Scientific Ocean Drilling: A Horizon Scan as of December 2023

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Outline

- Activities through the end of IODP
- NSF statements/guidance/actions so far
 - US community efforts
 - Information available for IODP³

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Activities through the end of IODP

- IODP ends 30 September 2024, as planned from its beginning
- 3 JR expeditions, 2 MSP expeditions, 1 Chikyu expedition completed or begun by 30 September 2024
- JR demobilization planned for Europe. Lab equipment to instrument GCR? Fate of drillstring, drill bits, etc. TBD
- Note that JR is not being retired. Siem is actively seeking users for the JR after September 2024
- JRSO wind-down over 5 year period. MOUs being negotiated to maintain present distribution of cores for 5 years

NSF statements/guidance/actions so far

As part of the non-renewal announcement in March, NSF announced intention to:

- support work on existing data and materials
- support science that targets future scientific ocean drilling objectives
- support early career researchers
- support participation and missions on available platforms

NSF/OCE request to National Academies for 2025-2035 Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences, including explicit focus on scientific ocean drilling (interim report due early 2024). Steps toward procuring new drilling vessel likely depend on DSOS recommendations

Recent DCL for expressions of interest in hosting US Coordinating Office for Scientific Ocean Drilling (SODCO)

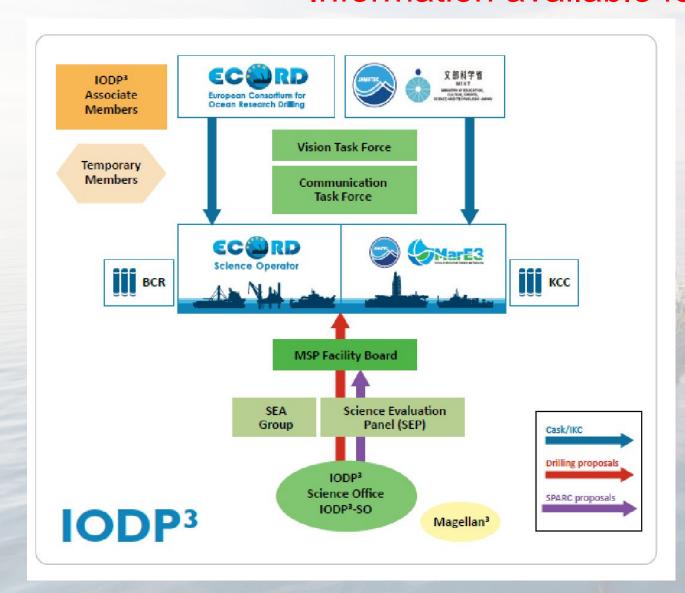
- assist PIs in selection of appropriate drilling platforms (could include JR?); i.e.,
 MSP-like approach
- encourage innovations in drilling technologies
- manage drilling activities for the US community
- provide guidance to PIs to meet core curation responsibilities

US Community Efforts

- US-Scientific Ocean Drilling Alliance (SODA) letters to NSF & associated petitions for individual signatures
- USSSP-led development of Science Mission Requirements for a new riserless vessel
- Several community-initiated letters to NSF and to NASEM DSOS committee
- JRFB Working Group developed guidelines for Ocean Drilling Legacy Asset Projects (LEAPs). Five preproposals submitted for pilot program; review at January 2024 IODP SEP meeting
- Strong community participation at DSOS workshop devoted to scientific ocean drilling
- Start of USSSP-led FOCUS (Future Ocean Drilling in the US) workshops to define near- and long-term US priorities

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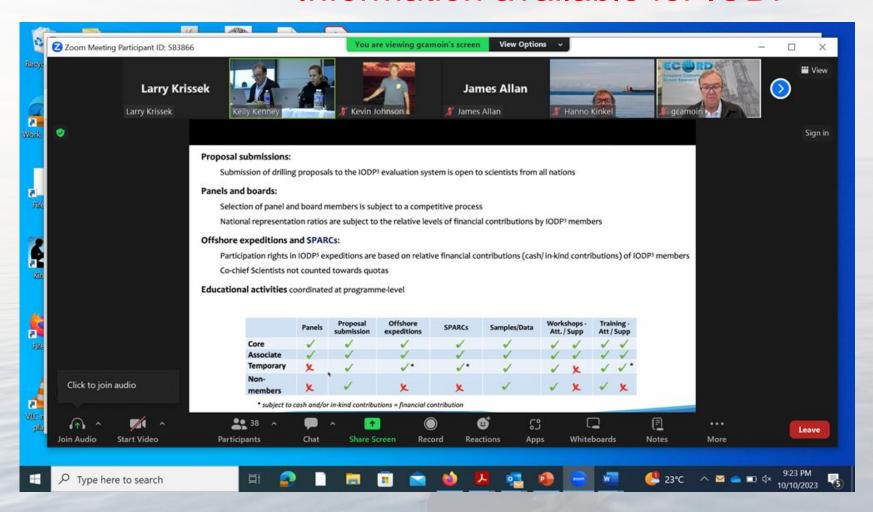
Information available for IODP³



- ECORD and Japan have been developing plans for a new alliance, based on an "expanded MSP concept" – i.e., any type of platform, including Chikyu, Chikyu in riserless mode, other riserless vessel (JR?), conventional vessel with long-coring capability, geotech vessels, liftboats, jack-up rigs, etc.
- Diagram from ECORD Newsletter #39 (December 2023)
- IODP³ also plans to evaluate/support projects using legacy assets (SPARCS)

December 2023 MSROC 6

Information available for IODP³



Held 3 virtual workshops in early 2023 to jumpstart proposal development. In-person workshop will be in Spring 2024; registration presently open.

Very much a "pay to play" system.

"Core" = platform
provider
"Associate" =
long-term
contributions > ~1M
Euro/yr
"Temporary" =
intermittent or
contributions >
~0.5M Euro/yr

See ECORD
Newsletter #39
(December 2023)
for the details that
have been
announced
publicly.