



INVITATION TO 8TH INMARTECH 2012

Dear Invitee

Invitation to participate in the 8th Inmartech 2012 Symposium

The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) has great pleasure in inviting you to attend the 8th International Marine Technicians Symposium, Inmartech 2012, to be held in Texel, the Netherlands, between 25 and 28 September 2012.

Background

Inmartech Symposia were initiated, and are coordinated, by the annual International Research Ship Operators meetings (IRSO, formerly ISOM). The purpose of Inmartech is to provide a forum for international exchange of knowledge and experiences between operational, marine technicians aiming to improve equipment performance, deployment and operational techniques during scientific cruises on research vessels.

Inmartech Symposia are organised biannually; and Inmartech 2012 is the eighth symposium. The first symposium was held in 1996 in Southampton (UK), followed by meetings organised by SCRIPPS, San Diego, (USA); NIOZ, Texel (the Netherlands); JAMSTEC, Yokosuka (Japan); BAS, Cambridge (UK); WHOI, Woodshole (USA); and by Ifremer, Toulouse, (France).

The 8th Inmartech had originally been scheduled for January 2011, to be held in Wellington, New Zealand. Most unfortunately this event had to be cancelled for a range of reasons, particularly limited number of speakers for topics, and a lack of participants, believed to be caused by the financial situation many nations and science institutes were encountering.

During the 24nd IRSO meeting, held in Seattle, May 2011, the IRSO members decided that Inmartech symposia add significant value to marine scientific research and therefore called for the 8th Inmartech Symposium to proceed, possibly in a different format. It was considered that in the current economic climate New Zealand was too remote and therefore a location in either Europe or the United States is likely to attract a larger number of participants.

We expect that at least 60 marine technicians from all over the world will attend. This invitation is being sent as you have already participated in an earlier Inmartech symposium, you had enrolled for the Wellington event, your name was suggested to us by the agency you are working for, or because of your expertise in relation to one of the main topics in the programme.

Bearing the worldwide economic situation in mind, the organising committee believes that it would be worthwhile to hold a symposium that goes back to basics. Maintaining and reducing operational costs of the marine operations will allow more science to be done within the very tight budgets we all face. Sharing methods and technologies amongst likewise technical staff will enhance the overall outcome of the worldwide science.

NIOZ has the honour of hosting the 8th Inmartech symposium in Texel, the Netherlands. NIOZ, the national oceanographic institution of the Netherlands, was founded in 1876 and is part of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. NIOZ employs around 220 people and the annual budget is approximately €20 million. The institute is located on the

island of Texel at the border between the North Sea and the Wadden Sea, and about 100 km north of Amsterdam. NIOZ owns and operates the Dutch research vessels, RV *Navicula* (24m) and RV *Pelagia* (66m), as well as several small survey launches. Please refer to <http://www.nioz.nl>

Meeting Programme and Preliminary Agenda

The 8th Inmartech symposium will start off with an Ice breaker party on Tuesday September 25th and the main symposium will be from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th September 2012, starting around 8.30am and finishing at about 5pm each day. The Management Committee has proposed the following tentative programme:

1: In Situ Observations

- Moorings
- Landers
- ROV/AUV
- Innovation
- lessons learned/ tips and tricks

2: Coring

- Coring
- Cooperation
- Cables and winches
- Innovation
- Lessons learned / tips and tricks

3: Seismics

- Cooperation
- Innovation
- Multibeam
- Lessons learned/ tips and tricks

4: Shipboard session

- Containers
- Handling of equipment
- ISIS
- Innovation
- Lessons learned/ tips and tricks

5: Open session:

- all other topics that are of interest to the INMARTECH audience. If a topic turns out to be very popular it may be included as a separate session.

Every day we would also like to include a one hour "Show and Tell" session where participants talk about their own organisation, show their equipment and talk about their marine operations and share their good, but more importantly their not-so-good experiences.

New RV builds: Poster session.

R.V. Pelagia: On Thursday afternoon there will be guided tours around the harbour facilities and the NIOZ ships (Pelagia, Navicula, Stern, Luctor) followed by a short cruise with Pelagia around the island of Texel and with dinner on board Pelagia

The Organising Committee is looking for national and international marine technicians to give presentations within these topics; invited speakers will give an introduction to each session, to start a discussion amongst the participating marine technicians to exchange information and in particular, experiences.

Tour of NIOZ Facilities and Vessel

On Thursday 26th September visits are scheduled to NIOZ's research vessels *Pelagia*, *Navicula*, *Stern* and possibly *Luctor*. This will be followed by a cruise around Texel and dinner on board the vessel.

Participating Cost

The registration for participating in Inmartech will be Euro125 as a contribution to the overall cost. The symposium dinner on board Pelagia will be sponsored by NIOZ

Accommodation

To secure accommodation during September, being the tourist high season, NIOZ has made a group booking in Hotel De Pelikaan (<http://www.depelikaan.nl/>) on the island of Texel. We anticipate that the hotel room costs will be around Euro75 per night. In our next symposium update, around April 2012, we will provide detailed information.

Partner Programme

Should there be sufficient interest from partners, NIOZ will be pleased to organise a Partner Programme.

Inmartech Mailing List

Based on information received from previous Inmartech Symposiums we have compiled a preliminary list of names and email addresses.

What do you need to do now?

1. Complete Registration Form

If you think that you will or are likely to come to the 8th Inmartech Symposium in Texel, please fill in the enclosed Registration Form and returned to us either by email (meet@nioz.nl) or by fax +31 0222 319 674.

2. Update Inmartech Mailing List

Please check the attached Inmartech Mailing List thoroughly (sourced from previous symposia and other information we have on file) to ensure your details are correct. Also please check the details of the other members of your country and advise us of any changes. Similarly let us know if you think that other people should be added this list or deleted from it. Please return to Carmen Blaauboer by email (meet@nioz.nl).

For the Organising Committee



Fred Smits, NIWA, New Zealand



Erica Koning, NIOZ, the Netherlands