IODP³ Mission Specific Platform (MSP-FB) Meeting

2-3 June 2026, Granada, Spain (and Zoom)

Roster

MSP-FB Science Board Members:

Nobi Seama	**IODP³ MSP-FB Co-Chair, Kobe University, Japan**
Gabi Uenzelmann-Neben	**IODP³ MSP-FB Co-Chair, AWI, Germany**
Tom Dunkley Jones	University of Birmingham, UK
Marguerite Godard	University of Montpellier, France
Junichiro Kuroda	University of Tokyo, Japan
Yuki Morono	JAMSTEC, Japan
Hajime Naruse	Kyoto University, Japan [online]
Hitoshi Tomaru	Chiba University, Japan [online]
Sasha Turchyn	University of Cambridge, UK

MSP-FB Members:

Angelo Camerlenghi	ESSAC Vice-Chair, OGS, Trieste, Italy [online]
Gilbert Camoin	IMA/EMA Advisor, CEREGE, France [online]
Sarah Davies	ECORD Science Operator, University of Leicester, UK
Nobu Eguchi	JAMSTEC, Japan/IODP³-SO Co-Director
Ron Hackney	ANZIC Director, ANU, Australia
Nadine Hallman	IMA/EMA Director, CEREGE, France [online]
Leo Hermont Barbosa	ECORD Science Operator, BGS, Edinburgh, UK
Annalisa Iadanza	ECORD Council Core Group, Italy
Jun-Ichiro Ishibashi	J-DESC IODP Chair, Japan/MG³ SSC Co-Chair [online]
John Jamieson	ECORD Council, Canada
Yusuke Kubo	Kochi Core Repository, Japan [online]
Guido Lüniger	ECORD Council Core Group, Germany
David McInroy	ECORD Science Operator, BGS, Edinburgh, UK
Matt O'Regan	ESSAC Chair, Stockholm University, Sweden
Ulla Röhl	BCR, MARUM, University of Bremen, Germany
Sanny Saito	MarE3, JAMSTEC, Japan
Mike Webb	ECORD Council Core Group, UK [online]
Tadashi Yoshizawa	J-SSO, JAMSTEC, Japan [online]

Liaisons and Observers:

Chiara Amadori	IODP³-SO, Proposals and Meetings Manager
Jodie Fisher	IODP³-SO, Comms, Applications and EDI Manager [online]

Katharina Hochmuth	SEA Group Chair, University of Tasmania, Australia [online]
Stuart Henrys	Incoming SEP Co-Chair, GNS Science, New Zealand [online]
Myriam Kars	IODP^3-SO, Publications Manager
Masataka Kinoshita	SEP Co-Chair, Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, Japan
Antony Morris	IODP^3 Science Office, Lead Director
Tim Reston	SEP Co-Chair, University of Birmingham, UK [online]
Tim Van Peer	ECORD Science Operator, University of Leicester, UK
Thomas Westerhold	BCR, MARUM, University of Bremen, Germany

Minutes

Day 1 – Tuesday 2nd June 2026

1. Welcome and Logistics

The MSP-FB Co-Chairs (Nobi Seama and Gabi Uenzelmann-Neben) welcomed all to the meeting and introduced themselves. The Co-Chairs asked for approval of the agenda, which was accepted, and then Jesús Reolid from the Granada team explained the logistics of the meeting. All attendees (in person and online) introduced themselves and their roles.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-01: Thanks to the meeting host

The MSP-FB thanked the Parque de las Ciencias in the beautiful city of Granada for hosting the meeting. We also extended our sincere thanks to Carlota Escutia and Jesús Reolid from the Instituto Andaluz de Ciencias de la Tierra, Universidad de Granada, for their amazing assistance and support in organising the logistics of the meeting.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-02: Approval of agenda and minutes of previous meetings

The MSP-FB approved the agenda for its 2026 meeting and the minutes and consensus items from its previous meetings held in Japan in May 2025 and by Zoom in March 2026.

2. MSP-FB Update

Nobi Seama gave an overview of rotations within the IODP^3 entities. He will rotate off as MSP-FB Co-Chair at the end of 2026, but will remain as a Science Board member until the end of 2027. Junichiro Kuroda from JAMSTEC will serve as the new MSP-FB Co-Chair from 1 January 2027 until 31 December 2029. Yuki Morono (Japan) steps down as MSP-FB Science member after this meeting, and Sasha Turchyn (ECORD) at the end of 2026. New MSP-FB Science Board members are Hitoshi Tomaru (Japan) and Robert McKay (ANZIC). In addition, it was noted that Tim Reston (ECORD) steps down as SEP Site Co-Chair after this MSP-FB meeting, and is succeeded immediately by Stuart Henrys (ANZIC) for a three-year term. Claudia Agnini has stepped in as Curatorial Advisory Board (CAB) instead of Michael Riedel.

The MSP-FB Co-Chairs and the IODP^3 Science Office Directors explained the need for two minor updates to the MSP-FB Terms of Reference:

- modification to the diagram showing MSP-FB Co-Chair rotations to reflect the new practice of Co-Chairs remaining as Science Board members for one year after they stand down as Co-Chairs
- adding brief additional text to clarify the content of PMO nomination proposals for new Science Board members

IODP³ MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-03: Changes to the MSP-FB Terms of Reference

The MSP-FB approved the proposed revisions to its Terms of Reference consisting of a revised rotation scheme for its Co-Chairs and the insertion of some additional text relating to PMO nominations for new MSP-FB Science Board members. The MSP-FB Co-Chairs were asked to now seek Executive Board approval of these changes.

3. IODP³ expedition updates

The Co-Chief Scientists of the implemented offshore drilling Expeditions 501, 502E, 502 and 503 updated the Facility Board on the preliminary results from their expeditions and associated post-cruise plans.

Antony Morris explained the timeline for implemented SPARCs, which includes a Call for Participation open for two months, followed by two months for PMOs evaluation and one-two months for selection and invitation of Science Team members. This is followed by a final planning period of about four months, in which implementation and budget plans are finalised. In total, ~14 months pass from the MSP-FB/ExB endorsement of a SPARC proposal to the likely start of the resulting expedition.

The MSP-FB discussed the need for reporting of progress towards SPARC expeditions and approved having SPARC Co-Chiefs present short reports (10 min long) at the first Facility Board after the Expedition Summary is published.

IODP³ MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-04: Reports from IODP³ SPARC Expedition Co-Chief Scientists

The MSP-FB agreed to receive presentations from IODP³ SPARC Expedition Co-Chief Scientists at its annual hybrid meeting. These should be scheduled at the first MSP-FB meeting following publication of each SPARC Expedition Summary in the *Proceedings of the International Ocean Drilling Programme*.

4. Reports from IODP³ members

Nadine Hallmann gave an update on ECORD activities. There are 14 members in ECORD for 2025-2029, with a total annual contribution to the programme of 15.3 million euros. The 2027 contributions are still to be decided during the Spring ECORD meeting. Two out of three of the current endorsed SPARCs have an ECORD lead proponent (both from the UK). Regarding the Magellan[3] Workshop series, five workshops have been funded in 2025, and four have already happened. Regarding ECORD's partnerships, the Mission Neptune was presented, and ECORD has sent a letter of intention to IFREMER. Also, ECORD sent an application to become a member of the European Ocean Board of the European Ocean Act, but this was unsuccessful.

Nobu Eguchi presented an update from JAMSTEC. Dr Tomohiko Kawamura is the new JAMSTEC president and there is a new seven-year programme within the research, engineering and operations departments, that all support JAMSTEC as a leading research hub, with the operator of the *Chikyu* and other vessels and a national co-ordinator working with MEXT, J-DESC and international partners. Nobu clarified that Japan can cover *Chikyu* basic costs but external funding for the operations is needed facilitate offshore expeditions.

Ron Hackney presented an update from ANZIC, as an IODP³ Associate Member. ANZIC funding comes from 12 member institutions in Australia, and four members from New Zealand. This funding finishes in 2027 and ANZIC will be seeking renewal. Also, Macquarie and Wollongong Universities have left the ANZIC consortium, but CSIRO is returning. Last year, ANZIC large-scale strategic planning focussed on mission, values and vision, with Strategic Goals designed to nurture partnerships, facilitate access to infrastructure, foster the skills pipeline, and demonstrate outcomes and impact. As a whole, ANZIC Science priorities are: Climate, Ocean and Environmental Change, Geohazards Resilience and Geodynamic Processes, Understanding the Deep Biosphere, Subsurface Resources Systems and Cross-Cultural Thinking. ANZIC is looking forward to expanding engagement with Oceania. A Coring

Australasia Workshop was held on 7 July 2026 to build collaborative pathways for coring and drilling proposals across Australasia, and to lead to pre-proposals, Magellan[3] applications, and ANZIC Core grant proposals. Thirty science ideas have been submitted to the workshops, with some very close to being submitted as pre-proposals to ICDP and IODP[3].

5. Update on relationships with other drilling programmes

Gilbert Camoin presented an update on relationships with other drilling programmes. Brazil is planning to join IODP[3], possibly in 2027 and have also signed a DoI with DODP (China). Brazil, ECORD and ANZIC are involved in the "First International E-ODP Workshop", to be held on the 9-11 September 2026 at Tongji University (Shanghai, China). DODP will have four vessels available but there are no plans yet for operations, and the DODP will not start until 2027. They expect to implement 2-3 expeditions per year.

US Scientific Ocean Drilling (SODCO) has staffed a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), a Safety and Environmental panel (SSEP) and a SODCO Engineering and Technology Committee (SETAC). SAB is active already and provided staffing recommendations for SPARCs following IODP[3] guidelines.

6. Updates from IODP[3] entities

Tim Reston (SEP Site Co-Chair) recapped the new five-category (Transformative, Excellent, Very good, Good and Fair) SEP grading system used by IODP[3] since 2025. Typically, the essential plan is rated by SEP, but if objectives cannot be met via the essential plan then either the intermediate or advanced plan may be rated instead. At the last SEP meeting held in April 2026 in Fukuoka (Japan), six drilling, three land-to-sea and three SPARC proposals were evaluated. See SEP recommendations in the SEP minutes available **here**. The next SEP meeting will be online only, in September 2026.

Katharina Hochmuth updated the MSP-FB on Safety and Environment Advisory (SEA) Group activities. She outlined the new guidelines that integrate SEA Group reviews throughout the SEP proposal review process. In the 2025 SEA Group meeting, P1005 and P1012 were reviewed. In 2026 and early 2027, four Full Proposals will be reviewed, as requested by the MSP-FB. It was also noted that SEA Group Full reviews will be needed for all proposals at the MSP-FB that were not reviewed by EPSP during IODP2. Katharina also pointed out the need for new SEA Group members, especially to address the current gender imbalance, and the Science Office has been asked to prepare a call in July 2026. Antony Morris requested MSP-FB approval of the new Guidelines for SEA Group Review, which was given.

> **IODP[3] MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-05: SEA Group guidelines**
> The MSP-FB approved the new "Guidelines for SEA Group Review of Scientific Ocean Drilling Proposals (v1.0)" that outline how the SEA Group will conduct reviews at all proposal development stages.

Tim Van Peer gave an update on European Petrophysics Consortium (EPC) scientific and outreach activities during 2025 and 2026. The offshore (downhole logging, petrophysics) and onshore operations for IODP[3]-NSF Expedition 501 took place in 2025, and all EPC staff were present in Bremen during the onshore operations. An ECORD Summer School is planned for August 2026 with a focus on petrophysics and downhole logging; the one from last year had great success.

Ursula Röhl (BCR Curator) gave an overview of the IODP[3]-NSF Expedition 501 onshore operations that occurred in mid-January to mid-February 2026. There are also a new reefer and additional laboratories in the BCR, including a new geochemistry lab. Two of the three SPARCs approved in 2025 have cores in the BCR and operational planning for these SPARC Expeditions is in progress.

Yusuke Kubo (KCC Curator) provided updates on KCC activities. Cores from IODP Expeditions 392 and 405 were received and cores from IODP[3] Expeditions 502 and 503 are expected later in 2026, with less than 400m of cores for Expedition 503. The KCC-JDESC ReCORD program is continuing. In May 2026, Kochi held a kick-off meeting for the JDESC-ECORD collaboration in the JSPS Core-to-Core program.

and the Magellan[3] workshop "Beyond the Limit of Life". In addition, KCC will hold the Kochi Core School in stratigraphy and paleoceanography in November 2026.

Sean Toczko presented a Communications Task Force (CTF) update, starting with its ToR and the CTF membership. The Co-Chairs (Nicole Beneventi and Sean Toczko) were appointed in October 2025. The CTF selected Science Communicators for IODP[3] Expeditions 501, 502E, 502 and 503. Actions for the future are: drafting a communication matrix and strategy, planning the next international meetings, drafting, editing, and reviewing the Expedition Science Communication Summary, listing media resources, monitoring the impact of media pieces related to IODP[3] activities and expeditions, and production of promotional material for IODP[3].

Jun-ichiro Ishibashi provided an update on the Magellan[3] Workshop Series. The Science Steering Committee has 15 members in total and can approve funding up to 15k euros per Workshop Proposal. By the end of 2026, there will be five Workshops, all with the scope of writing a drilling or a SPARC proposal. The workshop "Zero age drilling at mid ocean ridges", approved in 2025 and held in January 2026, has already generated a Pre-proposal submitted to SEP, which was recommended for revision to Full. The other approved proposals are: Young and Cool, i-CREATE, Mani_in_Pasta, and Go Beyond the Limit. No Magellan[3] Workshops were submitted during the first round (January 2026 deadline); the second round is open until mid-July.

Antony Morris gave an update on IODP[3] Science Office (IODP[3]-SO) activities. To date, a total of 590 users from 39 nations have activated an IODP[3] Gateway account. Through the Gateway, 162 applications were submitted to participate in drilling expeditions, 153 applications to participate in SPARC expeditions and 63 for panels and boards. In total, since January 2025, 31 drilling proposals and 6 SPARC proposals have been submitted to the programme. Also, the Gateway Site Characterisation Database is now publicly available for all registered accounts. Regarding the programmatic quotas, there are no fixed numbers of Science Team members by nations, but the overall staffing is proportional to financial contributions. The quota tables for offshore expeditions were presented, and programmatic-level quotas between IODP[3] Members are being monitored by the IODP[3]-SO Directors before invitation letters are sent. The IODP[3]-SO has also started to request Expressions of Interest in expeditions prior to calls for participation in order to establish levels of interest and stimulate further interest when required. The Editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the International Ocean Drilling Programme* now has 11 Topic Editors. All three of the first offshore expeditions have high-impact papers in progress. The expeditions that took place in 2025 will still have active publications in the system until 2029, and SPARCs will finish in 2035. This means that funding to support publications will need to be maintained beyond the end of the five-year first phase of IODP[3] in 2030. The IODP[3]-SO also proposed a common evaluation scheme for applications for expeditions that has been adopted by all PMOs, and it has also been agreed to change the way in which career stages are defined by adopting the European Framework for Research Careers four-stage (R1 to R4) definitions.

Gilbert Camoin presented the IMA mandate and the financial budget for IODP[3] in 2026, which includes contributions from ECORD, JAMSTEC, and ANZIC. 2.6 million euros are expected as the FY26 balance. The expected income for FY27 is 16 million euros, 14 million euros of which could be used for operational costs of the expedition in 2027. The projection for the 2028 and 2029 budgets, considering ANZIC's and Brazil's contribution, could be around 12 million euros per year.

7. Reports from IODP[3] PMOs

Matt O'Regan (ESSAC Chair) reported on the activities of the ESSAC office, which moved to Stockholm in January 2026. The number of applications from ECORD scientists is increasing, especially for IODP[3] Expedition 507, and the SPARC expeditions also generated a lot of applications. A positive aspect is that

the total number of applicants has a nice gender and career balance. ECORD also awarded 21 research grants, and it is possible that travel grants can be awarded for the E-ODP workshop in China, too. The applications for the summer schools were reviewed, and ECORD applied to the call for organisations to join the International Polar Year (IPY) 2023-2033 Planning Group.

Tadashi Yoshizawa (new J-SSO Director) reported on the J-SSO and J-DESC activities, first outlining the revised structure: J-SSO acts as the Japanese PMO for IODP^3, and J-DESC is a consortium of 49 universities and consists of two sections (ICDP and IODP). J-DESC is an advisory structure to the PMO. The J-SSO PMO functions are: research support, education and outreach, and the management of the Japanese expedition participants plus the board/panel/committee members. The annual PMO budget is 160,000 USD; half of it is for travel support for expedition participants. The rest is to support travel to IODP^3 international meetings and participants' research support (post-cruise research, guidance and training of students and ECRs). J-SSO also supported the organisation and participation in scientific drilling workshops; eight proposals were supported in FY25 with 4 million yen ($25,000), and 7 million yen will be available in 2026. It is currently under consideration whether to support domestic participants in SPARCs. J-DESC topics include the launch of the JSPS Core-to-Core Programme. The J-DESC Core School was successful, with five courses and 53 participants. J-DESC also engages in public outreach, participating in 2025 at the Blue Ocean Dome and the Expo in Osaka, where more than 500 people visited the exhibition.

Ron Hackney reported on the ANZIC membership to IODP^3 and the ANZIC Strategic Plan 2025. ANZIC provides support for expedition participation and project participants to ICDP and IODP^3, small grants (CORE), site surveys, training and facilitates access to analytical infrastructure. ANZIC supports post-drilling travel and analytical costs following new rules that will apply from now on. ANZIC also focuses on nurturing partnerships by presence at conferences and a Distinguished Lecturer Series (Brandon Dugan in 2026 and Rachel Flecker in 2027). ANZIC also supports the skills pipeline via CAPSTAN post-graduate training, Marine Geoscience Masterclass, International Summer Schools, and supports scientists in Science Meets Parliament. So far, all outcomes from these activities have been very positive.

Antony Morris asked the MSP Facility Board to formalise the PMO Group as an IODP^3 entity and provide it with a dedicated ToR. A PMO meeting happened in September 2025, but so far there is no formal existence of the PMO Group in the IODP^3 documentation, even though they have specific responsibilities. The MSP Facility Board members agreed that the PMO Group should be formalised and gave the IODP^3-SO a mandate to draft its ToR.

> **IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-06: Programme Member Office (PMO) Group**
> The MSP-FB agreed that the activities of the IODP^3 PMO Group should be formalised in its own Terms of Reference, and requests that the IODP^3 Science Office Directors draft this document, take it forward to the next PMO Group meeting for discussion, and then seek its eventual approval by the Executive Board.

8. Reports from Operators

David McInroy reported on ECORD Science Operator (ESO) activities. Onshore operations in Bremen for IODP^3-NSF Expedition 501 were completed, and publication of outcomes in the *Proceedings* is on hold for a high-impact paper to Science. The Expedition 501 IODP^3 editorial meeting was also held successfully in Edinburgh (UK).

IODP^3 Expedition 507 has been postponed to Spring 2027 (April-May), with new market engagement with full notice in June, a stage 1 deadline in July (evaluation and dialogue), a stage 2 deadline in August, award in October, and contracting in December. Permitting, safety work and scientific staffing are all ongoing. It is likely that a geotechnical vessel will be used. The Expedition 507 execution plan was

presented, with the participation of 18 to 22 ESO staff members along with 37 selected scientists (with a good gender balance and 59% ECR) for 35 drilling days. Ten permits were needed to proceed with the operations.

The expedition to the Nadir Crater (P1004) has been postponed to early 2028 and will also use a geotechnical vessel. Sean Gulick is seeking NSF co-funding of USD 6 million for this expedition. If the NSF co-funding is secured, it will be possible to drill the Intermediate Plan, with two holes and more scientific objectives to be tested. NSF co-funding will also result in the addition of 10 Science Team members from the US (including Sean Gulick as Co-Chief). More updates from NSF will follow in September 2026.

Day 2 – Wednesday 3rd June 2026

8. Reports from Operators (continued)

Sanny Saito reported on Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3) activities and *Chikyu* operations.

The *Chikyu* Operators successfully reinstalled the observatories for Expedition 502E and Logging While Tripping was used for the first time successfully during Expedition 502. Thanks were extended to the ESO logging scientists for knowledge exchange during Expedition 502. Expedition 503 set a new deepest water depth record. As a whole, the three expeditions demonstrated the maturity and capabilities of the *Chikyu*, providing a solid basis for future contributions to IODP^3.

Sanny highlighted the need for better nationality screening for applications to be on the *Chikyu*. To improve risk and safety assessment during an expedition, more complete health information and health disclosure should be available. The *Chikyu* laboratory capabilities continue to improve with new instruments. Expedition 502 cores are slightly outside the region assigned to the KCC and belong geographically to the GCR. The question of whether to keep the cores at the KCC during the moratorium is still open and currently there is also no agreement to hold the downhole logging at Lamont-Doherty. These topics are part of an ongoing discussion with SODCO.

There are several possible time windows for IODP^3 expeditions on the *Chikyu* schedule in 2028 and 2029. The estimated total costs for three *Chikyu* proposals at the Facility Board were presented, and all three appear feasible within the time windows available for potential *Chikyu* expeditions. The costs of implementing the Essential plans of these three proposals may be divided into the pro-rata maintenance costs for the *Chikyu* (that are provided by JAMSTEC as in-kind contributions to the IODP^3 budget if the proposal is implemented) and the operational costs needed to mobilise the *Chikyu* for IODP^3 as shown in the following table:

IODP^3 proposal number:	P941 "Godzilla Megamullion"	P967 "Ontong Java Nui"	P1105 "Hyuga Nada"
Operational days	48	88	98
Chikyu operations	€ 9.5 M	€ 16.1 M	€ 14.2 M
Chikyu maintenance	€ 5.7 M	€ 10.5 M	€ 11.7 M
Overall expedition costs	**€ 15.2 M**	**€ 26.6 M**	**€ 25.9 M**

P941 has a parallel NSF proposal under development and is planned to be submitted soon. P967 Ontong Java Nui is also starting to prepare an NSF proposal; they had a workshop in April with increased interest from the ECR community, particularly from the US. Proposal P1105 has submitted an

Addendum to IODP[3], and plans a JAMSTEC observatory site in addition to the primary site of the proposal (thereby reducing the overall cost to IODP[3]). There are promising opportunities between IODP[3] and national research projects, while maintaining the original scientific goals.

Ulla Röhl described the Revised Sample, Data and Obligations Policy. There is a need for one policy for the three repositories, and the document was also revised by SODCO and sent to the MSP-FB in advance of the meeting for a final review. The documents were approved unanimously.

> **IODP[3] MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-07: Sample, Data and Obligations Policy**
> The MSP-FB thanked Ulla Röhl, Michelle Penkrot and Yusuke Kubo for their efforts in updating the Scientific Ocean Drilling Program's "Sample, Data and Obligations Policy" and approved the revised policy.

9. Other updates

Angelo Camerlenghi gave an update from the Working Group on Legal Ownership of ECORD Cores. The working group suggested that MARUM have ownership because of their role hosting the BCR, operational capacity and significant long-term investments. Other alternatives could be CNRS or BGS. MARUM accepted the ownership, if endorsed by the ECORD Council. The CNRS legal department reserves the right to undertake an internal check of the agreement.

Sanny Saito reported on the IODP Achievement report, currently being edited by ECORD, US, Japan, ANZIC, China, and India. The report serves to preserve the legacy of IODP Phase 2. All 10 chapters are now completed and will appear in one unified publication. An external review stage is currently ongoing with 20 reviewers, along with continued work on the cover, chapter layout, and figures.

> **IODP[3] MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-08: IODP Achievements volume**
> The MSP-FB expressed its gratitude to the international working group responsible for preparing the IODP Achievements volume, now in its final stages of completion. The MSP-FB looks forward to the publication of the volume in 2026 and to its broad dissemination within the global scientific drilling community and beyond.

10. Pathways to Impact in IODP[3]

Ron Hackney illustrated that impact goes well beyond publications, even those in high-impact journals. Pathways to impact include inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact, not just outputs, because the true impact comes later. The main question to ask is: "What is the impact in terms of the economy, sociology and environment?" The example used was IODP Expedition 325 "Great Barrier Reef Environmental Changes", which had publications from 2011 to 2025, and likely more in the future. An outcome here could be that the data are eventually integrated into a governmental report from Queensland, with the positive impact that the reef survives and more tourists come to see it. However, it is challenging to track expedition impact. There is a possible impact from industry and mining, space exploration (tools on rovers), government policies, and geohazard risk mitigation. The MSP-FB set an action to set up a small working group on this topic.

> **IODP[3] MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-09: Pathways to Impact**
> The MSP-FB thanked Ron Hackney and Sarah Kachovich for their informative presentation about defining the societal impact of scientific ocean drilling activities that generated a very interesting discussion. It recommended the formation of a small Working Group (led by ANZIC) to further discuss incorporation of pathways to impact into IODP[3] practices that should report back to the MSP-FB at its hybrid meeting in 2027.

11. Report from the Scientific Drilling Forum 2025

Nobi Seama reported on the first International Scientific Drilling Forum 2025, held in Mazadel Vallo, Sicily, Italy in October 2025. Participants included more than 50 representatives from four continents.

The outcomes are recorded in a set of consensus items available **here**. The second International Scientific Drilling Forum will be held in Brazil, on 27-30 October 2026.

12. Routes to Offshore Expedition Science Team membership

Antony Morris presented the different routes to become a Science Team member: (1) offshore and/or onshore and "Research plan only" via a first call, and (2) "Sample request" via a second call during the moratorium. Science Team members selected from "Research plan only" and "Sample request" routes do not author the Expedition Summary, Methods and Site reports in a *Proceedings* volume, but can be authors of the Data Reports. "Research plan only" scientists get samples a few months ahead of the Science Team members from the second call. This topic will be addressed again later as we see how the first set of second calls goes.

13. SPARC implementation

Antony Morris presented a revised approach for SPARC Co-Chief selection, after receiving some pushback from Co-Chiefs last year. Now, the SPARC proponents are asked before the SEP meeting if they are willing to serve as Co-Chiefs. Nominations by SEP are then made from the group of willing proponents, and passed to the MSP-FB for final decisions, taking into consideration gender and career stage balances.

Antony Morris also described how SEP may endorse SPARC proposals that require some minor improvements or adjustments. The minor changes that SEP recommends are then made during the review process of the resulting SPARC Scientific Prospectus, with the relevant SEP watchdogs acting as reviewers. The SPARC Co-Chiefs must act on the SEP feedback and the Scientific Prospectus is not published until the SEP watchdogs are happy with the contents.

Although it is not possible to assign Expedition Project Managers (EPMs) to SPARC expeditions, Antony Morris and David McInroy suggested having a SPARC "facilitator" for one year to help with discussions with the repositories. David McInroy confirmed that ESO EPMs are willing to do that, but this will also depend on the timing (e.g. to avoid conflicts with offshore/onshore expedition phases), and it must stay optional. Sanny Saito said that it will be very difficult for JAMSTEC EPMs to do that. The outcome of these discussions was a recommendation to form a working group to produce a handbook of advice for SPARC Co-Chiefs to steer them through all stages of leading a SPARC expedition.

> **IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-10: Support for SPARC Co-Chief Scientists**
> The MSP-FB discussed how to best support SPARC Co-Chief Scientists (especially those who are early career researchers) during the start-up phase of their expeditions. It recommends the development of a practical handbook of advice by a small Working Group consisting of the IODP^3 Science Office Directors, representatives from ESO, MarE3, BCR and KCC, plus other IODP^3 scientists with relevant experience.

Myriam Kars (IODP^3-SO Publications Manager) presented Zenodo as a platform for publication of large datasets associated with the *Proceedings*, with the creation of an IODP^3 community in Zenodo. Before online publication, quality checks and metadata will be reviewed by Myriam as the community curator.

> **IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-11: Choice of platform for *Proceedings* data repository**
> The MSP-FB approved adoption of Zenodo as the platform of choice for large datasets associated with *Proceedings of the International Ocean Drilling Programme* volumes and IODP^3-related publications in other journals, under the management of Dr Myriam Kars, IODP^3 Science Office Publications Manager, including responsibility for quality control of data and meta data.

14. Overview and approval of SEP-endorsed SPARC Proposals

Masa Kinoshita (SEP Science Co-Chair), presented an overview of the two SPARC proposals endorsed by SEP at the April 2026 SEP meeting and the MSP Facility Board approved both:

- P1117-S, Co-Chief Scientists: Valentin Basch (Italy) and Cécile Prigent (France), "Chemical and energy exchanges between the mantle, magma and seawater"
- P1118-S, Co-Chief Scientists: Clifford Patten (Austria) and Ana Jesus (Portugal), "MESMERIC – Metal and sulfur fluxes during margin evolution: from ridge to continent" (endorsed by SEP with some recommended revision

IODP[3] MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-12: Approval of SPARC Expeditions

The MSP-FB recommended funding for P1117-S and P1118-S. We recommend inviting the following proposal proponents to act as Co-Chief Scientists for these SPARCs expeditions:

- P1117-S: Valentin Basch and Cécile Prigent
- P1118-S: Clifford Patten and Ana Jesus

15. Overview of drilling proposals to be considered by the MSP-FB

Nobi Seama (MSP-FB Co-Chair) started the overview by presenting maps of the drilling proposal locations, and stated that some proposals may be unfeasible at this moment because of combinations of factors such as projected expedition costs, risks, and logistical issues. The goal of the ensuing discussions was to identify these proposals and hence a list of proposals that would be discussed in detail at the next MSP-FB meeting and considered for implementation (in late 2028/early 2029), rather than deciding implementation plans at this time. Timothy Reston (SEP Site Co-Chair) presented an overview of the drilling proposals to be considered by the MSP-FB. Those considered to be unfeasible given current constraints are labelled "Discussion deferred at this time" in the summary table below.

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Title	SEP rating	MSP-FB comments
P857C	Full2 Add2	Claudia Bertoni	The demise of a salt giant: climatic-environmental transition during the terminal Messinian Salinity Crisis	Excellent	Discussion deferred at this time
P708	Full Add5	Julianne Müller	Arctic Ocean Paleoceanography: Towards a Continuous Cenozoic Record from a Greenhouse to an Icehouse World (ArcOP)	Excellent	Discussion deferred at this time
P813	Full Add2	Trevor Williams	Greenhouse to Icehouse Antarctic paleoclimate and ice history from George V Land and Adélie Land shelf sediments	Excellent	Discussion deferred at this time

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Title	SEP rating	MSP-FB comments
P864	Full Add3	Tom Dunkley Jones	The Origin, Evolution and Paleoenvironment of the Equatorial Atlantic Gateway	Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P945	Full Add4	Luigi Jovane	Paleoceanography of the Brazilian Equatorial Margin (PBEM)	Very good	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P979	Full2 Add3	Wolfram Geissler	The Opening of the Arctic-Atlantic Gateway: Tectonic, oceanographic and climatic dynamics	Transformative	Discussion deferred at this time
P839	Full Add5	Karsten Gohl	Development and sensitivity of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet tested from drill records of the Amundsen Sea Embayment	Transformative	Discussion deferred at this time
P730	Full2 Add	Judson Partin	Drilling the late Quaternary coral record of climate and sea level on subsiding reefs at Sabine Bank and Bougainville Guyot, Vanuatu	Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P941	Full2 Add4	Yasuhiko Ohara	The nature of the back-arc basin lower crust and upper mantle at the Godzilla Megamullion	Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P967	Full	Takashi Sano	Testing the Ontong Java Nui hypothesis	Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P971	Full2 Add2	Alessio Sanfilippo	Kane OCC, Drilling lower crust and mantle at the slow spreading MAR	Very good/Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P976	Full2 Add3	Hans Christian Larsen	Rift propagation north of Iceland: A case of asymmetric plume dynamics?	Very good	Discussion deferred at this time

Proposal Number	Type	Lead Proponent	Title	SEP rating	MSP-FB comments
P1015	Full2	Christopher Lowery	In the Loop: western boundary current onset and evolution in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico	Very good	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB
P1105 (ex 990)	Full	Rie Nakata	Drilling and monitoring in Hyuga-Nada: Unveiling effects of seamount subduction on slow earthquakes	Excellent	To be discussed at the next MSP-FB

This discussion led to the following Consensus Items:

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-13: Encouragement to US scientists to seek additional NSF funding for proposals

The MSP-FB is excited by the range of excellent and transformative offshore drilling proposals currently at the Board and by the prospect of implementing some of these in the future in collaboration with the NSF-funded US Scientific Drilling Program. We therefore encourage US colleagues to continue their efforts to secure additional NSF funding for Proposals 941 (Godzilla) and 967 (Ontong Java Nui) that may allow their future implementation.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-14: IPY2032 and IODP^3

The MSP-FB encourages the scientific ocean drilling community to develop high profile IODP^3 projects linked to the International Polar Year in 2032. It particularly encourages the submission of SPARC proposals based on samples and data collected during previous expeditions in the polar regions, and the submission of Magellan^3 workshop proposals to support the development of new offshore drilling and SPARC expeditions.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-15: Submission Guidelines for new drilling proposals

The MSP-FB agreed it is important for proponents of new offshore drilling proposals to be aware of current constraints associated with the implementation of IODP^3 expeditions from the start of the proposal submission and evaluation process. The MSP-FB therefore requests the IODP^3 Operators and Science Office to produce a new section of the "Submission Guidelines for Scientific Ocean Drilling Proposals" to provide information on drilling capabilities of different platforms and associated likely costs. This should aim to help proponents develop proposals that are implementable within the scope of current IODP^3 operational and financial constraints.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-16: Proposals requiring external support

Some drilling proposals currently at the MSP-FB have cost estimates that exceed the annual operational budget of IODP^3. The MSP-FB strongly encourages proponents of such proposals to seek potential external funding and/or in-kind contributions to make these proposals viable for implementation. Proponents of these proposals should be informed that their potential implementation will only be discussed in detail at future MSP-FB meetings once they can demonstrate that such external support has been secured in principle.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-17: Request to SEA Group for Full Reviews of proposals

The MSP-FB requests full SEA Group reviews of the following eight proposals in the IODP^3 system:

- P730 Full2 Add 3 – "Drilling the Late Quaternary coral record of climate and sea level on subsiding reefs at Sabine Bank and Bougainville Guyot, Vanuatu"
- P864 Full Add3 – "The origin, evolution and paleoenvironment of the Equatorial Atlantic Gateway"
- P941 Full2 Add4 – "The nature of the back-arc basin lower crust and upper mantle at the Godzilla Megamullion"
- P945 Full Add 4 – "Paleoceanography of the Brazilian Equatorial Margin (PBEM)"

- P967 Full – “Testing the Ontong Java Nui hypothesis”
- P971Full2 Add2 – “Kane OCC – drilling lower crust and mantle at the slow spreading MAR”
- P1015 Full2 – “In the loop: Western Boundary Current onset and evolution in the SE Gulf of Mexico”
- P1105 Full – “Drilling and monitoring in Hyuga-Nada: Unveiling effects of seamount subduction on slow earthquakes”

The MSP-FB would like to receive these reviews by the end of April 2027 so they may be considered in its scheduling discussions in May/June 2027. The SEA Group Chair is kindly requested to liaise with the SEA Group members to establish a staggered schedule for conducting these reviews that fits their other commitments.

16. Discussion of a long-term drilling strategy

More detailed guidelines for proponents will be provided in terms of feasibility (time at sea, maximum core volume to process, expedition costs, in-kind contributions such as NSF). Proponents will be encouraged to contact the Operators first to discuss operations. Seabed rock drills and giant piston coring are lower-cost options and their use should be encouraged when developing proposals. ESO would like to develop a closer relationship with Schmidt Ocean Institute to organise joint expeditions.

17. Votes of thanks

The MSP-FB expressed its sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Ulla Röhl, Professor Sasha Turchyn, Professor Tim Reston and Dr Yuki Morono for their outstanding contributions to scientific ocean drilling.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-18: Vote of thanks to Dr Ulla Röhl (Marum, Bremen, Germany)

The MSP-FB would like to express its heart-felt thanks and gratitude to Ulla Röhl for her outstanding service to successive scientific ocean drilling programmes across more than four decades. Her exemplary leadership of the Bremen Core Repository (BCR) has been crucial to the success of a diverse series of expeditions based on the MSP concept involving onshore operational phases at BCR, as well as countless international projects based on core samples held at the BCR. Ulla played a critical role in the design of our new programme via her membership of the IODP^3 Planning Group, where her contributions and insights were highly valued by all, particularly in the development of the innovative SPARC initiative. She has also been a highly respected, active research scientist across her many years of service, with an outstanding international profile, including leadership of IODP Expedition 378 “South Pacific Paleogene Climate” in 2020. We will sorely miss her calm and inspirational leadership (and her humorous reports on biscuit consumption by scientists visiting the BCR), and we wish her a long and happy retirement beginning from 2027 onwards.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-19: Vote of thanks to Professor Sasha Turchyn (University of Cambridge, UK)

The MSP-FB added its own grateful thanks to Sasha Turchyn for her contributions to its success across the transition to IODP^3 as previous MSP-FB Co-Chair to those expressed by the Executive Board in its Consensus Item 2025-05-7. We also thanked her for her willingness to continue to serve as a Science Board member in 2026, allowing the board to continue to benefit from her expertise and from her passion and enthusiasm for scientific ocean drilling. We wish Sasha every success in the future!

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-20: Vote of thanks to Professor Tim Reston (University of Birmingham, UK)

The MSP-FB would like to thank Tim Reston for his exceptional service as Co-Chair of the IODP^3 Science Evaluation Panel (SEP), especially during the critical transition to the new programme. His leadership and expertise have been instrumental in ensuring thorough evaluation of both offshore and SPARC proposals, leading to the very best science being sent to the MSP-FB for potential implementation. We are profoundly grateful for the time and effort you put into SEP over the years, and we wish you well in your future endeavours.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-21: Vote of thanks to Dr Yuki Morono (JAMSTEC, Japan)

The MSP-FB would like to thank Yuki Morono for his many contributions to IODP^3 science and particularly his service as a member of the MSP-FB Science Board. His expertise and experience in deep biosphere research have been instrumental in raising the profile of this exciting field in successive ocean drilling programmes and have greatly aided

MSP-FB evaluation of proposals with deep biosphere objectives. We will miss his profound insights and enthusiasm for ocean drilling but know that he will continue to work tirelessly to support the IODP^3 deep biosphere community into the future.

18. Consensus items

All agreed on the consensus items from the meeting, embedded above in the minutes and available separately **here**.

19. Next meeting

The next IODP^3 MSP-FB meeting will be scheduled as an in-person/hybrid meeting on 7-9 June 2027 in Kobe, Japan.

IODP^3 MSP-FB Consensus 2026-06-22: Next meeting.

The MSP-FB thanked Nobi Seama (Co-Chair) for kindly offering to host its next hybrid meeting in Kobe, Japan, in May/June 2027. We look forward to being back in Kobe and to further stimulating discussions of an exciting range of drilling and SPARC proposals!