



Beyond 2013 - The Future of European Scientific Drilling Research – An introduction.

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The Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) is funded for the period 2003–2013, and is now starting to plan the future of ocean drilling beyond 2013, including the development of new technologies, new emerging research fields as and the societal relevance of this programme.

In this context an interdisciplinary and multinational (USA, Europe, Japan, Asian and Oceanian countries), key conference – INVEST IODP New Ventures in Exploring Scientific Targets - addressing all international IODP partners is therefore planned for September 23rd–25th 2009 in Bremen, Germany (more information at <http://www.iodp.org> and <http://marum.de/iodp-invest.html>) to discuss future directions of ocean drilling research and related aspects such as ventures with related programmes or with industry.

The first critical step of INVEST is to define the scientific research goals of the second phase of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), which is expected to begin in late 2013.

INVEST will be open to all interested scientists and students and will be the principal opportunity for the international science community to help shape the future of scientific ocean drilling.

The outcome of the conference will be the base to draft a science plan in 2010 and to define new goals and strategies to effectively meet the challenges of society and future ocean drilling.

The current EGU Session and the related two days workshop which will be held at the University of Vienna will specifically address the future of European scientific drilling research. The major objectives of those two events are to sharpen the European interests in the future IODP and to prepare the INVEST Conference and are therefore of prime importance to give weight to the European propositions in the program renewal processes, both on science, technology and management, and to provide the participants with information about the status/process of ongoing discussions and negotiations regarding program structure, and provide them with the expected framework (available drilling platforms and anticipated funding levels).

The key items that should be addressed during the EGU Session and the workshop will especially include :

- (1) The future of ECORD (science, technology, management).
- (2) New research initiatives and emerging fields in scientific drilling
- (3) Relationships between IODP and other programs (e.g. ICDP, IMAGES etc).
- (4) Collaboration between academia and industry.
- (5) New technologies and the Mission Specific Platform approach.