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Gliders for Research, Ocean Observation and Management - GROOM

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We will introduce GROOM, a European Union funded design study to evaluate the requirements needed to set up a sustainable glider infrastructure to safely operate individual as well as fleets of gliders. Operations shall be coordinated to fill the gaps left by present marine observation systems on global, regional and coastal scale, with benefits for both fundamental marine research and operational oceanography. To maximize the efficiency and scientific outcome in operating gliders, networking and capacity building for the present as well as future glider community are essential. The networking will overcome the fragmented infrastructure to operate gliders, on a European level, but also globally. The concept and strategies employed by GROOM to streamline the infrastructure development will be outlined. The final system is envisioned to allow for a shared operation of gliders (individuals as well as fleets), a shared maintenance of glider, the free and efficient exchange of information in the network, an exchange of hardware, software and service, and the efficient flow of data with appropriate data quality control procedures, interoperability of the components by standardization of procedures and protocols for sensor calibration. Certain part of this infrastructure can and should be adopted from other observatory platforms, were more mature solution exists or under development (e.g. Argo floats data flow, moorings multiparametric data calibration procedures and data protocols) but given the unique characteristic and requirements of glider operations a specific and dedicated infrastructure is required.