

Report of the Infrastructure Subcommittee

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Issues

- What principles should guide the decision on whether Ocean Leadership should manage a large facility?
- What other facilitative roles are appropriate for Ocean Leadership with regard to infrastructure?
- What are the avenues for Ocean Leadership to influence decisions on oceanographic infrastructure?
- How do we control costs?

Principles

- Never diminish competition needlessly
- Chose the boundary carefully between the centrally-managed facility (reliable, cost effective) and the PI-driven project (creative, rapidly evolving)
- Don't confuse a research project with an infrastructure project, or vice versa – they do not both prosper under the same rules

Facilitative Roles

- Communicate among members on infrastructure activities (academic, industry, NGOs)
- Hold workshops to help with setting standards (Example: Would Ocean Leadership have accelerated the acceptance of PUCK as an industry standard for a sensor web enablement? The Open Geospatial Consortium is now filling that role.)
- Foster improved avenues for industry/academic technology transfer

Influencing Decisions

- This is an exceptionally opportune time to shape the national agenda on oceanographic infrastructure with several NRC studies in the works
- Ocean Leadership can have influence by suggesting members for the study committees, helping with workshops that provide input to the studies, and supporting those members who are asked to serve.

Controlling Costs

- Foster competition to the maximum extent possible
- Let users know the true costs
- Make sure the facility structure does not preclude introducing a disruptive technology, either from within, or more commonly from outside