission date are checked for compliance with the general **Eligibility Criteria**. These criteria include:

- Was a complete application received on time?
- Is the proposal from an eligible institution?
- Are the PI and the majority of the user group from a member state or an associated state to FP7, and from another country than the research vessel he/she is applying for ship-time?
- Are at least two partners from different countries involved?
- Are all sections of the application form completed correctly - including the statement by the lead institution, with appropriate signatures?

Proposals considered to be ineligible will be returned to the applicant with a note explaining why they were considered to be not eligible.

## 3) 2. Individual Expert Evaluation

The EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office maintains a list of expert evaluators to assist in the evaluation of all proposals for funding. The names of the experts assigned to individual proposals are not made public. However, the EUROFLEETS Consortium makes available a list of all the experts participating in proposal evaluation, either as a reviewer or EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel member at regular intervals. Evaluators are required to read and sign a Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Form.

Proposals meeting the eligibility criteria are evaluated based on their individual merit by a minimum of three individual evaluators. The experts examine the proposal(s) assigned to them and score and comment on each proposal under each of the **Evaluation Criteria** (see below) using an individual **Proposal Assessment Form**.

Each proposal should be evaluated using the criteria laid out below. Marks should be awarded for each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

<b>0 – Very Poor</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information
<b>1 – Poor</b>	The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
<b>2 – Fair</b>	The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.
<b>3 – Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion in question well but certain improvements are necessary.
<b>4 – Very Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.

Reference : EUROFLEETS-NA5-D5.7  
Security : Public

**5 – Excellent**      The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.

4)

5)

## 6) Evaluation criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria. Criteria of lesser importance are marked \*.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>1) Scientific and technical quality of the ship-time proposal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) General scientific background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the current state of knowledge in the research area well described?</li> <li>• Are cited references relevant and reflect the state-of-the-art?</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Specific aims of the expedition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the proposed topic of high scientific quality and does it provide innovative aspects?</li> <li>• Are the research objectives and expected deliverables/outputs of the proposal clearly stated? Are they achievable?</li> <li>• To which extent do the expected results lead to a progress beyond the current state-of-the-art?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	30%
<b>2) Quality of the work programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the work plan adequate? Is it clearly described and well defined? Is the research area, the number of planned stations and transects well justified? Can the proposed work plan be realized in the set time?</li> <li>• Are the scheduled tasks and methods adequate to the set objectives? Is it clearly stated which methods and equipment will be employed?</li> <li>• Does the proposed project maximise the use of the research vessel and associated infrastructure? Has the proposal assessed any likely risks and are provisions for downtime/bad weather included?</li> </ul>	25%
<b>3) Scientific qualification/track record of the proposing PI and user group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background/track record of the PI</li> <li>• Background/track record of the scientific team</li> <li>• Are the roles and responsibilities of the scientific team clearly stated? Is the combined expertise suitable to achieve the research objectives of the cruise?</li> </ul>	10%
<b>4) Technical capability to carry out the research cruise and data exploitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is all necessary equipment available to carry out the proposed project?</li> <li>• Is a clear concept presented how the gathered data will be shared with shore based scientists, analyzed and published?</li> <li>• Is additional funding available to support the research cruise and analysis of gathered data and samples?</li> </ul>	15%



<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Will data be fed into international/national data banks or models?</li> </ul>	
<b>5) Collaboration with international/national partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent are new European user groups with limited access to marine infrastructure integrated?</li> <li>*To what extent is the proposed project embedded into larger research programmes on a national, EU or international level?</li> <li>*What is the potential for a long term integration/collaboration on an international level?</li> </ul>	15%
<b>6) Training of young scientists/public outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many young scientists and students at PhD level and below will be involved?</li> <li>*Are dissemination activities addressing the general public planned?</li> </ul>	5%

## 7) 3. Consensus Evaluation

Once the individual experts to whom proposals have been assigned have completed their individual evaluations, a **Consensus Meeting** is convened to enable joint consideration of proposals by the EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel. In preparation of the Consensus Meeting one member of the EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel will be assigned to each proposal to act as a presenter and commentator of that proposal during the Consensus Meeting.

During the Consensus Meeting the panel members will consider each proposal and agree on a final mark for each of the evaluation criteria and an overall mark (score) for the proposal. Proposals will be ranked within their respective class (Global/Ocean and Regional) according to their overall score. Thresholds will then be set for the following categories:

- Recommended for scheduling
- Additional proposals
- Not recommended

Evaluators justify their marks with constructive and informative comments. The EUROFLEETS Scientific Review Panel will agree on an overall **Consensus Evaluation Report**. All applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be given feedback on the outcome of the evaluation.

After the final recommendation of the Scientific Review Panel, high ranked proposals will be examined by the EUROFLEETS [Logistics Review Panel](#) to determine the logistical feasibility regarding research vessel, equipment, area of operation and timing of cruises. The EUROFLEETS Logistics Review Panel will aim at optimising the use of ship time, large equipment and cruise associated costs.

Successful applicants may be asked to make changes to their proposals during the funding negotiation phase to accommodate the comments of the evaluators and/or the comments of the

EUROFLEETS Scientific and Logistics Review Panel on cruise planning and possible integration with other projects/cruises.

Results of the evaluation process are expected to be published in late October 2011. Information will be available on the [Project Website](#) and all applicants whether successful or not will be directly contacted. No information on the evaluation process/outcome will be made available prior to this date. Successful applicants will be invited to enter into negotiation to conclude a contract as indicated in the chapter Terms and Conditions.



# EUROFLEETS proposal assessment form 2011

Proposal Number:

Proposal Title:

## BEFORE YOU START PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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### PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

This proposal has been sent to you for the sole purpose of conducting an expert assessment. Please note that in line with Belgium law and with European Union directives on the protection of data, the information contained in this proposal, including the personal data of the persons involved, shall not be used for any other purpose than the intended assessment.

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PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT THE PROPOSERS WILL RECEIVE UNATTRIBUTED AND ANONYMOUS COPIES OF THE ASSESSMENT FORM

8) Please hand in your evaluation form by the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 at [eurofleets@awi.de](mailto:eurofleets@awi.de)

9) On behalf of the EUROFLEETS Consortium, we sincerely thank you for your valuable contribution to this assessment, and would welcome any feedback you may have.

Referee's personal data (these will be treated confidentially)

All personal data supplied to the EUROFLEETS Consortium shall be processed in accordance with the Belgium Data Protection Act of 1992, as modified by the law of December 11, 1998 implementing Directive 95/46/EC entering into force in 2001, on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. You have the right to access and update the personal information about you and to ask for such information to be deleted.

For further information please send an email to [eurofleets@awi.de](mailto:eurofleets@awi.de)

Title: First name: Surname:

Address:

Contact phone no.:

E-mail:

Expertise key words (up to 5):

Conflict Of Interest (Confidential)

If you believe you stand to **directly benefit** financially, professionally or personally from the success or failure of this proposal, **you should not referee this proposal** and should contact the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office as soon as possible.

You should also refrain from reviewing the application if you have published together with the applicant or the co-workers within the past five years, if you are currently cooperating or if professional dependencies exist, or if you have any other potential **indirect interest**, **you should contact the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office and declare your conflicting interest.**

The EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office will carefully consider the level (and perceived level) of your interest and will inform you if you can continue to referee the proposal.

**If decided that you can continue to referee the proposal, please declare your situation below (Box A) and referee the proposal.** Your declaration will be used solely by the EUROFLEETS Evaluation Office and will not be disclosed elsewhere.

**Normal scientific interaction** e.g. at conferences, workshops, professional activities etc. **need not be declared.**

**Please tick here if you do not have any direct interest in the proposal**

**A. Conflict of interest** (possible indirect interest)

## Evaluation summary table

(Please complete the details on the following pages before completing this)

Criteria	Your Score (A)	% Weighting (B)	Your Weighted Score (AxB)
<b>Example</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>100</b>
1) Scientific and technical quality of the ship-time proposal		30%	
2) Quality of the work program		25%	
3) Scientific qualification/track record of the proposing PI and user group		10%	
4) Technical capability to carry out the research cruise and data exploitation		15%	
5) Collaboration with international/national partners		15%	
6) Training of young scientists/public outreach		5%	
Final overall score			

<b>Scores:</b>	<b>0 – Very Poor</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information
	<b>1 – Poor</b>	The proposal shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
	<b>2 – Fair</b>	The proposal generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.
	<b>3 – Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion in question well but certain improvements are necessary.
	<b>4 – Very Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.
	<b>5 – Excellent</b>	The proposal successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question.

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**10) Please note, that it is essential to substantiate your marks with written comments**

The points and questions laid out under each criterion should be regarded as a guideline to facilitate the formulation of your evaluation, but need not to be addressed point by point.

**1) Scientific and technical quality of the ship time proposal**

General scientific background

- Is the current state of knowledge in the research area well described?
- Are cited references relevant and reflect the state-of-the-art?

Specific aims of the expedition

- Is the proposed topic of high scientific quality and does it provide innovative aspects?
- Are the research objectives and expected deliverables/outputs of the proposal clearly stated? Are they achievable?
- To which extent do the expected results lead to a progress beyond the current state-of-the-art?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

**7) Quality of the work programme**

- Is the work plan adequate? Is it clearly described and well defined? Is the research area, the number of planned stations and transects well justified? Can the proposed work plan be realized in the set time?
- Are the scheduled tasks and methods adequate to the set objectives? Is it clearly stated which methods and equipment will be employed?
- Does the proposed project maximise the use of the research vessel and associated infrastructure? Has the proposal assessed any likely risks and are provisions for downtime/bad weather included?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

### 8) Scientific qualification/track record of the proposing PI and user group

- Background/track record of the PI
- Background/track record of the scientific team
- Are the roles and responsibilities of the scientific team clearly stated? Is the combined expertise suitable to achieve the research objectives of the cruise?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

### 9) Technical capability to carry out the research cruise and data exploitation

- Is all necessary equipment available to carry out the proposed project?
- Is a clear concept presented how the gathered data will be shared with shore based scientists, analyzed and published?
- Is additional funding available to support the research cruise and analysis of gathered data and samples?
- \*Will data be fed into international/national data banks or models?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

### 10) Collaboration with international/national partners

- To what extent are new European user groups with limited access to marine infrastructure integrated?
- \*To what extent is the proposed project embedded into larger research programmes on a national, EU or international level?
- \*What is the potential for a long term integration/collaboration on an international level?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

**11) Training of young scientists/public outreach**

- How many young scientists and students at PhD level and below will be involved?
- \*Are dissemination activities addressing the general public planned?

Comment:

Your Score (0-5):

**Evaluation summary**

- Please summarize the main strengths and weaknesses of the proposed project.

Comment: