



Euro Argo - Global Ocean Observing Infrastructure

Project Details

Funding Programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
 Sub-Programme: Capacities: Research Infrastructures
 Project Duration: 30 months (2008-2010)
 Total Project Value: €4.21m
 EU Grant-Aid: €3m
 Funding to Ireland: €116,000
 Website: www.euro-argo.eu



Project Description

Euro-Argo is a major European component of the world-wide in situ global ocean observing system (GOOS) and, in particular, the global Argo Programme. The Argo objective is to develop a global array of approximately 3000 autonomous Argo profiling floats (spaced 300 km apart, on average) throughout the ice-free areas of the deep ocean. The floats are battery powered, with a design life of between 3 and 5 years. The 3000 float target was reached in 2007 but approximately 800 floats must continue be deployed globally each year to maintain the target array. Temperature and salinity data collected from surface depth to 2000m are transmitted in real time by satellite to data centres for processing, management, and distribution. The main objective of the Euro-Argo preparatory phase is to undertake the work needed to ensure that by 2010 Europe will be able to:

- Deploy, maintain and operate an array of 800 floats. This will require Europe to deploy 250 floats per annum worldwide.
- Provide a world-class service to the research (climate) and environment monitoring (e.g. GMES) communities.

This project will consolidate and broaden the present European participation in Argo and will develop further Europe's role in leading global ocean observations and in ocean and climate research. By providing adequate networking and cooperation between member states, it will give an increased visibility to the large contribution made by Europe to Argo and will contribute to the development of European excellence in Argo-related research.

Project Partners	
Project Coordinator	IFREMER (France)
Ireland	MI - Marine Institute
Germany	BSH - Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency DM - Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung
UK	NERC - Natural Environment Research Council UKMO - Met Office
Italy	OGS - Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale
France	SHOM - Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine
Portugal	FFCUL - Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias da Universidade de Lisboa
Greece	HCMR - Hellenic Centre for Marine Research
Poland	IOPAS - Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences
Netherlands	KNMI - Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute
Spain	IEO - Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Norway	IMR - Institute of Marine Research
Bulgaria	USOF - University of Sofia

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