

Replies to SCOR Questionnaire from InterRidge (C.German, 11/30/06)

A. Data Management

- 1) InterRidge has not formerly had its own data-policy and relied, instead, upon member nations' scientists adhering to their own internal policies, according to their national (or broader - e.g. EC) funding agencies' requirements. That said, InterRidge and InterMargins are co-sponsoring a meeting on seafloor data-management at IfM-GeoMAR (current host of InterRidge office) in May 2007.
- 2) InterRidge, per se, has not done anything w.r.t. visualisation.
- 3) InterRidge does track, and post on the web, a full catalogue of all member nations' research cruises to any part of the global Mid-Ocean Ridge. From 2007 we will ensure that points of contact for each cruise (held by the IR office) are posted on the web.
- 4) We have not discussed archiving with a World Data Centre - but see comment on future meeting - May 2007 - in Kiel.

B) GOOS Discussion

There are no links, or plans for links, between GOOS and InterRidge at this time.

C) Time Series Stations

Development of a deep-sea observatory on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge is one of the key long-term objectives of InterRidge and the focus of one of its key Working Groups: MoMAR. The location would be at the Lucky Strike hydrothermal field at 37N on the MAR, just south of the Azores. This would be supported, primarily, by funding from the EC and member nations (predominantly from within Europe). To date, there are national programs to achieve this in France and Portugal as well as an EC Network of Excellence, MoMARnet, funded to assist in planning of the effort. This observatory would be a natural complement to work already planned in the US for the East Pacific Rise, as part of the Global component for ORION.

D) Southern Ocean Research

1. We have planned, and received funding for, a series of three cruises to study the only mid-ocean ridge sections that lie within the Southern Ocean - the Bransfield Strait and East Scotia Ridge back-arc basins. These projects are jointly endorsed by the Census of Marine Life's Chemosynthetic Ecosystems project. Because the cruises require dedicated deep-submergence vehicles - deep-diving ROVs and AUVs - to conduct their research (primarily at seafloor hydrothermal fields) there has not been a strong effort to coordinate with other programs; they would have quite different requirements/objectives.
2. Our main proposal is a UK consortium bid, approved in June 2006 that will be funded in 2008-2012. Two cruises will take place in 2009, the third in 2010. Add-on proposals to NSF Office of Polar Programs (USA) are pending.

E. Education - see separate file from IR Education & Outreach Coordinator

F.Satellites

1. Satellite altimetry has been invaluable in revealing the pseudo-bathymetry of the global mid-ocean ridge system, especially in the remote southern ocean, for planning our research.
2. No other satellite data are particularly relevant to our seafloor research.