**GERMAN RESEARCH VESSELS**

*except RVs from the Ministries of Defence (1 RV), Agriculture (3 RV), Traffic (6 RV)*

**Polarstern**
- Since 29 years
- More than 32 expeditions
- Nearly 310 days per year
- November - March in Antarctic waters
- Summer months in Arctic waters

Replacement of Polarstern is underway:
- Scientific-technical requirements as well as shipbuilding-technical requirements formulated
- First design studies contracted and carried out
- Discussions about the form of call for tenders are under way

**Marina S. Merian**
- Newest ship of the fleet (2006)
- 310 days of service/year
- Multidisciplinary
- Problems with pod-drives solved (new collector rings)
- Damages of last year collision with Greek ferry were compensated by insurance of ferry
- New seismic high pressure compressors (4 x 12 m3/min)

**Poseidon**
- The 'old lady' of IFM-Geomar
- Since 1976 nearly 386 expeditions
- Major refit in 2010
- First time in Red Sea

- Got class till 2015
- After 2015 replacement needed
- First scientific-technical requirements formulated

**Meteor**
- Since 25 years 'flagship'
- New fulfilling its 84th expedition
- About 310 days per year at sea

**Alkor**
- Since 1986 multidisciplinary (including fisheries) research cruises and some student practicals
- Major refit in 2010

**Heincke**
- Since 1986 multidisciplinary (including fisheries) research cruises and some student practicals
- 305 days
- 33 cruises in 2010

**Sonne**
- Only privately owned ship in German fleet
- Chartered by Federal Ministry of Education and Research for 250 days per year
- Ship operates mainly in the Pacific and Indian Ocean
- Replacement in 2014 by governmental owned Deepsea RV
- Tender process is (hopefully) in its final stage

**Cruise track in 2010/11**