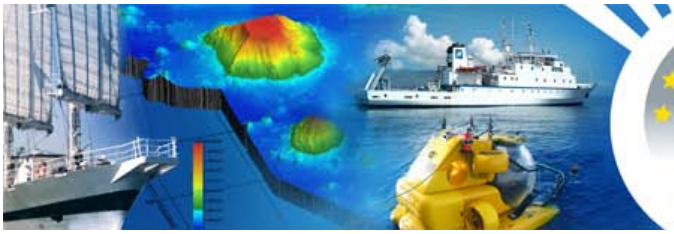

EUROFLEETS2

“Super-Integration” Call

Application

2013

Project website:

www.eurofleets.eu

Version 16.08.2013

Proposals must be submitted exclusively in electronic form via the online proposal submission website. In order to be able to login you have to register to the system. Once registered you are able to proceed with the submission of your proposal, which consists of two main parts.

Part A – General project information & applicant details

This part consists of the following three menus, containing forms that have to be filled in online:

- General and logistical project information

  Please fill in the Logistical Information form provided in this section and attach it to the proposal.

- Principal Investigator (PI)

In this menu the Principal Investigator has to agree to the following declaration:

> I declare that I will observe and carry out any investigation in accordance with the general principles of the „Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research in the Deep Seas and High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area" (Appendix I), regardless of the area of operation.
>
> I declare that the information provided is accurate and correct. I agree that the EUROFLEETS2 Consortium may make any enquiries it considers necessary to verify the information provided herein. I have read, understand and agree, if successful, to be bound by the Terms and Conditions for funding under the EUROFLEETS2 project as outlined in the Guidelines for Applicants.

- Project partners

For further details on how to proceed, please refer to the Proposal Submission Guidelines.

PART B – Scientific project description

This part needs to be uploaded at the end of the online application process following the link "Scientific and Logistic project description" on the online proposal submission website.

With respect to the work load of the evaluators the proposal should be as concise as possible. The information provided in this part should not exceed **16 pages** including appendices, tables and maps, but excluding CVs of the PI and co-proponents for which a dedicated template has to be used, and excluding the Logistical Information for which another dedicated template has to be used. The most important parts are the Scientific Objectives and the Work Programme **which should comprise four and five pages each**. A font size of Times New Roman 12pt should be used with 14 pt spacing.

When writing your proposal, please keep in mind that the evaluation of the proposal will be based, in large part, on the information provided in this section. The proposal should provide a comprehensive and robust justification for the provision of funding, without referring to cited or additional literature. When writing your proposal you should bear in mind the evaluation criteria.

The proposal should cover the following sections in the order indicated:

1. **Scientific objectives of the proposed work**

Including a) General scientific background

Please provide information on the current state of scientific knowledge in the field of research directly linked to the proposed work, including relevant citations. Please describe your own preliminary work in the field.

and b) Specific aims of the project

Please provide a clear description of the scientific objectives to be achieved with the proposed project highlighting its innovative aspects. What is the expected added value to the present state of knowledge? Provide clear evidence of expected outputs and deliverables from the proposed work and outline clearly the specific benefits and impacts of the research cruise(s).

Do not exceed **4 pages** for this section.

2. **Work programme**

Please provide a comprehensive description of the work to be carried out on each of the cruises. This should include a detailed **map of the investigation area(s)**, with transects and stations. A more detailed list of stations should be provided using the Logistical Information template. Please bear in mind that the quality of the work program is central to the evaluation of your proposal and you will therefore need to provide a plausible and conclusive case for the request of multiple cruises, embarked equipment and number of berths.

Please do not exceed **5 pages** for this section.

3. **Principal investigator and user group**

Provide information on the number of people joining the on-board team(s) and their assigned tasks. Please provide details of the expertise/track record of the PI and other partners and participants directly joining the embarked team (including details of ship-based experience). Match the expertise of your team in relation to the objectives and work to be carried out.

Example:

Cruise 1:

No.	Name	Gender	Affiliation	On-board tasks
1	Fred Feuerstein	M	AWI	CTD work, Nutrient analysis
2	NN, Student	M	OGS	Seismics watch
	Etc.			

Cruise 2:

No.	Name	Gender	Affiliation	On-board tasks
1	Fred Feuerstein	M	AWI	CTD work, Nutrient analysis
2	NN, Student	M	OGS	Seismics watch
	Etc.			

Attach brief CVs of the PI and co-proponents using the dedicated template. Only the five most recent/important publications should be stated.

4. Technical capability to carry out the research cruise and data exploitation

Please provide information on the technical equipment necessary to carry out the proposed work and its availability. If applicable, who will benefit from real time data sharing? Give a detailed outline and timeline of how and when gathered data and samples will be analysed, taking into account additional funding sources, since no funding is available within the EUROFLEETS2 project to analyse gathered data and samples. Please describe if applicable if there is "own equipment" or complementary funding available to support the research cruise. Please describe how the knowledge gained through a EUROFLEETS2 funded project will be disseminated and where gained data will be stored.

5. National and International collaboration

If applicable, please provide information on how your proposed project is embedded into other larger research projects or programs on a national or international level. If applicable, please describe how new European user groups with limited access to marine infrastructure will be integrated.

6. Training of young scientists/public outreach

Please provide information on how you will support the training of young scientists in the frame of your project, if you could devote spare berths to (international) young researchers/scientists in a training role and which activities will be undertaken to inform the general public about your research cruise.

7. Travelling and shipment costs

Please provide a detailed and realistic budget of expenses incurred in relation to travelling of cruise participants and possible shipment of equipment to the preferred port of mobilisation and back from the port of demobilisation.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

HAVE YOU:

- Checked if you satisfy all eligibility criteria?
- Completed every part of the online application form?
  - General and logistical information
  - Principal Investigator
  - Project partners
- Compiled the Scientific and Logistic Project description? Proposal should include 3 parts:
  - **Application** (must not exceed **16 pages**)
  - **CVs from PIs and partners** using the provided **template**?
  - **Logistic Information** for all the requested cruises using the provided **template**?
- Finally submitted your proposal as a single pdf document?
- Signed and stamped a copy of the Proposal Summary Sheet and sent to the EUROFLEETS2 Evaluation Office?

CLOSING DATE

Proposals must be received online via the online proposal submission website by

Monday 16th of September 2013, 18:00 HOURS (CET)

The proposal submission website will no longer be accessible after this date. Please allow enough time to upload your proposal to avoid the call closure rush.

One signed (PI and an appropriate authorised person (e.g. head of department, research office)) and stamped copy of the proposal summary sheet must be posted to the EUROFLEETS2 Evaluation Office, to arrive no later than the **1st of October 2013**, at the following address:

Dr. Verónica Willmott-Puig
EUROFLEETS2 Evaluation Office

Am Handelshafen 12
27570 BREMERHAVEN

GERMANY

Appendix I

OSPAR Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research in the Deep Seas and High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area

Version: 7-Mar-2008

Background

1. This code of conduct is based on the InterRidge Statement of Commitment to Responsible Research Practices at Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents, and an unofficial translation of the German Senatskommission für Ozeanographie / German Marine Consortium KDM, Commitment to Responsible Marine Research. It has been developed within the work programme of the OSDPAR Biodiversity Committee by an intersessional correspondence group on marine protected areas working in consultation with a number of deep sea scientists and experts. It is currently being circulated to European scientific bodies for further comment.

2. The OSPAR Maritime Area includes large areas of deep and high sea.[1] These are recognised as containing ecosystems that may have a lower resilience than shallower nearshore areas, including several species and habitats that can be vulnerable to human disturbances.

3. The OSPAR Commission has adopted, and keeps under review, an Initial OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (OSPAR agreement 2004/6) to guide the setting priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity. The species and habitats on this list, especially those occurring in high / deep sea areas, are vulnerable to different actual or potential human activities, including marine scientific research.

4. OSPAR acknowledges the provisions and entitlements of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and highlights that the General Principles for the Conduct of Marine Scientific Research set out therein require, *inter alia*, that marine scientific research shall be conducted in compliance with all relevant regulations adopted in conformity with UNCLOS including those for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.

5. OSPAR recognises that marine research scientists appreciate the uniqueness and complexity of the marine environment, and are therefore particularly interested in preserving this scientifically, aesthetically, ecologically, and potentially economically valuable environment. Because of the specialized nature of the equipment required to work in the deep-sea, such as manned and unmanned research submersibles, scientists are the primary group of people who have had the opportunity to visit and value these extraordinary habitats. OSPAR also recognises that scientists have already worked to develop codes of conduct for some deep-sea features, such as hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, and this OSPAR code of conduct has been written to fit harmoniously with those. (Specific provisions concerning the conduct of scientific research in certain deep / high seas habitats will be attached as annexes to this statement as they are developed.)

6. The potential impact of many scientific activities on the marine environment is low in comparison to the potential for disturbance by natural processes (e.g. volcanic/tectonic events, slumps, climate variation, etc.) or other human activities (e.g. mining, fisheries, and shipping). Indeed many areas, especially seamounts and cold coral reefs, have been widely impacted by human activities, like

[1] For the purposes of this document, *deep sea* shall follow the FAO definition and mean areas of the sea deeper than 200 metres, and *high seas* shall mean the water column and / or the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction, within the OSPAR Maritime Area.

fisheries, long before being scientifically studied. Nonetheless, there remains the possibility that some scientific activities could have unwanted negative side-effects on particular regions or animals if research activities are not carefully planned and executed. In addition, because only a limited number of sites are currently known and scientists from a wide variety of disciplines frequently work at these single locations, there is the potential for conflicting effects among studies, and multiple impacts, particularly at sites where scientific activity is intense.

7. OSPAR recognises that protection and sustainable use of the oceans is best served by a fundamental understanding of its complex marine ecosystems, and that can only be achieved through marine research. OSPAR further recognises that the role of scientists is also of primary importance concerning the implementation of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas, and this should be preceded with the best available science.

8. Thus, marine research is a prerequisite and an integral component of an ecosystem based management of marine resources and the effective conservation of biodiversity of the deep and high seas. Most forms of observation and investigation of natural systems involve some disturbance of the systems being studied. In the interest of environmental stewardship, it must be the goal of research scientists to minimize disturbances as much as possible, while still gathering the information necessary both to understand the systems and to form a basis for sustainable use strategies. Therefore, marine scientists should always evaluate their research plans from a conservative standpoint, and choose the most environmentally friendly research approach.

9. When awarding research grants or research cruise time, the research plans should be assessed against conformity with the following principles.

Conduct of responsible marine science

10. OSPAR requests all scientists working in the deep seas and high seas of the OSPAR maritime area to adhere to the following principles when conducting their work:

a. **Species**: avoid, in the course of scientific research, activities which could lead to long-lasting changes in regional populations or substantially reduce the number of individuals present.

b. **Habitats:** avoid, in the course of scientific research, activities which could lead to substantial physical, chemical, biological or geological changes or damage to marine habitats.

c. **Threatened and/or declining features:** When working in areas of particular ecological vulnerability, including, *inter alia*, the features listed in the OSPAR "List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats" utmost care should be taken not to disturb or damage the features as far as possible.

d. **Management areas / marine protected areas:** When working in areas of particular ecological importance and/or sensitivity, including, *inter alia*, OSPAR marine protected areas, care has to be taken not to disturb or damage the protected features, and that activities are in compliance with regulations for the area. Further, scientists are requested to respect the importance of management areas like marine protected areas and are asked to assist in their implementation through the use of the best scientific knowledge.

e. **Notification and research planning:** Avoid activities which could disturb the experiments and observations of other scientists. This requires that scientists: a) make themselves familiar with the status of current and planned research in an area; and b) that they ensure that their own research activities and plans are known to the rest of the international research community via appropriate public domain data bases and web sites.

f. **Methods:** Use the most environmentally-friendly and appropriate study methods which are reasonably available.

g. **Transport of biota:** Ensure that transport of biota between different marine regions, which could lead to changes in the environment or the composition of marine communities, does not occur.

h. **Collections:** Avoid collections that are not essential to the conduct of the scientific research, and reduce the number of samples to the necessary minimum.

i. **Collaboration and cooperation:** Ensure the fullest possible use of all biological, chemical and geological samples through collaborations and cooperation within the global community of scientists. Samples which can be archived should be placed in accessible repositories for future use.

j. **Data-sharing**: Practise international sharing of data, samples and results in order to minimize the amount of unnecessary sampling and to further a global understanding of the marine environment.

11. OSPAR supports the individual points of this commitment unreservedly and requests all scientists to adhere to them when planning and carrying out their research.

12. Their application should be a prerequisite for the granting of research funds and ship-time.