



Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC)

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To: Marine Seismologists,

The MSROC is requesting Letters of Interest from the marine seismic research community regarding proposals for experiments that would utilize seismic data acquisition capabilities similar to those currently provided by the *R/V Langseth*. One year ago, the Marcus Langseth Science Oversight Committee (MLSOC) distributed a similar request and the responses were instrumental in updating the *Langseth* regional framework plan initially released in the spring of 2015. There have been two significant developments (below) that have potential to affect the regional planning, but new and updated Letters of Interest are a key way for marine seismologists to help shape regional scheduling that NSF may consider.

The posted [Regional Framework Plan](#) is for operations to move from the current New Zealand 2D and 3D projects ending in March 2018 toward the North Pacific by 2019 and into the northwest and western Pacific in 2020. There is considerable flexibility within this framework through 2020 and all geographic options are open 2021 and beyond. Even with the uncertainties regarding the new marine seismic operational model, information from the requested Letters of Interest will be essential to scheduling surveys that NSF funds for 2019-2020 and prioritizing geographic regions for the next several years. Please provide the information listed on the next page in your Letter of Interest.

The developments over the past year are as follows:

First, as of March 2017, the MLSOC has been replaced by the MSROC which will provide oversight and advice to NSF and UNOLS for all U.S. academic marine seismic operations in addition to *Langseth* programs. Information regarding MSROC, including terms of reference and membership can be found on the UNOLS MSROC webpage: <https://www.unols.org/committee/marine-seismic-research-oversight-committee-msroc>

Second, in May 2017, NSF issued a program solicitation for proposals to provide marine seismic data acquisition capabilities comparable to the *Langseth*. These new operational models may continue to use that vessel or may include other capable assets. As stated on the UNOLS MSROC webpage: *“The NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE) has advised the MSROC that they have received at least one proposal in response to their Marine Seismic Capabilities Solicitation. Although no details on the proposal(s) can be released until the review process is completed, OCE emphasizes that the marine research community will continue to have access to seismic data acquisition capabilities comparable to those provided by the R/V Langseth.”* If you are planning a future marine seismic program requiring seismic data

acquisition capabilities such as those currently provided by the *Langseth*, please respond to Patrick Hart, MSROC Chair (hart@usgs.gov) with a letter by **December 1, 2017** that includes:

- 1) Primary contact for the project
- 2) Geographic location of survey
- 3) General scientific objectives
- 4) Are there alternate geographic locations that could possibly meet your scientific objectives?
- 5) Type of survey (e.g. 3D seismic reflection, long-offset 2D seismic reflection, OBS refraction)
- 6) Estimated number of days on site for the survey
- 7) Whether PI/team is solely US, collaborative US & international, or solely non-US (all of these are welcome, we expect input from each of these types of group, and there is no preference)
- 8) Proposal status (discussion stage, draft proposal written, proposal submitted, proposal recommended for funding, etc.)
- 9) Timing considerations (coordinating with other programs, etc.)
- 10) Would you like to present a 3-minute summary of the project to MSROC at the pre-AGU meeting?

This information will be used to guide the advice that MSROC provides to NSF about how the regional plan could be updated to best serve current science interests. Our intent is to evaluate options in a public forum so, while we strongly encourage your input, this means that the information you provide will not be kept confidential. We request these letters on a voluntary basis as primary input for regional planning only. They are not required for proposal submission. The areas, scope of work, and any convergence of interests conveyed in the letters will be discussed in open session at the MSROC fall meeting on Sunday Dec. 10th in New Orleans the day before AGU.

For more information, please contact Patrick Hart, (hart@usgs.gov).