



# **European Research Vessel Fleet:**

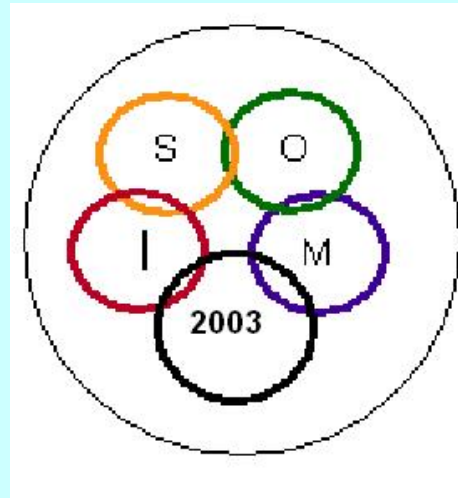
**efforts to achieve a co-ordinated approach**

- on operation**
- and future strategic planning**

**for investment in renewal of RVs and major equipment**



# OPERATION



## **ISOM – International research Ship Operators Meeting - founded in 1987**

Informal **best practice group** on operations of ocean going RVs – including regulations, legal, insurance, safety and security – renewals, shiptime exchange.

Emphasis on **ships over 50 m.**



**ISOM** is meeting once per year (2 days) in September/October - each year different hosting country

**World wide RV operators.** Members (~ 65) from 25 nations and NATO, and observers from the European Union, and the European Science Foundation

**Established the bi-annual INMARTECH (International Marine Technicians) Workshop as of 1996.**



# JMFG

**(Joint Marine Facilities Group – former MF  
Tripartite Group)**

evolving from ISOM and established in 1996

An **Agreement** signed by a Ministry (BMBF – Germany), national research agencies (NERC – UK and IFREMER – France, to be extended with CSIC - Spain), and a Foundation (Royal NIOZ – Netherlands in 2002)



# JMFG

**Main objective:** exchange of shiptime and exchange of major equipment based on ‘bartering’; joint cruises

**RVs:** blue ocean vessels ( 3 UK, 4 Germany - plus 3 for joint cruises only - , 3 France, 1 NL, 3 Spain to be)

**Major Equipment:** Submersibles, ROVs, AUVs  
Heavy seismic equipment  
Lab vans & other

Exchange based on **value points** according to scientific capacity as agreed between members



# JMFG

Meeting twice per year (Spring and Autumn) for 1 day

**Future perspectives:** absorbing new active members, increase ship exchanges, increase interoperability of major equipment, co-ordination of major investments, sharing investment costs, shared RVs, development of joint cruises



# ERVO

## ERVO – European Research Vessel Operators

Founded in 1999 by the ESF Marine Board

Informal **best practice group** on operations of regional RVs.

Emphasis on **smaller (mainly regional & coastal operating) ships**

Meeting once per year in April/May

Members **European RV operators** from EU-countries and others (Iceland, Norway, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania).

Partly overlapping with ISOM





# STRATEGIC PLANNING



# WG MRI

## **EU ad hoc Working Group on Marine Research Infrastructure**

installed 2002 by the **European Strategy forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI)**.

Members from Scientific institutions, National Research agencies and Ministries. Scope wider than RVs, also comprising monitoring and observing systems, new technologies, marine data centres.

Reported 2003: “**European Strategy on Marine Research Infrastructure**”.



## **Recommendations:**

- **to establish a ‘virtual’ pool of RVs in Europe, following the JMFG model**
- **to establish a Marine Infrastructure Strategy Group (MISG)**

The EU MISG could be an important actor for long term strategy on investments and new builds of the European RV fleet. The members should have access to funding authorities. Further it should include experts on shipbuilding and new technologies



# OFWG

**OFWG (Ocean Fleets Working Group)**

of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Marine Board  
installed 2002

Members RV operators assigned by Marine Board  
member states

[www.esf.org/marineboard](http://www.esf.org/marineboard)



Starting from an **EU report on national fleets** of RVs in Europe that was an inventory of the existing fleet

- the OFWG will elaborate on the existing management and funding processes as well as on the existing partnerships and possibility of further collaboration.
- the OFWG will produce **a tool for politicians** to decide on future investments in marine infrastructure, including fleet renewal.



New buildings within the Joint Marine Facilities Group:

**NO Beautemps Beaupré** (80m) - IFREMER/Fr.Navy:  
early 2004

**FS Maria Sibylla Merian** (95m) - Germany: end 2004

**NO Pourquoi Pas?** (105m) - IFREMER: early 2005

**RSS Charles Darwin replacement** (82m) - NERC: 2006

The Spanish Government recently approved the construction of a **new multipurpose oceanographic vessel (60-70m)** for oceanic research that will be run by the CSIC: 2006 - 2007



# N/O Beautemps Beaupré



© Photo Alstom Marine



Maria Sibylla Merian (model)

Polar class: PC 7



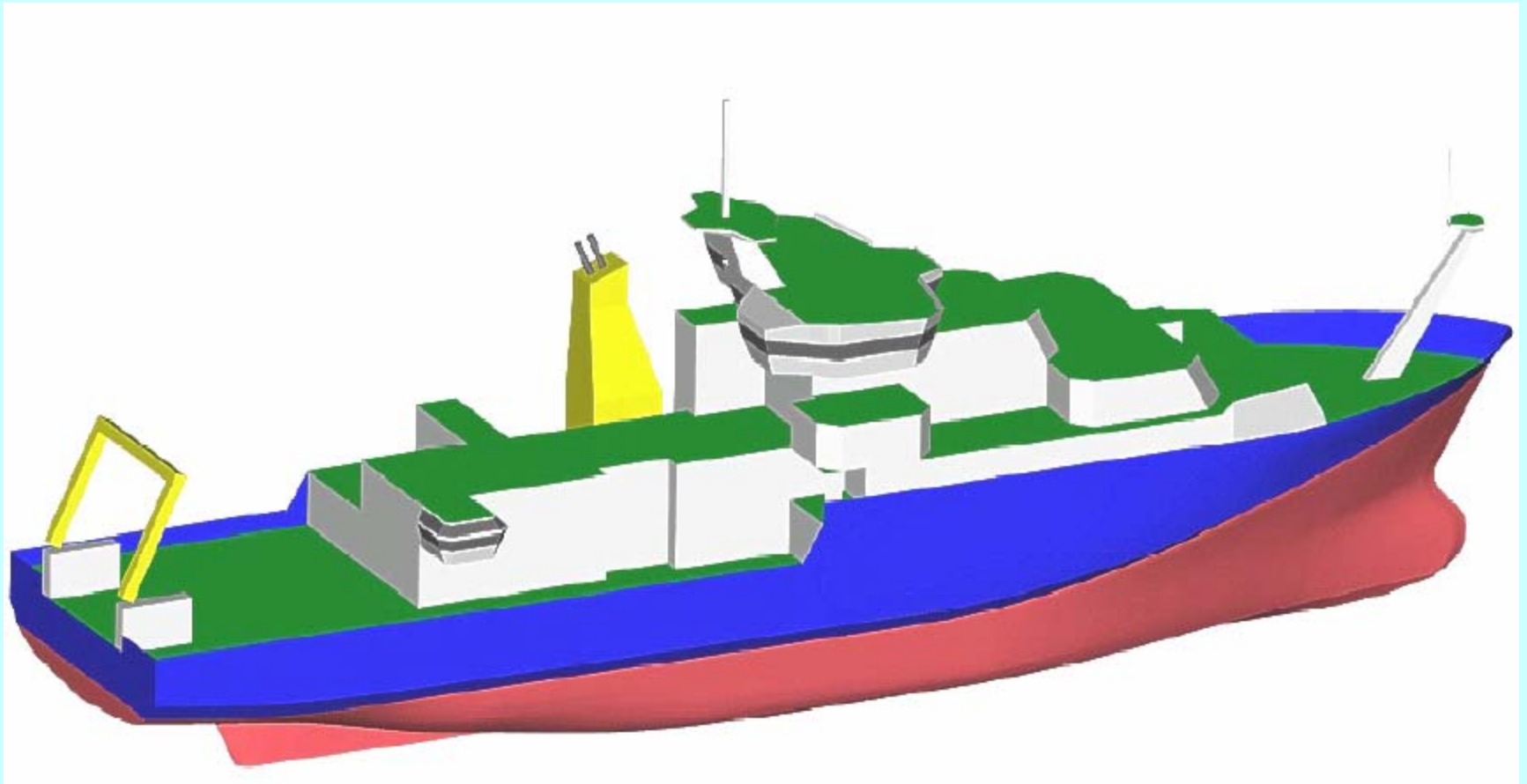


# N/O Pourquoi Pas? (artist impression)





## RRS Charles Darwin Replacement (3D view)





## Royal NIOZ New build:

**R/V NEREIS (20m): early 2004**

Aluminum twin hull - waterjet propulsion (20 kn)

Work area: Wadden Sea and near coast

draught: 0.8m



# RV NEREIS

