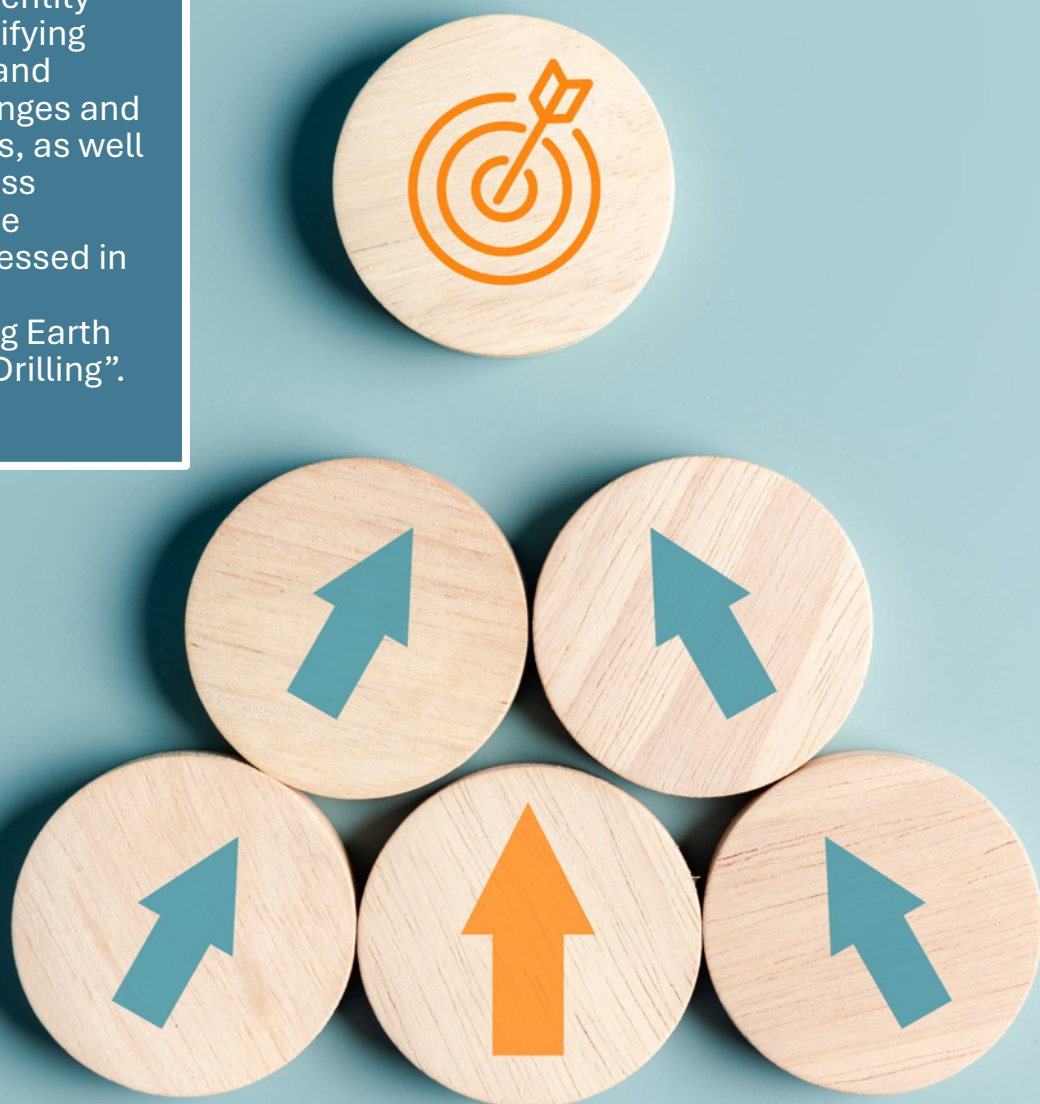


The IODP³ Vision Task Force (VTF) is the strategic entity responsible for identifying long-term scientific and technological challenges and funding opportunities, as well as monitoring progress towards achieving the scientific vision expressed in the “2050 Science Framework: Exploring Earth by Scientific Ocean Drilling”.



Vision Task Force

Terms of Reference



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAMME

Change Log

Date of approval of Version 1.1: 5 June 2026

Approved by: IODP³ Executive Board (Consensus Item 2026-06-11)

List of changes:

- **Section 3:** Addition of a J-SSO (Japan Scientific Ocean Drilling Support Office) representative to the VTF membership
- **Section 3:** Replacement of “EMA” with “IMA” in the VTF membership list to correct a mistake in the original version

Vision Task Force (VTF) Terms of Reference

1. General Purpose

The Vision Task Force (VTF) will be the strategic entity responsible for identifying long-term scientific and technological challenges and funding opportunities, as well as monitoring progress towards achieving the scientific vision expressed in the “*2050 Science Framework: Exploring Earth by Scientific Ocean Drilling*”.

2. Mandate

The main tasks of the VTF will be to:

- give general direction to IODP³ and help to develop its long-term planning, scientific and operational strategies.
- consider the impact and/or translational benefits of IODP³ science to society.
- discuss emerging scientific and technological challenges and advise other IODP³ entities on how best to meet these challenges and benefit from them.
- identify potential new partners, including commercial companies, and potential in-kind contributions, and engage in appropriate actions to explore associated benefits to IODP³ and to scientific drilling in general.
- consider and assess the progress made by IODP³ towards the vision of the “*2050 Science Framework*”, and review and improve procedures to maximise the scientific return from budgets.
- identify synergies with other programmes/initiatives with similar scientific objectives.

In delivering this mandate, the VTF will have no decision-making powers on IODP³ implementation, but instead will develop and present recommendations to the other IODP³ entities for their consideration and potential adoption/ratification.

3. Membership

The VTF will consist of representatives (normally Directors/Deputy Directors, Co-Chairs) of IMA, ESSAC, ESO, BCR, ECORD Council, JAMSTEC, J-SSO, J-DESC, MarE3, KCC, MEXT, MSP-FB, SEP, and the IODP³-SO.

The VTF will also include:

- single representatives from each IODP³ Associate Member.
- external invited participants from different entities/disciplines/programmes on an *ad hoc* basis.

4. Meetings

Meetings of the VTF will be held virtually (with an *ad-hoc* Chair) to ensure speed and flexibility in response to changing circumstances. Meetings will be held annually before the MSP-FB meeting. Additional *ad hoc* meetings may be scheduled as required.

5. Recommendations

Recommendations affecting IODP³ should be formulated by consensus between all members of the VTF, but recommendations affecting only ECORD or Japan may be based on consensus between their respective representatives.