

Invitation Media Conference Southampton

Dear colleagues,

On October 26th, 2015, a team of scientists will sail from Southampton, UK, on board the British Royal Research Vessel *James Cook*, and head for the centre of the Atlantic Ocean. During a 6-week expedition the team will explore the Atlantis Massif, a prominent, nearly 4,000 metre high underwater mountain which is part of the world's longest mountain chain.

While at sea, the team will collect cores of rocks using seabed rock drills. It is the first expedition of this kind to use this type of remotely operated drilling technology. Scientifically the sea bed is remarkable because the Atlantis Massif is made up of rocks from the Earth's mantle. In the presence of seawater these rocks produce the greenhouse gas methane, hydrogen and heat, among other things. Such rock reactions excite scientists because they represent possible sources to fuel life in the absence of sunlight and may be analogous to conditions found on other planets, or early in Earth's history.

We would like to inform you about this exciting project and kindly invite you to take part in a **media briefing on board the Royal Research Ship *James Cook***:

October 23rd, 2015, 11 am
RRS *James Cook*
National Oceanography Centre
European Way
Southampton
SO14 3ZH

Expedition Project Manager Carol Cotterill and Co-Chief Scientists Gretchen Früh-Green (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) and Beth Orcutt (Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, USA) will inform you about scientific and technological challenges of this international expedition which is organized by the ECORD, the European Consortium of Ocean Research Drilling, as part of the International Ocean Discovery Program IODP.

During a tour of the vessel you will have the opportunity to visit the bridge, labs and to see the two seafloor drill rigs, which have been installed on the vessel.

The visit will provide excellent opportunities for print, online, and TV media to obtain first-hand impressions of the upcoming expedition. The outreach team can also provide photos, maps, and video footage showing IODP drilling operations at sea and fascinating underwater video material of life at the sea bed in the expedition area.

Due to safety regulations, registration is necessary to gain access to the vessel. If you plan to visit, please contact us and register. You will need to bring ID.

For registration and further information please contact:

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