



ECORD's Headline #11 ECORD invites you to submit mission-specific platform (MSP) proposals!

Mission-specific platform expeditions (MSP) are ECORD's landmark.

Since 2004 and the implementation of the first MSP expedition, Arctic Coring Expedition (ACEX), ECORD has successfully conducted seven expeditions (see www.ecord.org).

- ✚ At the start of the International Ocean Discovery Program, the ECORD Facility Board (EFB) has defined a **five-year (2014-2018) MSP operational plan**, which includes expeditions 347 Baltic Sea Paleoenvironment (2013-2014), 357 Atlantis Massif: Serpentinization and Life (2015), 364 Chicxulub Impact Crater (2016), 381 Corinth Active Rift Development (2017) and 377 Arctic Paleoceanography (ACEX-2; 2018).
- ✚ The EFB will define soon a **second MSP operational plan** to cover the second phase (2019-2023) of the programme. This operational plan will be based on both the scientific excellence of drilling/coring proposals and, importantly, the available annual budget for expeditions.

The Expedition 373 "Antarctic Cenozoic Paleoclimate" which was initially scheduled in early 2018 has been provisionally postponed to 2020.

In addition, by projecting budget constraints until the end of the current IODP phase in 2023, the EFB expects that **one medium- to high-cost and three low-cost expeditions** could be considered.

Provisional reservations for 2020 and 2022 have been made for seabed drilling systems MeBo70/200 and RockDrill-II to accommodate any proposal demands. The operations of these systems as well as long-piston coring can be conducted in the low-cost category provided that the research vessels are contributed in-kind.

We strongly encourage the submission or reactivation of MSP proposals to be (re)submitted to the Science Support Office (submission deadlines: April 1st and October 1st each year) for further evaluation by the Science Evaluation Panel and potential consideration by the EFB in its next scheduling exercises.

Long-term scheduling strategy (2017-2023) for MSP expeditions

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
381 Corinth (Exp. 373) Jack-up or Drill ship MC-HC	377 Arctic (Exp. 377) drill ship HC	N.N. LC	373 Antarctic RD-II LC-MC	N.N. LC	N.N. LC seabed drill	N.N. MC-HC

LC = low-cost (<\$8M) MC = mid-cost (\$8-15M) HC = high-cost (>\$15M)
 MeBo70 and RockDrill-2 (RD-II) are seabed drilling systems

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