



**INTERNATIONAL
OCEAN DRILLING
PROGRAMME**

IODP³ Interim Executive Board (iExB) Meeting

23 May 2025, JAMSTEC Headquarters, Yokosuka, Japan (and Zoom)

Consensus Items

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-1: Approval of Terms of Reference

The iExB approves the Terms of Reference of the Executive Board, IODP³ Managing Agency, IODP³ Science Office, Mission Specific Platform Facility Board, Vision Task Force, Communications Task Force and Magellan³ Workshop Series. Approval is given subject to minor updates to some of these documents that were discussed at the iExB meeting, and the Directors of the Science Office are tasked to make these changes without the need for further review by the Executive Board.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-2: Approval of operational budgets

The iExB approves the IODP³ operational budget for 2025 presented by the Director of the IODP³ Managing Agency, and approves in principle the provisional budget presented for 2026. These budgets include both cash and in-kind contributions.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-3: Approval of the IODP³ Science Office budget

The iExB approves the IODP³ Science Office budget of €829,563 for 2025 as presented by its Lead Director. It also approves the Science Office provisional 2026 budget of €841,964. It notes that the 2026 budget may be subject to minor change, in which case the Lead Director of the Science Office will notify the Executive Board Co-Chairs of any changes so they can seek Executive Board approval prior to payment of the 2026 budget.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-4: IODP³ Science Office contract

The iExB tasks CNRS, the Lead Director of the IODP³ Science Office and the administration of the host institution (University of Plymouth) with signing a contract for the Science Office covering the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2029. This contract will include the projected budgets for this period, and the iExB notes that these annual budgets will be subject to revision and to approval by the Executive Board on an annual basis.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-5: Overheads on SPARC awards

The iExB recommends that the requirement for zero institutional overheads on SPARC Expedition budgets outlined in the Submission Guidelines for SPARCs be retained, but notes that this requirement may need to be revisited in the future (in light of experience and feedback from the first funded SPARC Expeditions).

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-6: Panel and Board Memberships

The iExB approves the current compositions of the Mission Specific Platform Facility Board, Science Evaluation Panel, SEA Group, and Magellan³ Workshop Series Science Steering Committee, that were selected following open calls for applications, evaluations of applications by the IODP³ Programme Member Offices and submission of their respective nomination proposals to the Science Office. The iExB expresses its thanks to all Co-Chairs and members of these panels/boards for their willingness to serve the IODP³ community.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-7: Thanks to Professor Sasha Turchyn

The iExB expresses its grateful thanks to Professor Sasha Turchyn for her exemplary leadership of the interim Mission Specific Platform Facility Board (iMSP-FB) over recent years. Her leadership, enthusiasm and good humour* has helped steer the iMSP-FB towards selecting the very best proposals for implementation that are capable of raising the profile of scientific ocean drilling within the international Earth Science community and with the public. The iExB also thanks Sasha for her willingness to now serve as an MSP-FB Science Board member during 2026, allowing the board to continue to benefit from her expertise in marine biogeochemistry.

(* plus her leadership of spontaneous group stretching exercises!)

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-8: Acknowledgement of NSF co-funding of IODP³-NSF Expedition 501

The iExB endorses and expresses its appreciation to NSF for its generous co-funding of IODP³-NSF Expedition 501, involving a financial contribution of US\$5M. This expedition provides a model for future collaborations between IODP³ and the developing NSF-funded US scientific ocean drilling program.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-9: Approval of 2025 Expedition schedule

The iExB approves the implementation of IODP³ Expeditions 501, 502 and 503 in 2025. It also recommends implementation of proposal P1106 “JTRACK Observatory Redeployment” as an addition to the operational schedule of Expedition 502, subject to final approval* by the JAMSTEC Executive Board.

(*Note: approval of implementation of P1106 was subsequently received from the JAMSTEC Executive Board on 27 May 2025)

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-10: Approval of 2026 Expedition schedule

The iExB approves the implementation of proposal P1012 “North Sea Paleoclimate (GLACE-NS)” as an IODP³ Expedition in 2026.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-11: Approval of 2025 SPARC awards

The iExB approves the funding of IODP³ SPARC proposals P1102-S, P1104-S, and P1108-S, as recommended by the May 2025 iMSP-FB meeting.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-12: Approval of 2027 scheduling plans

The iExB approves the implementation of proposal P1004-Full “Nadir Impact Crater” as an IODP³ Expedition in 2027, subject to receipt of an acceptable external risk analysis report. If this report suggests that P1004-Full cannot be implemented safely, then the iExB approves implementation of proposal P941-Full2-Add4 “Godzilla Megamullion”, using the *D/V Chikyu* as an in-kind contribution (subject to approval by the JAMSTEC Executive Board). In this case, the IODP³ programme budget will cover the full operational costs, unless JAMSTEC funds become available to reduce the financial impact on the IODP³ programme budget.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-13: ANZIC membership

The iExB approves ANZIC becoming an IODP³ Associate Member, based on the financial contributions as per the agreement to be signed. Membership is subject to final signing of the ECORD-JAMSTEC Memorandum of Understanding. We welcome ANZIC’s stated intention to ensure that its financial contribution over the first five years of the programme reaches an average of €1.0M per year.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-14: IODP³-China Working Group

The iExB requests formation of an IODP³-China Working Group, tasked with exploring ways for their respective scientific ocean drilling programmes to work together (e.g. via berth exchanges and/or jointly implemented expeditions). This Working Group should convene for the first time after: (i) JAMSTEC, J-DESC and MEXT have had time to hold internal discussions to consider their approach to these issues (in light of the outcomes of previous exploratory discussions held between ECORD and China); and (ii) a virtual IODP³ Executive Board meeting has been held to establish our common approaches to further discussions with China.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-15:

The iExB thanks Angelo Camerlenghi and the organising group for driving forward inclusion of IODP³ in the UNOC3 Offsite Side Event on Scientific Ocean Drilling.

IODP³ iExB Consensus 2025-05-16:

The iExB requests Nobu Seama, in his capacity of Co-Chair of the MSP-FB, to act as the IODP³ Co-Chair of the Scientific Drilling Forum meeting to be held in Sicily in October 2025. The board also requests Gilbert Camoin to act as the second member of the Scientific Drilling Forum Organising Committee in 2025.