

Report of the twelfth meeting of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG) (- formally the MFTG), held on 30th April 2004 in London, UK.

Attending: Mike Webb (Chairman), Jacques Binot, Katherine Branch, Jean-Xavier Castrec, Juanjo Danobeitia, Colin Day, Andy Louch, Thomas Mueller, Marieke Rietveld, Uli Wolf

Apologies: Geraint West

1. Welcome & introductions

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Ms Katherine Branch from the NERC.

2. Approval of minutes

After a brief discussion the minutes of the last meeting were approved for publication on the OFEG website (**Action: Webb**)

3. Report of the activities of each country since the last OFEG meeting

The Group discussed past activities and how they should be presented to the wider community.

It was agreed that the Chairman would collate all of the data on MFTG activities so that this data would be available to members for presentations on OFEG activity and it would also be available on the OFEG website. (**Action: Webb**)

The Group briefly gave an up-date on recent barter cruises and agreement was reached on the amendments that were needed to the barter 'bank' points balances to bring them up to date. Concern was raised about the lack of provision of an equivalent level of service on barter cruises on German ships compared to other OFEG ships. In particular it was felt that German ships should – as a standard – be able to provide a technician to support CTD work. It was agreed that the Group would write to BMBF expressing its concern and suggesting that financial provision be made to cover some technician support costs. It was noted that the NERC had recently decided to provide £50k p.a. to cover technician costs so that it was able to provide an equivalent level of service when its ships were used for OFEG barter cruises. (**Action: Webb**)

The Group noted the anticipated deployment areas for OFEG's ships in 2005, 2006 and 2007. It was agreed that the Group would – for the first time – put the deployment information for 2006 into an announcement that would go out to the seagoing communities in France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. The Chair agreed to draft the announcement and circulate it to the Group's members for approval. (**Action: Webb**)

4. Possibilities for 'new' barter cruises.

- 4.1 The Group discussed at length the barter possibilities that the anticipated ship deployments presented and fifteen bids (that are outlined in detail at annex I) were identified for potential OFEG barter cruises in 2005 and 2006. It was agreed that a draft list of these cruise bids would be circulated following the meeting to ensure that all of the bid details were correct.
(Action: Webb)

5. Up-dating the OFEG booklet

- 5.1 The Group discussed the content of the booklet and a few minor revisions were agreed for the booklet's text on the OFEG website
- 5.2 The number of barter points against facilities in the booklet were considered to still be appropriate – although the Group felt that the *Poseidon* was possibly over priced given her size and that there was a case for reducing her cost down to 6-points. It was agreed that the Group would discuss barter costs at its next meeting and agree what the costs should be for the *Pourquoi pas?*, *Poseidon*, the German ROV, and Spanish marine facilities – although this will depend on Spain's status within OFEG in November.
- 5.3 The Group discussed the barter cost of the new German ship, *Mirian*, and it was agreed that she would be added to the booklet's barter valuations table at a cost of 10 points per day. This was considered to be a fair rate of exchange as it was the same rate as was charged for *L'Atalante* and *Discovery*.

6. Fleet up-date

6.1

7. Dates and venues of future meetings

- 7.1 The Group noted the following dates and venues for its future meetings: Friday 5th November 2004, Barcelona, Spain; Friday 22nd April, Lorient or Breast, France; Friday 5th November 2005, Kiel, Germany; and Spring 2006 in the Netherlands.

Action Sheet arising from MFTG meeting on the 14th November 2003

Action 2.1: Approved MFTG minutes to go on the WWW [**Webb: By the end of November**]

Action 5.3: Up-date MFTG booklet and put it on the WWW [**Webb: Following the meeting**]

Annex I: Barter exchange bids

Total bids: 15

Bids from BMBF

1. 21-days, West of Guadeloupe, early 2005 (PS: Send) [Mooring turnaround + CTD CLIVAR cruise] [*L'Atalante*]
or,
5-days, West of Guadeloupe (PS: Send) [Recover moorings] [*L'Atalante*]
2. 3-days, Irminger Sea, August-September 2005 [Exchange moorings] [*Pelagia or Discovery*]

Bids from Ifremer

1. 5-days, Gulf of Guinea, February-March 2005 [*any barter ship*]
2. 20-days, Drake Passage, January-February 2006 (PS: C Provost)[*Polarstern*]
3. 30-days, South China Sea, March-June 2006 (science prog.: S Berne ; cruise name DONGHAI) [multi. discip.] [*Sonne*]
4. 30-days, North Atlantic, July 2006 (CLIVAR cruise OVIDE) [*Merian*]

Bids from NERC

1. 25-days, Celtic Sea, April 2005 (PS: Trimmer) [coring] [*Pelagia or Poseidon*]
2. 20-days, Faeroe Channel, June or Sept 2005 (PS: Huthnance) [Phys. Oceanog.] [*Poseidon*]
3. 24-days, North Atlantic, Summer 2005 (PS: Weaver) [ROV ISIS cruise] [*Pourquoi pas? or any DP ship required*]
4. 10-days, Montserrat, anytime in 2005 (PS: Sparkes) [Rock drill and swath] [*L'Atalante*]
5. 24-days, North Atlantic, Summer 2006 (PS: Weaver) [ROV ISIS cruise] [*DP ship required for ROV deployment: Merian/Meteor/Pourquoi pas?/Thalassa*]

Bids for NIOZ

1. 20-days, Mozambique Channel, February-March 2005 [mooring turnaround + CTD] [*Discovery*]
2. 3-day, South of Sardinia, April-May 2005 [mooring recovery]
3. 4-days, off Brest, 2005/2006 (equipment trials for 'BISCAY BEAMS') [*any Ifremer ship*]
4. 10-20 days, Mozambique Channel, end of 2006 [moorings recovery or turnaround] [*any barter ship*]

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