OFEG

What is the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group?

History of OFEG

In 1996 an agreement was signed between NERC, IFREMER and BMBF with the objective of bartering ship time without the need to charter or exchange money.

In 2002, the NIOZ became a member with CSIC and IMR joining in 2006.

With these expansions, the group was re-named the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (OFEG).

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Benefits of OFEG

Wider access to ships for scientists!

- OFEG provides scientists wider access to facilities and equipment than would otherwise be possible from within their home national capabilities.
- This includes around **20** Global class research ships and heavy equipment facilities such as manned submersibles, remotely operated vehicles, towed arrays and shipboard surveying systems.
- By looking at the geographical location of OFEG ships as a whole, we increase efficiency of fleet movements, reducing passage times, and therefore costs, allowing scientists access to a wider range of geographical areas in a given year.

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OFEG-TECH?

- As the OFEG concept has matured and expanded, the opportunity for barter of major equipment has increased:

- OFEG-TECH was set up to;
  - Develop communication and networking to support major equipment barters and improve cooperation between OFEG partners.
  - To identify and develop the opportunity for exchange of technical knowledge and experience.
  - To investigate the potential for 'bilateral training' and technician exchange

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CSIC

UTM
UNIDAD DE TECNOLOGÍA MARINA

CSIC UTM / NERC NOC seismic collaboration

- 2007 – setup working group to assess potential seismic collaboration between UTM and NOC
- 2008 - Meeting in Barcelona to firm up the concept and scope of collaboration / installation of seismic equipment on B/O Sarmiento de Gamboa
- 2009 – Sea acceptance trials on B/O Sarmiento de Gamboa
- 2010 – First seismic cruise in Mediterranean

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Seismic collaboration objectives

Objectives:

- Increase efficiency in the use of joint seismic equipment
- Decrease costs through sharing of resource
- Develop a pool of equipment to support joint seismic operations
- Develop a pool of technicians able to operate on each others ships to jointly support each others cruises

Main items of equipment

CSIC-UTM:

- 6km digital Sercel solid state multichannel streamer, recording system and streamer levelers
- Suite of Sercel G-Guns, controller and deployment system
- LMF seismic compressor systems

NERC-NOC

- Multichannel streamer winch, recording system and streamer levelers
- Suite of Bolt LL-Guns, controller and deployment system
- Hamworthy seismic compressor systems

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How has this all come together!

2013 NERC seismic cruise:

- NERC funded seismic cruise on the RRS James Cook
  - CSIC-UTM streamer and recording system, NERC airgun system, joint CSIC-UTM/NERC-NOC technical team

2013 CSIC-UTM

- CSIC funded seismic cruise on the RRS James Cook
  - 6km CSIC-UTM streamer and recording system, NERC airgun system, joint CSIC-UTM/NERC-NOC technical team

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How has this all worked out?

August 2013:

- James Cook carries out NERC science cruise in the N Atlantic with CSIC 3km streamer, NERC airguns with joint technical team.

December 2013:

- James Cook completes science cruise en-route to Caribbean and completes large scale seismic equipment technical trials
- James Cook passages to Dominican Republic to rendezvous with the Gamboa to pick up two 3km streamer winches and streamers.

February 2014 – CSIC-UTM science cruise in the Pacific:

- James Cook passages through the Panama canal en-route to Manzanillo, Mexico to mobilise further equipment and deliver the CSIC science cruise
- 6km CSIC-UTM streamer and recording system, CSIC OBSs, NERC airgun system, joint CSIC-UTM/NERC-NOC technical team

March 2014:

- James Cook passages back through the Panama canal to demobilise equipment in Trinidad

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2013 NERC seismic cruise!

The Cook and the Gamboa alongside in Rio Haina, Domican Republic

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