

UNOLS FIC/Council Update

11 March 2009

Bob Houtman

National Science Foundation

Topics

- Budget Projections
- ARRV Construction Status
- Replacement Human Occupied Vehicle
- Hybrid ROV
- Regional Class Research Vessel
- OOI

Budget Projections

- NSF is still on a Continuing Resolution
 - 90% of the FY08 level
 - No new program starts
- FY09 Omnibus Bill on Capital Hill
- FY10 budget inputs provided to OMB
- ARRA lists NSF as receiving \$3B
 - \$400M for MREFC
 - \$200M for Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI)
 - \$300M for Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)
 - \$2B for Research and Related Activities

Budget Projections

- NSF ARRA spend plan submitted to OMB
- Capital Hill approval required
- ARI was funded by NSF in the past
- ARI and MRI details/criteria not clear yet
 - Possible call for proposals
- MREFC funds for “shovel ready” projects
 - Possible candidates are ARRIV and OOI

ARRV Construction Status

- Final Design Review complete
- Panel recommendations incorporated
 - 12' lengthening with Anti-roll tank being explored as a contract option
 - Model testing in progress
- Approved by Director's Review Board
- RFI released with RFP ready for release
- Package ready for NSB approval

RHOV

- Sphere girth weld delayed one month to Apr 09, no projected impact on cost/final schedule
- RHOV 6500M vehicle PDR Nov 07
- LM revised cost estimate Feb 08 ~\$43M
- NSF/RHOC requested WHOI prepare an alternative phased approach (ALVIN Upgrade)
 - Phase I : Integrate new sphere with 4500M vehicle
 - Phase II: Upgrade components to 6500M

RHOV

- LM revised cost estimate Jun 08 ~\$50M
- WHOI/LM contract allowed to expire Aug 08
- Large Facilities Guidelines w/PDR and FDR
- ALVIN Upgrade planned schedule:
 - ~ Jul 09 PDR
 - ~ Dec 09 FDR
 - ~ Jul 10 Begin integration
 - ~ Summer 11 Initial sea trials
- Phase I Cost estimate ~ \$35M w/o contingency

Hybrid ROV

- Project is fully funded
- Shallow sea trial completed in 2008
- Components being upgraded for 11KM capability
- Deep sea trial scheduled for mid 2009

Regional Class Research Vessel

- Contracts being closed out w/NAVSEA
- MOU being terminated
- NSF will move the program forward
- Winter 2008 status
 - Both designs complete
 - Awaiting final close-out packages from NAVSEA

Regional Class Research Vessel

- Spring/Summer 2009
 - Convene Design Selection Committee
 - Provide down-select recommendation to NSF
 - Standard NSF Committee of Experts (Closed)
 - Members include some original RCRV Technical Advisors from Phase I (UNOLS ship operators, technical support, scientists) plus ship design/construction experts ~10 total

Regional Class Research Vessel

- Process will be:
 - Well documented
 - Use elements of the NAVSEA Selection Criteria and ARRV Shipyard Selection Process (which has been subject to both internal NSF and external panel review)
- Fall 2009
 - NSF makes final design decision
 - NSF develops solicitation for “Construction and Operation of the RCRV” following the ARRV process model

Regional Class Research Vessel

- Phase I - Project Refresh
- Phase II - Shipyard Selection
- Phase III - Construction
- Phase IV - Transition to Operations
- If construction funds are identified:
 - 2010 Release Solicitation/Review Proposals
 - 2011 Shipyard Selection
 - 2012 Construction
 - 2015 Operations

OOI

- Final Design Review completed Nov 08
- NSF is preparing documents for internal GEO review and the Director's Review Board Approval
- NSF plans to request approval for a FY10 construction start at the May NSB meeting
- NSF has been requested to provide jobs and economy metrics data for the OOI project in relationship to the ARRA

Questions?