



Gilbert Camoin

ECORD Managing Agency: A new ECORD in a new IODP



Milena Borisova

If one word was used to define the 2013-2023 phase of the ECORD-IODP programme, the word "new" would be a fitting description. While the management structure and business model for the International Ocean Discovery Program <http://www.iodp.org/new-program-international-ocean-discovery-program> retain both the multi-platform capabilities and transformative science goals that are outlined in the new science plan "Illuminating Earth's Past, Present, and Future: The International Ocean Discovery Program Science Plan for 2013-2023", the new IODP will address global challenges facing current and future generations with new multidisciplinary research approaches, expanded scientific communities and continued development of its unique collaborative model.

With its array of platforms operated by three independent Individual Platform Providers, both ECORD and IODP are on the cusp of change towards the achievement of increased funding and operational flexibility, as well as greater opportunities in scientific and technological innovation.

New ECORD structure

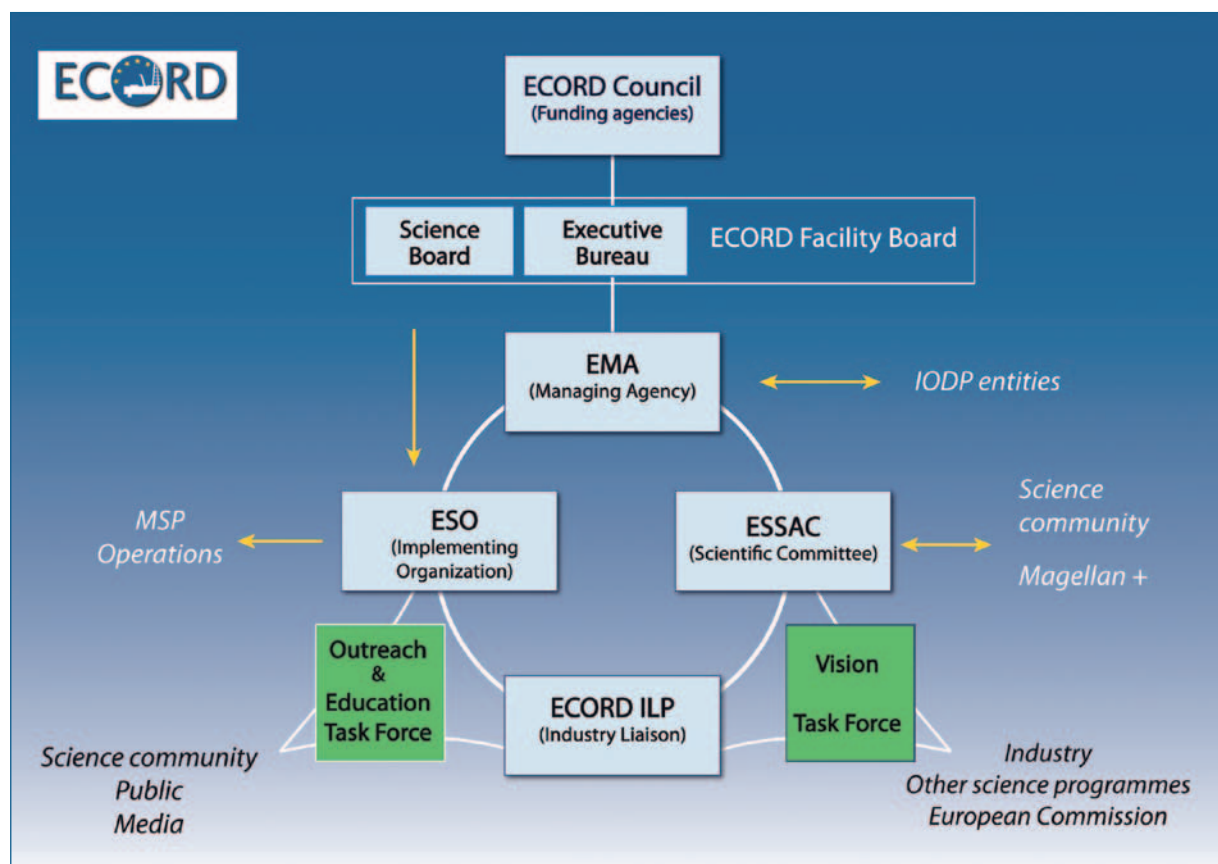
More independence at the consortium level, and in particular in the implementation of mission-specific platform (MSP) expeditions, has required a new ECORD structure to be defined (*below*), to face the new challenges and opportunities offered by the new IODP framework. The changes also present an

excellent opportunity to raise ECORD's profile and to improve its efficiency.

The successful parts of ECORD (*i.e.* the ECORD Council, the EMA, the ESO, the ESSAC) have been retained, although broadened and reshaped, whereas the mandate and membership of previous ECORD bodies have been redefined. In particular, the contribution of the ECORD Industry Liaison Panel, the ECORD link between academia and industry, will be strengthened, and the Education and Outreach group becomes the Outreach and Education Task Force, the ECORD communication entity. There are also three new entities within the structure: the ECORD Executive Bureau, the ECORD Vision Task Force - the ECORD strategic entity - and the ECORD Facility Board - the ECORD planning forum for MSP expeditions.

This new structure will not only enable ECORD to continue its existing functions with greater versatility, but also allow opportunities to be developed in partnership with other countries, organisations and industry.

The MagellanPlus Programme, co-funded by ECORD and ICDP, will yield a powerful springboard for the successful creation of innovative scientific proposals and contribute to the improvement of the relationships between the oceanic and continental drilling communities (*see pages 4 and 11*).



New opportunities

The greater operational flexibility in IODP will allow ECORD to expand the MSP concept to include seafloor drilling systems, long-piston coring, jack-up rigs and others, as determined by IODP scientific priority and operational efficiency. Long-term borehole observatories may represent an additional platform through which generations of researchers can build on the legacy of scientific ocean drilling, collecting new samples and deploying new instruments.

New opportunities will be created, especially through close collaboration with other science programmes and initiatives such as ICDP, IMAGES and EMSO. SIPCom and IODP funding agencies have accepted the possibility that ECORD could implement large scale, multiple objective, multi-site coring proposals that are relevant both to the IODP and IMAGES science plans.

One way to accomplish ECORD's ambitions to advance, grow, and share its scientific and technological resources is by supplementing funding of the MSP operations with additional financial sources. For example, one of the main current goals is to develop greater links with projects funded by the European Commission and to establish a "Distributed European Drilling Infrastructure" involving various Universities or Institutes that operate and/or develop tools that investigate the sub-seafloor.

The development of this network would help to operate research vessels and sampling capabilities using a concerted approach that would not only provide cost-effective use of facilities, but would also maximise their access to the scientific community and facilitate the improvement of existing technologies through the sharing of knowledge, experience and innovative endeavours.

In order to proceed with the creation of more effective and ECORD-relevant industry-related partnerships, ECORD is in the process of re-initiating the function of its Industry Liaison Panel (ILP). The ECORD ILP will provide support to the academic community by offering guidance in common topics of interest and identifying key links with industry in the sharing and development of deep-sea technologies.

With this unique and redefined structure, ECORD is ready to open its doors to innovation and to embark on the road to a higher level of diversity and progress in ocean research. As we reach the final stages of agreeing new MoUs between the ECORD participants and the NSF, ECORD is just a few steps away from completing its transition into the new, groundbreaking International Ocean Discovery Program.

Gilbert Camoin, EMA Director and Milena Borrisova, EMA Assistant Director - <http://www.ecord.org/ema.html>

MagellanPlus

The MagellanPlus Workshop Series Programme is designed to support European and Canadian scientists in developing new and innovative science proposals for submission to IODP and ICDP. The MagellanPlus Workshop Series Programme will thus continue and expand the success of the previous ESF Magellan Workshop Series Programme, through the integration of continental and marine drilling and coring to meet future challenges in Earth, Life and Environmental sciences.

Both workshops granted during the first call of MagellanPlus were held recently:

(1) Records of Geohazards and Monsoonal Changes in the Northern Bay of Bengal - Preparation of an IODP Drilling Proposal (by Volkhard Spiess, Tilmann Schwenk and Herrman-Rudolf Kudrass) with the aim of optimising an existing proposal for drilling the geohazard and paleoclimate history in the Gulf of Bengal (October, 8-10, 2012, Bremen)

(2) Drilling an active hydrothermal system of a submarine intraoceanic arc volcano (by Wolfgang Bach and Cornel de Ronde) with the aim of preparing a proposal for IODP to drill into an active hydrothermal system hosted by a submarine intraoceanic arc volcano (November 15-17, 2012, Lisbon).

Both reports on these workshops will be published in the next issue of the ECORD Newsletter.

The second call for submission of proposals, which closed on July 1, resulted in two workshops that will be held in spring 2013:

(1) Exploring the Cretaceous Greenhouse through Scientific Drilling (by Stuart Robinson and Timothy Bralower) April 15-17, 2013 - London, United Kingdom - <http://iodp-ussp.org/workshop/cretaceous/>

(2) Deep-sea Record of Mediterranean Messinian events (DREAM) (by A. Camerlenghi, G. deLange, R. Flecker, D. Garcia-Castellanos, C. Hübscher, W. Krijgsman, J. Lofi, S. Lugli, V. Manzi, T. McGenity, G. Panieri, M. Rabineau, M. Roveri and F.J. Sierro), May 6-8, 2013 - Brisighella, Italy. The goal of this workshop is to gather three generations of scientists to identify locations for multiple-site riser-drilling in the Mediterranean Sea that would allow the open questions still existing about the causes, processes, timing and consequences of the Messinian salinity crisis (MSC) to be solved at both the local and planetary scale. The initiative builds on recent activities by various research groups to identify potential sites to perform deep-sea research drilling in the Mediterranean Sea across the deep Messinian sedimentary record.

MagellanPlus continued on page 11