

RV BELGICA ACTIVITY 2014

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Belgian Science Policy Office

1. General



length: 50.9 m beam: 10.0 m draught: 4.6 m

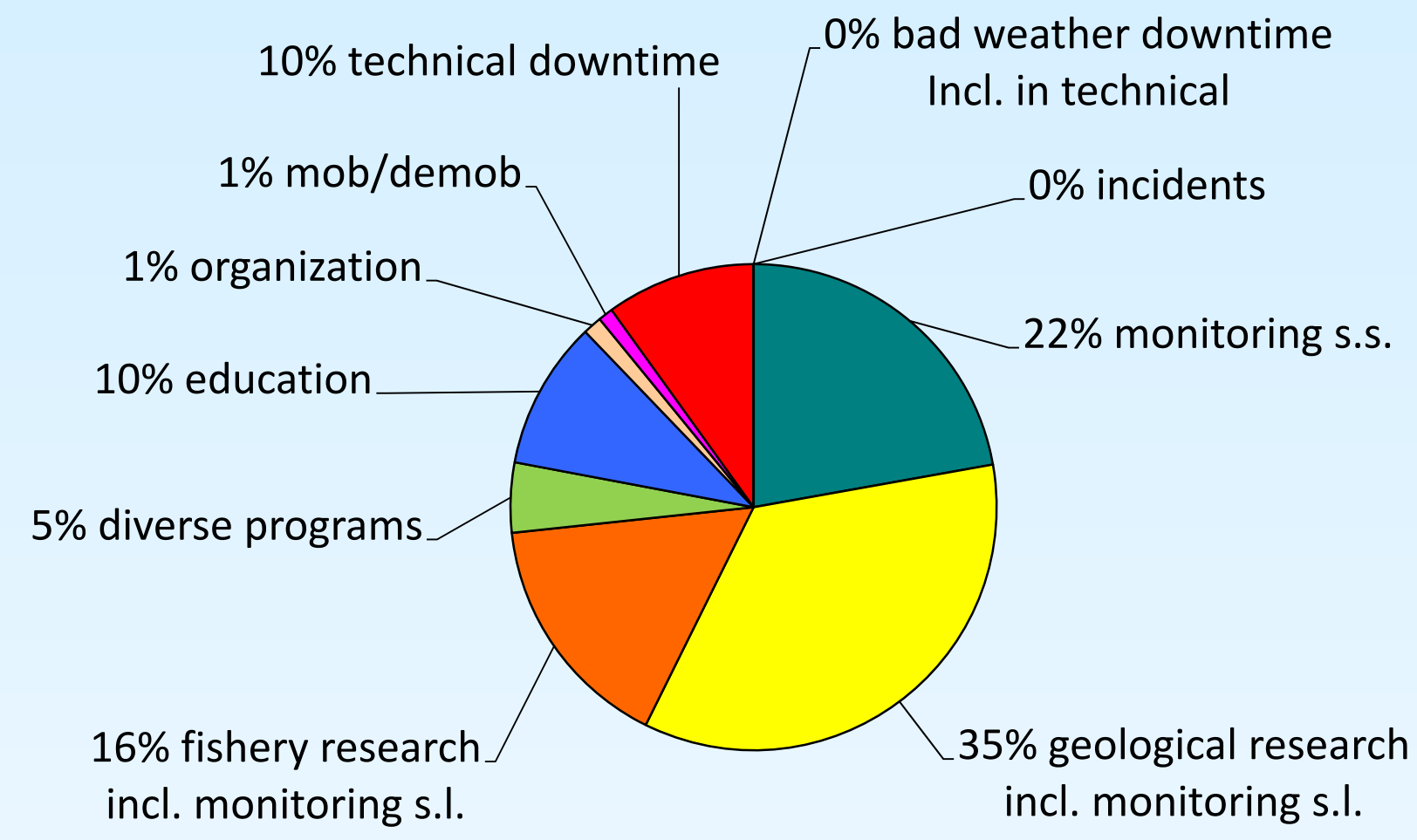
Operated by Belgian Navy since °1984

Belgian Navy crew :15 pax
Scientists :16 pax

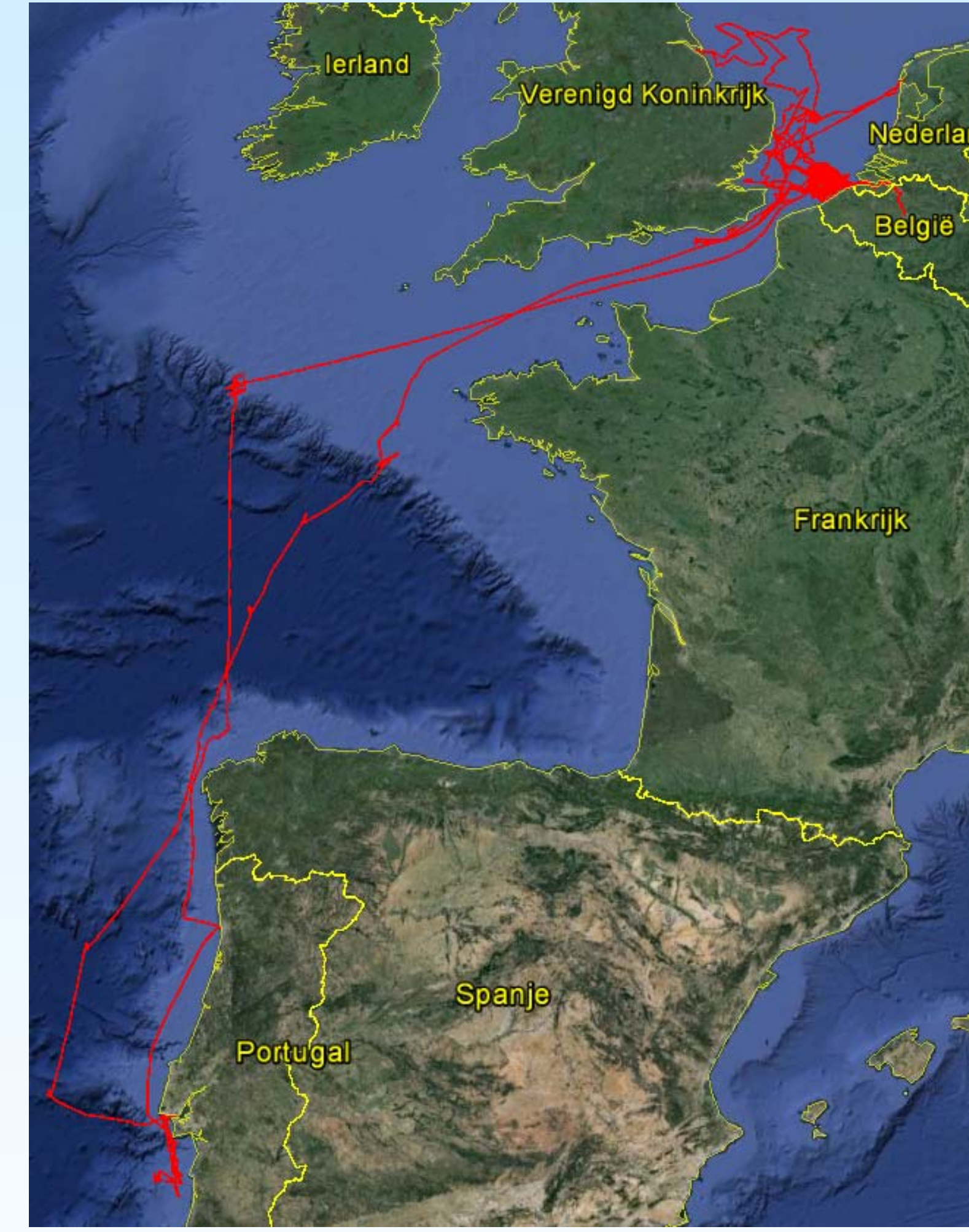
Owned by Belgian Federal Science Policy

Coordinated by RBINS – OD Nature

RV Belgica 2014:
Evaluation of the 184 planned days



Program 2014



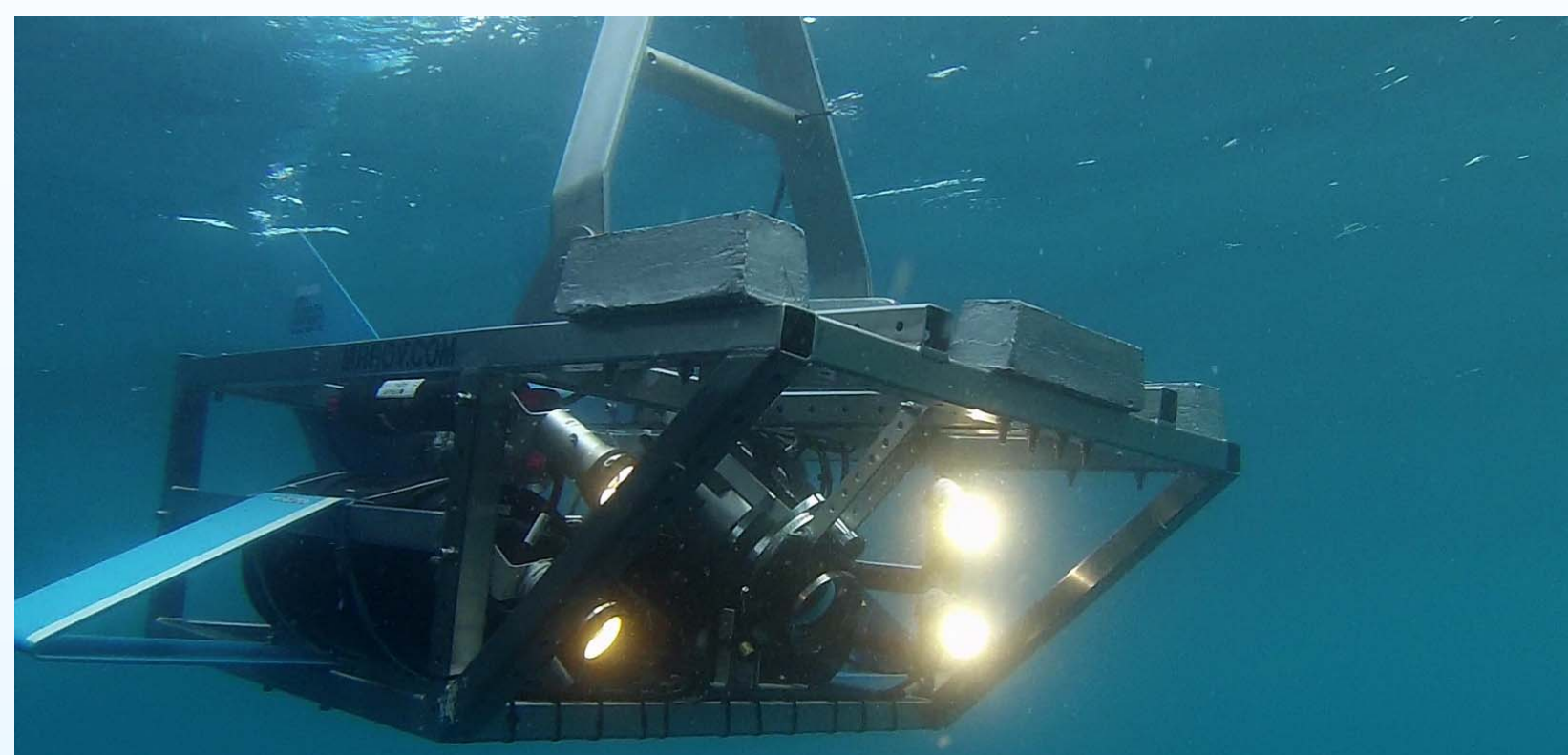
Ship track 2014

sailed distance 2014:
13 150 nm

2. Activities

Test platform for new instrumentation:

- BGS vibrocorer (3 m - 6000 m depth rated); no DP!
- Plymouth University video frame (in house development)



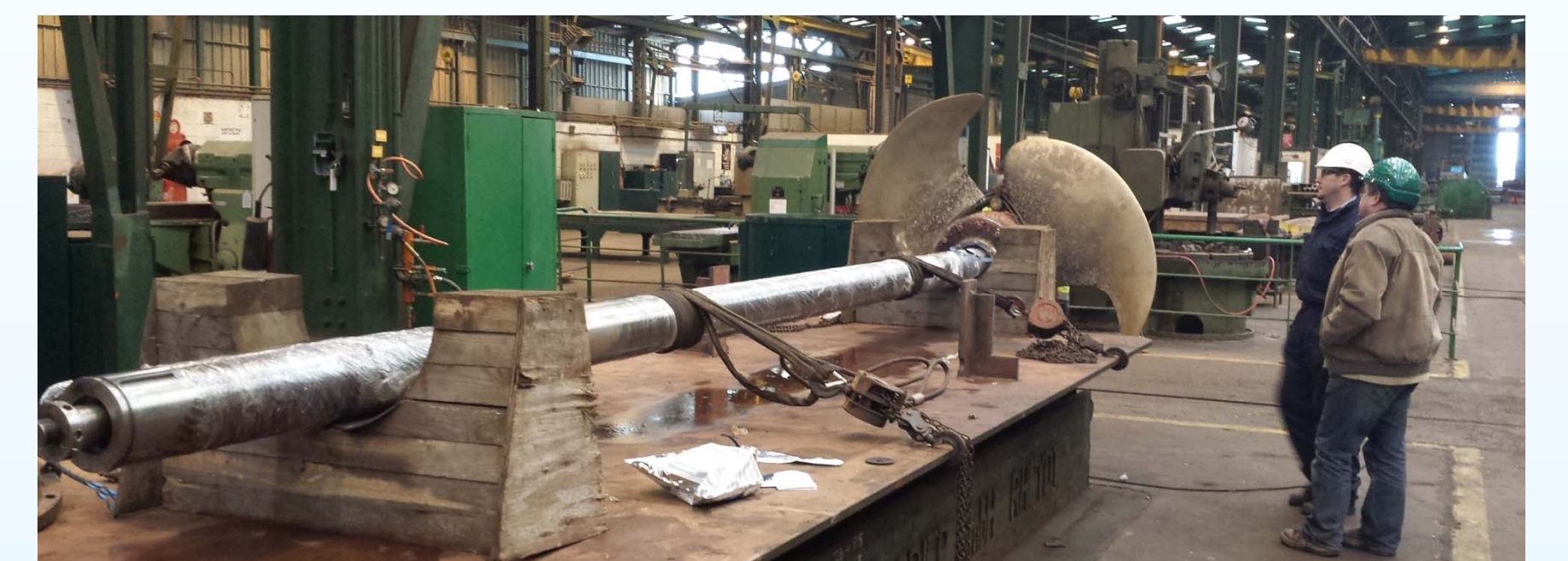
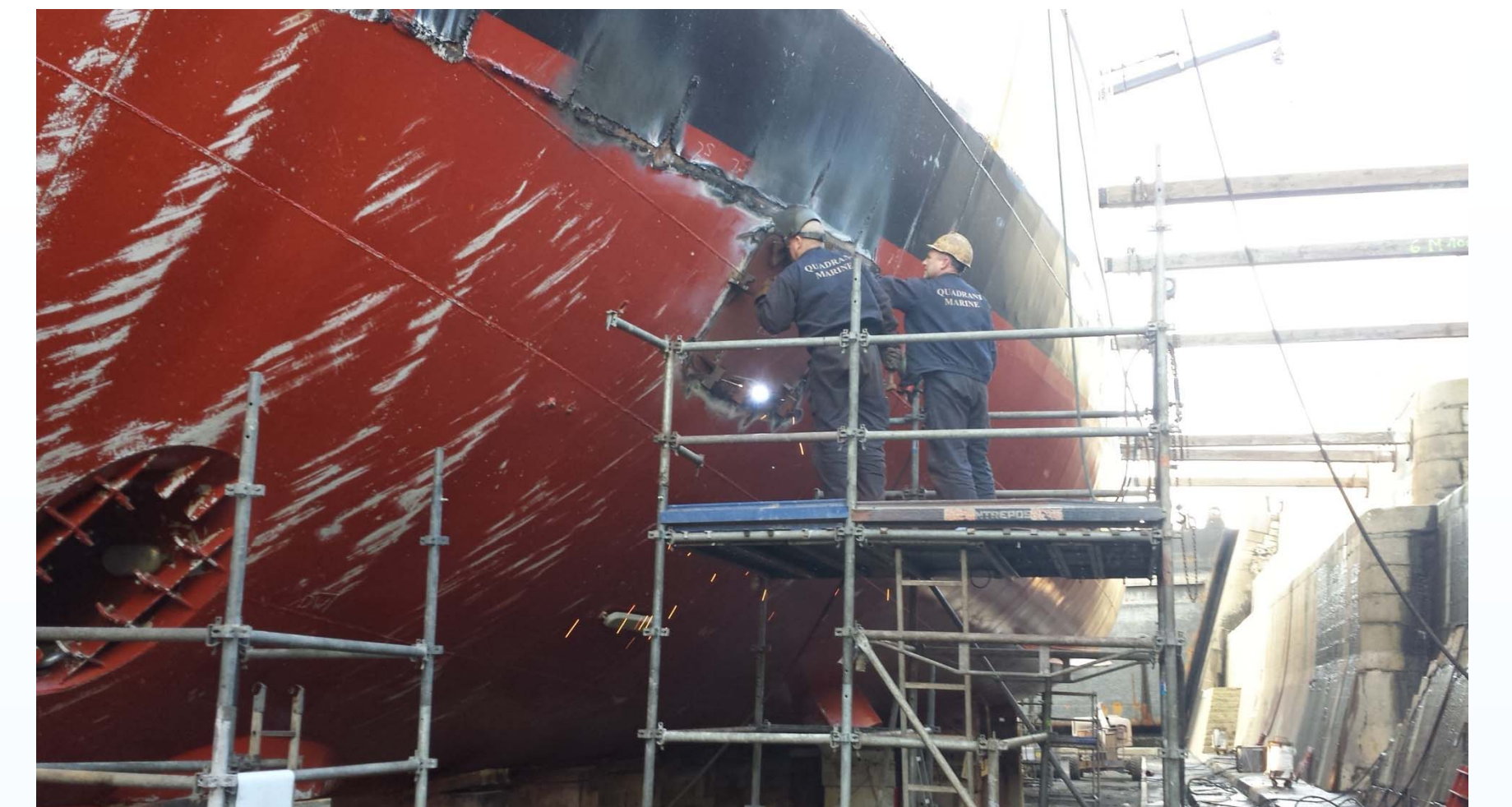
Public relation:

- 30y celebration with HowBigIsBelgica.be PR campaign (movie, merchandising, social media etc.), open ship in Brussels, symposium, VIP trip.
- Visit of Secretary of State Courard



Maintenance:

- Class renewal DNV-GL after prolonged maintenance
- New RTK GPS incl. dual antenna heading solution
- New trawling winch
- Obsolescence problems unresolved; no budget foreseen
- Technical downtime incl. safety issues remain



3. Replacement process

Finance study (BELSPO – OD Nature) (Council of Ministers 04.04.14)

- Best solution: build new ship and exploitation cfr. current RV Belgica (Navy - OD Nature)
- 54.5 M€ incl. VAT/ 4.3 M€ per year (300d)
- No financial input from private sector/foreign partners/FPS's
- Cooperation with foreign partners possible but a lot of uncertainties
- Decision on purchase/build new ship cfr. new government
- Science Policy - Defence: prospection technical specifications
- Support letters Belgian and Flemish universities & institutes
- European ship-time exchange gets a lot of support by government

Technical part of tender (Defence – OD Nature)

- Based on feasibility study 2009 including scientific needs 2008
- Based on inputs from ship yards, Eurofleets, ERVO, IRSO & Defence

Update scientific needs (BELSPO - OD Nature - Scientists - Defence)

- Thematic meetings were organized to update scientific needs 2008



odnature.naturalsciences/Belgica

