

# THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATORS GROUP



L-Università  
ta' Malta

## OFEG Update

12-14 June 2018  
University of Malta Valletta Campus  
Island of Malta

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## OFEG – OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE GROUP

This agreement allows for no-cost exchanges of ship-time and major marine equipment. It promotes the efficient and cost-effective use of each country's resources by giving the scientific communities access to a wider range of marine facilities and geographical areas.

### What are the benefits of OFEG?

- OFEG provides scientists wider access to facilities and equipment than would otherwise be possible from within their home national capabilities.
- OFEG has more than 20 research vessels and the majority of Europe's 'heavy' equipment – including manned submersibles, deep ocean remotely operated vehicles and platforms, towed arrays and shipboard surveying systems.
- OFEG-TECH is an OFEG initiative to develop the equipment and technical support aspect of the OFEG, and is accountable to the OFEG members

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## How does OFEG work?

- We meet twice per year and exchange details of each others forthcoming ships programmes
- We actively seek to fill programme gaps and exchange ship time if mutually beneficial
- We make ourselves available throughout the year via email and telephone and actively seek to support intervention for unplanned equipment recovery or ship support requests
- In the future we may be able to share programmes using common planning systems

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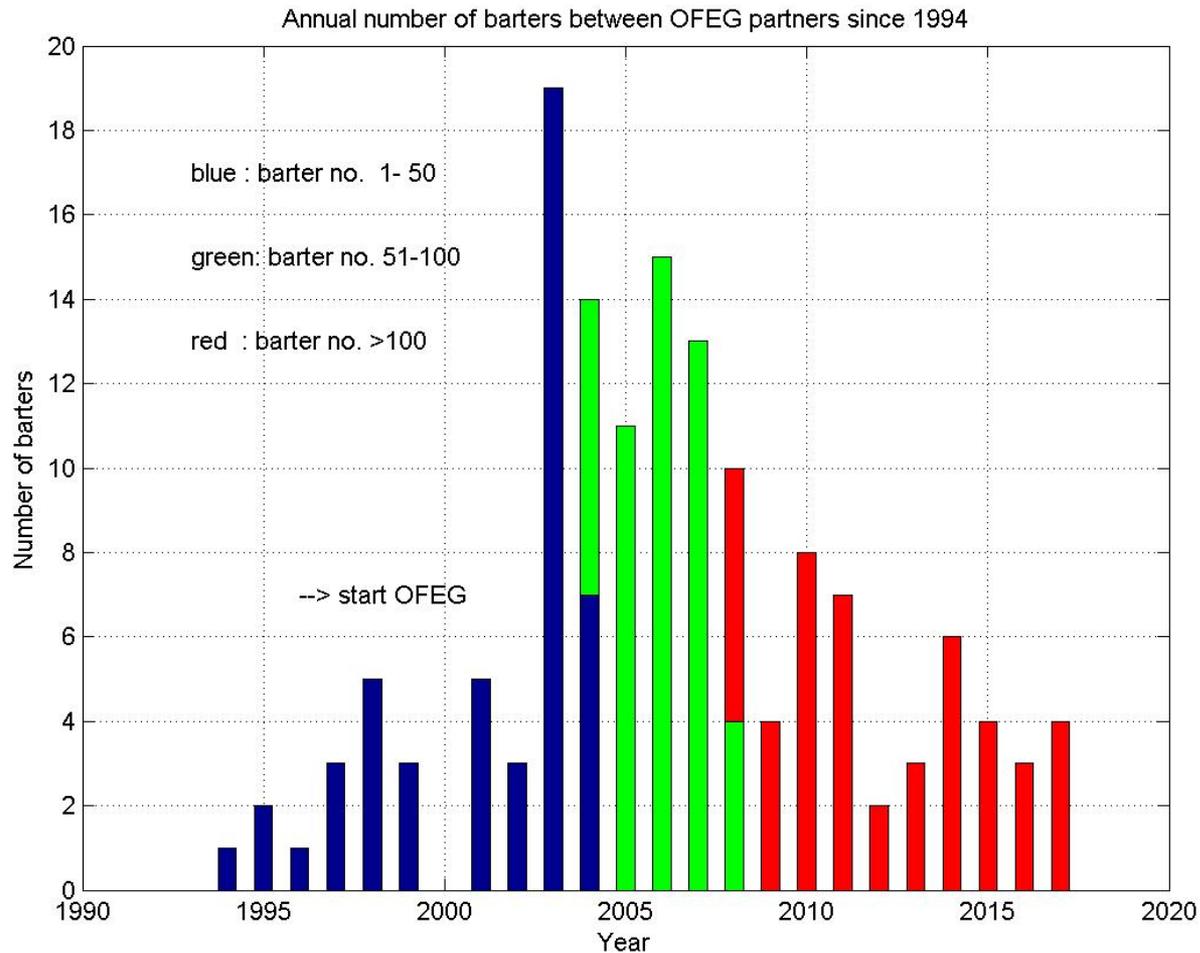
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1. In 2017 OFEG has nominated Norway as the new chair and Germany as the new vice-chair for the next 2 years. Juanjo Dañobeitia has left the OFEG group due to his new position in Rome as Director at ENSO-ERIC.
2. NIOZ and NERC use the new marine facilities software for all their programming and planning requirements. Norway and Germany are progressing their involvement while GEOMAR now planning the two vessels ALKOR and POSEIDON on the system. CISC and IMR are interested in starting to join the system.
3. IFREMER has modernized and increased the capabilities of their old seismic system . A sea trial of the upgraded 2D and 3D seismic devices was conducted successfully in spring 2018 and is now available for barter.
4. The last OFEG-Tech meeting has occurred at Ifremer (Toulon) in March 2018. The 1-day meeting with ten members was led by the new Chair and vice-Chair Dag Hellesnes (IMR) and Joerg Bialas (GEOMAR). A key point of OFEG-Tech is to improve knowledge of each other organizations which also allows each organization to benefit from new experience and knowledge which can be used to develop our own internal technical capabilities. The discussion has shown a general trend in sharing expertise about the capabilities of deep sea and autonomous vehicles.

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