J-DESC NEWS
Japan Drilling Earth Science Consortium
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A new Science Office for the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP^3)

The International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP^3) will begin in January 2025 and will succeed the current International Ocean Discovery Program which ends in 2024. IODP^3 will be led jointly by ECORD and Japan as Core Members and involve collaboration and partnership with other non-platform-providing ocean drilling research entities or consortia as Associate and Temporary Members.

On 18 September 2023, ESSAC and J-DESC have opened a call for expressions of interest from senior scientists based in IODP^3 Core Member nations to lead and host the new IODP^3 Science Office (IODP^3-SO). An external committee has now thoroughly evaluated the applications received and recommended the appointment of Antony Morris (University of Plymouth, UK) and Nobu Eguchi (JAMSTEC/MarE3, Japan) as joint Directors of the Science Office for the five first years of IODP^3 (2025-2029). It will be located in the University of Plymouth.

The IODP^3-SO will:

- Implement a programme-wide application portal for all aspects of IODP^3 activities including calls for expedition participation, panel and board membership, training events, scholarships, and grants.
- develop and maintain a database management system for community-led drilling proposals and their evaluation, together with an associated site survey data bank, accessible to Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) members and other IODP^3 entities.
- Provide logistical support for the SEP, the Mission-Specific Platform Facility Board (MSP-FB), and the Scientific Drilling Forum.
- Gather and analyze data (statistics and metrics) aimed at monitoring and improving equality, diversity, and inclusion within IODP^3, and propose measures to further facilitate an inclusive culture in scientific ocean drilling.
- Design and maintain the IODP^3 website that will act as the primary source of

programmatic information for the international scientific ocean drilling research community.

- Develop and implement an online, open-access publication system for IODP^3 expedition-related reports, including associated editorial and reviewing processes, and maintain an expedition-based bibliographic database.

The IODP^3-SO will start its activities in May 2024 to provide a start-up period for establishing IT systems, workflows, and protocols prior to the start of IODP^3 on 1 January 2025. During this period, the IODP^3-SO will also interact with the current IODP Science Support Office to ensure a smooth transition between the two programmes.

A review of the IODP^3-SO will be conducted in the first quarter of 2029 by the IODP^3 Executive Board to guide a decision to either re-compete or renew the contract for a second five-year period (1 January 2030 – 31 December 2034).

Gilbert Camoin, Director of the ECORD Managing Agency,
on behalf of the ECORD-Japan Evaluation Committee