

EUR-OCEANS Consortium: Call for Letters of Intent

Call Areas: Flagship Institutions and Gordon-like conferences

Background

The overall objectives of the EUR-OCEANS Consortium to be launched in January 2009 are to promote and coordinate across the European Research Area: (1) top-level scientific research on the impacts of anthropogenic and natural forcings on ocean ecosystems, (2) optimal use of shared technical infrastructures and scientific facilities, and (3) activities to spread excellence that include training of scientific personnel and students, and dissemination of knowledge to a large public and to socio-economic users.

In order to meet these objectives the Consortium's approach is twofold. *On the one hand*, it will select, for a 2-year term, one to three *Flagship Institutions*, each in a cutting-edge area of marine science. Flagship Institutions will foster scientific progress in their respective area through the coordination of activities such as the hosting of groups of researchers and the organisation of workshops and summer schools on high-relevance topics. *On the other hand*, the Consortium Project Office will support *Cluster Activities*, including doctoral networks (coordination of the PhD programmes of several institutes), "Gordon-like" conferences or workshops on top-level multidisciplinary topics, which could support "think tanks", training workshops and mobility programmes (notably for researchers from developing countries), and activities for public outreach (e.g. through a network of aquaria), and dissemination of knowledge to socio-economic users.

At this time the EUR-OCEANS Consortium solicits *letters of intent* to organise and host in 2009-2010:

- a) *Flagship Institutions*
- b) *Gordon-like conferences*.

Please note:

- (1) *After the present initial selection phase based on letters of intent, more detailed proposals will be requested for final selection.*
- (2) *The Consortium's contribution to the budget of Flagship or Cluster Activities will only be partial; it is an integral duty of organisers of Flagship Institutions and Gordon-like conferences to seek additional funds to carry out planned activities.*
- (3) *For details on the Consortium, please refer to the Consortium Agreement (CA) already signed by 25 member institutions ([click here to access the CA on the EUR-OCEANS website](#)).*

Eligible Institutions: All Member Organisations (MOs) of the EUR-OCEANS Consortium (as of 31 December 2008).

Flagship Institutions

The status of *EUR-OCEANS Flagship Institution* will be awarded following a competitive bidding process within the EUR-OCEANS Consortium. The Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the Consortium will be responsible for selecting the successful bid. Bids may be by *single MOs* or by groupings of MOs. Each *Flagship Institution* focuses on a specific area of cutting-edge marine science. The *Flagship Institutions* will organise and find funding for activities such as hosting groups of researchers, and organising workshops and summer schools.

If your institution or MO group would like to propose to become one of the 2009-2010 EUR-OCEANS Flagship Institutions, please send a letter of intent (maximum 2 pages) by 09 January 2009 to Caroline Gernez (Caroline.Gernez@univ-brest.fr). This letter should:

- clearly identify and describe the host organization or MO group
- identify a point of contact and responsible person
- propose a general theme/area and comment on its relevance for the Consortium
- describe the activities to be developed and coordinated at the institution under that theme
- indicate potential co-funding sources for these activities and, if possible, provide a rough estimate of the total cost
- briefly describe the facilities that would host the activities (if possible capacity, costs if any and whether they will be charged or considered as in-kind contributions to the budget of the Consortium)
- indicate whether the planned 2-year period is sufficient to carry out the intended activities (and, if not, supply a proposed optimum duration).

Gordon-like Conferences

If your institution would like to organise a Gordon-like conference in 2009-2010 please send a letter of intent (maximum 2 pages) by 09 January 2009 to Caroline Gernez (Caroline.Gernez@univ-brest.fr). This letter should:

- propose a topic and comment on its relevance for the Consortium
- provide a point of contact/responsible person
- indicate potential co-funding sources and, if possible, provide a rough estimate of the total cost
- briefly describe the facilities that would host the activities (capacity, costs if any and whether they will be charged or considered as in-kind contributions to the budget of the Consortium)
- estimate the number of scientists likely to participate
- define specific outputs i.e. journal special issues, books, status reports.