

## RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

In late 2007/early 2008 the Marine Institute took delivery of €6m worth of advanced marine research infrastructure, arising from investment in 2007. The items acquired are specifically linked to achieving priorities set out in the three research measures of Sea Change.

Sea Change clearly commits to providing researchers with greater access to specialised marine research infrastructure. Thus, the infrastructure acquired is national infrastructure.

The following lists the infrastructure acquired:

- Underwater TV;
- Underwater Glider;
- Argo Floats;
- Acoustic Monitoring System;
- Water Quality Monitoring Station;
- Remotely Operated Vehicle;
- Inshore Data Buoy;
- Research Vessel CTD System;
- Computer Cluster;
- Directional Wave Instrument;
- Tide Gauge Network;
- Offshore CTD Instruments;
- Offshore Metocean Buoys; and
- Server Room

The infrastructure will be deployed, in the case of fixed equipment (e.g. tidal gauge network, buoys, computer cluster), or housed, in the case of mobile equipment (e.g. ROV) in the BMW Region.

Data generated from deployment of the infrastructure (e.g. buoys) is freely available on the Marine Institute website.

During 2008, considerable resources have been focused on commissioning and deploying this infrastructure. Key amongst these is a suite of coastal and marine observation and monitoring equipment that will greatly improve the ability to study the transient and unpredictable processes taking place in Ireland's coastal waters and the deep ocean; access to extent to which Ireland's climate is changing; and distinguish naturally occurring changes in the system from those that can be attributed to human activities.

All of the infrastructure listed above has been funded by the National Development Plan (2000-2006), with co-funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

