



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM ECORD SCIENTISTS
IODP³ MSP FACILITY BOARD
SCIENCE BOARD

Deadline: 9 November 2026

Call for applications from ECORD scientists to serve as a Member of the IODP³ MSP Facility Board: Science Board

Introduction

In the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³), the **MSP Facility Board** (MSP-FB) fulfils the critical function of making decisions on the most effective use of resources to plan the schedule of IODP³ expeditions for successive years of operations.

These expeditions include **offshore drilling/coring expeditions** using the *D/V Chikyu* or a variety of Mission-Specific Platforms (contracted on a case-by-case basis to suit scientific and operational needs) and a series of legacy-asset-based, large-scale projects known as **SPARCs**. The MSP-FB is charged with making crucial decisions on the selection of which proposals from the international scientific community will be implemented, placing this board at the very heart of IODP³. The decisions of the MSP-FB are informed by the evaluation of the science, sites, environmental protection and safety of proposals provided by the **Science Evaluation Panel** (SEP) and the **Safety and Environment Advisory Group** (SEA Group).

Within the MSP-FB, the Science Board plays a key role in decision-making and consists of leading scientists drawn from the international scientific ocean drilling communities. The composition of the MSP-FB Science Board is:

- the two MSP-FB Co-Chairs (one from ECORD and one from Japan)
- six members from ECORD and Japan as IODP³ Core Members
- up to four members from IODP³ Associate Members

We are now seeking applications from suitably qualified and experienced scientists from ECORD nations to join the MSP-FB Science Board.

Mandate of the MSP-FB

The main tasks of the MSP-FB are:

- to consider the viability of scientific ocean drilling proposals that have already been scientifically validated by the Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) and forwarded to the MSP-FB for potential implementation.
- to assess the relative merits of the available suite of scientific ocean drilling proposals forwarded to the MSP-FB, and of their respective alternative Essential, Intermediate,

and Advanced drilling/coring plans, in relation to available budgets to maximise the scientific returns of implemented expeditions.

- to select scientific ocean drilling proposals and/or combinations and/or parts of proposals for implementation as expeditions by ESO, JAMSTEC or jointly by these entities, and to determine the longer-term operations schedule for scientific ocean drilling expeditions to maximise the delivery of high-priority science using available budgets.
- to review reports from the IODP³ Operators regarding the identification of potential In Kind Contributions (IKC) that could provide a firm basis for the development of new low-cost scientific ocean drilling expeditions.
- to select SPARCs proposals for funding and implementation in each annual round from the accepted proposals forwarded by SEP, and to select associated SPARCs Co-Chief Scientists based on nominations provided by SEP. Funding and implementation of SPARCs may be linked to IODP³ MSP expeditions, especially in the context of the Flagship Initiatives of the **2050 Science Framework**.
- to select and appoint SEP Co-Chairs and SEA Group members from nomination proposals provided by Programme Member Offices (PMOs) following open calls for applicants from the IODP³ Core and Associated Members.

Eligibility to Apply

In this call, IODP³ is seeking applications from active leading scientists from **ECORD member nations**, to join the MSP-FB Science Board for a three-year term. The call is open to scientists with experience in **all research fields** relevant to scientific ocean drilling science. The MSP-FB convenes once annually in person to execute its mandate, but additional virtual meetings may be organised as appropriate. In-person meetings will alternate between venues in ECORD member countries and Japan.

How to Apply

Applications from scientists based in one of the ECORD member nations must be submitted to the IODP³ Science Office by the deadline of **Monday 9 November 2026** using the **IODP³ Gateway** system, accessed via the **Apply to Participate** link on the **IODP³ website**.

Information on the content required in applications to this call, however, is available in the IODP³ **Guide for Applicants** (content listed under Panels and Boards).

Applications received by the deadline will be assessed and ranked by ESSAC, the IODP³ Programme Member Office for ECORD member nations. Nomination proposals will then be recommended by the MSP-FB Co-Chairs for approval by the IODP³ Executive Board.

- For enquiries about MSP-FB Science Board responsibilities and meetings, please contact:
Gabi Uenzelmann-Neben, MSP-FB Co-Chair, gabriele.uenzelmann-neben@awi.de
Nobi Seama, MSP-FB Co-Chair, seama@kobe-u.ac.jp
Junichiro Kuroda Incoming MSP-FB Co-Chair, kuroda@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp
- For enquiries about the application process and IODP³ Gateway, please contact:
Jodie Fisher, IODP³ Science Office, applications@iodp3.org