



*Foras na Mara*  
*Marine Institute*

## Marine Research Programme

### National Research Vessels 2027 Ship-Time Programme

### Grant-Aid Guidelines

### Research Surveys

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## Introduction

The Marine Institute operates the national marine research vessels (RV Celtic Explorer, Tom Crean and Dulra na Mara), and associated research infrastructure (Holland 1 ROV and the Marine Institute glider fleet), on behalf of the Government of Ireland and the Irish marine community.

The Marine Institute has run the annual competitive call for access to the national research vessels since 2006. The aim of the programme is to make grant-aid available to researchers to access ship-time, thereby facilitating research projects/programmes and further developing the national potential for executing world-class multidisciplinary marine research. In addition, access to specialist scientific infrastructure is essential for the Irish marine sector for delivery of the objectives of national and EU strategies.

Under *Marine Research Infrastructures* the [Ocean Knowledge 2030 Ireland's Strategy for Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation, 2025-2030 \(Draft\)](#)<sup>1</sup> acknowledges the importance of the national research vessel fleet and states that these vessels "are critical to providing access to coastal and oceanic environments for academic and government scientists."

Current research priorities aim to support sustainable economic growth, promote innovation towards achieving a carbon neutral economy, protect marine ecosystems and inform policy, governance and regulation of the Irish marine sector. Applicants are required to identify (on the RIMS portal) one primary research theme that most closely aligns with their area of research.

Applications are now being invited for grant-aid for ship-time on the R.V. *Celtic Explorer, Tom Crean and Dulra na Mara* during 2027 to carry out ship-based **research activity** under these themes. Funding is also provided for the Marine Institute glider fleet.

Applicants **must**:

- a. Demonstrate how the proposed work addresses national priorities within the defined themes; and
- b. Provide clear evidence of expected deliverables, impacts and outputs.

## Who May Apply?

Applications will be accepted from research performing organisations (Higher Education Institutions, Public Research Bodies and Industry) within the Island of Ireland.

- Applications led by Industry **must** partner with a researcher/research group from one or more higher education institutions.
- Applications led by Public Research Bodies **must** partner with a researcher/research group from one or more higher education institutions.
- Applications led by Higher Education Institutions or **Public Research Bodies** (Annex 2) may include one or more industry participants as members of the survey team. Such participation must be of a specific focused nature, with the principal benefits of the survey accruing to the non-industry partners.
- Collaborative applications that fully utilise the research capabilities of the vessels are particularly encouraged.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oar.marine.ie/handle/10793/1994>

The lead partner on applications must have the appropriate scientific/technical qualifications and expertise to conduct on-board research surveys, and should be a member of staff at the relevant institution/organisation. The survey should include opportunities for early career researchers/scientists to be trained and mentored by experienced sea-going scientists.

## Eligible Activities/Research Themes

It is important that applications for the use of the national research vessels address national and EU policy objectives. Therefore, applications must clearly identify the primary research theme the proposed work addresses, document specific outputs and convincingly demonstrate the relevance and impact of the proposed activity on national and EU policy objectives.

Research should aim to realise the vision and objectives of *Ocean Knowledge 2030 Ireland's Strategy for Marine Research, Knowledge and Innovation, 2025-2030 (Draft)*, including the key actions, where applicable.

Appropriate ship-based activities that support the goals and/or complement the objectives of national and international marine plans are also eligible, e.g. Climate Action Plan for Ireland, Food Vision 2030, Impact 2030, Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy., EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030, EU Ocean Pact, Marine Strategy Framework, Water Framework and the Marine Spatial Planning directives.

## Vessel Availability

Multi-disciplinary applications are particularly encouraged to maximise use of the research vessels. The expected ship availability for research surveys in 2027 is as follows:

Details	2027
RV Celtic Explorer	up to 50 days September & October
RV Tom Crean	up to 90 days throughout the year
RV Dulra na Mara	up to 50 days throughout the year

## Technical Information

### R.V. Celtic Explorer and R.V. Tom Crean

Applicants are advised to refer to the [Vessel Users' Guidelines](#) for operational and technical information on the vessels.

### R.V. Dulra na Mara

The Dulra na Mara is a versatile 12-meter research vessel which can take up to 12 passengers and operate for 12 hours. It is designed for a wide range of scientific operations, including oceanographic sampling; hydrographic surveys; beam trawling; benthic research; ornithology and marine mammal observing; side scan sonar operations and drop camera and mini ROV deployments. Equipped with a real-time winch and a 1.5 Ton A-frame allows for efficient deployment and retrieval of sediment sampling gear, ensuring high-quality data collection for geological and environmental studies.

The vessel will primarily be based out of Galway docks but can work out of other west and southwest locations.

Items to note:

- Seafaring certificates are not required for sailing on the Dulra na Mara.
- The lab space is not equipped with refrigerators or freezers. Samples collected offshore must be removed after the training or research survey.
- Tea/coffee making facilities and microwave are available on-board. Participants must bring lunch and snacks as required.



## The National Deepwater ROV

Applicants for ship-time grant-aid may also seek grant-aid to cover the cost of use of the Deepwater ROV (*Holland I*). Further information and technical specifications are available on [ROV webpage](#). Availability of the ROV in 2027 is up to 30 days.

## Gliders

Applicants for ship-time grant-aid may also seek grant-aid to cover the cost of use of the Marine Institute glider fleet. Further information is available on the [Irish Glider Network | Marine Institute](#) webpage. Applicants are advised to contact [Glider1@Marine.ie](mailto:Glider1@Marine.ie) for queries on the technical feasibility of the proposed glider activities.

## Evaluation of Proposals

National/international experts will evaluate eligible proposals. Eligible applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Strategic context, rationale and benefits and impacts of the survey
2. The scientific and technical quality of the survey proposal
3. Scientific quality/track record of the survey team and technical capability to carry out the survey
4. Multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach of the research programme
5. Value for money and level of other funds provided by applicants for ship-time

**Further detail on the evaluation criteria and scoring is provided in Appendix 1.**

**PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY.**

**Applicants should ensure that sufficient information is provided in the application to allow a thorough evaluation based on these criteria.**

## Applications Procedure and Deadline

All applications must be submitted using a **two-step procedure**, as follows:

### Step 1: Apply for Ship-Time via the Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) system

- The Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) online system is used to assist Research Vessel Operations with vessel planning and logistics, from application through survey planning and execution. The MFP online application process is designed to capture information on the proposed use of the vessel: e.g. survey dates, mob/de-mob locations, area of operations, no. of personnel and equipment requirements.
- Please 'Request an account' to access the MFP, via the following [login page](#)<sup>2</sup>.
- Once you have entered and submitted all the required details via the MFP you will receive email confirmation with a unique Application Code (e.g. 26/01). This Application Code must be referred to in Step 2.

**Please ensure you complete this step in sufficient time to allow you to complete Step 2 within the deadline.**

**Note:** The application process for the Marine Institute glider fleet in 2027 is not via Marine Facilities Planning (MFP) but will be via the following Microsoft form: [Marine Institute Glider application – 2027 survey period](#).

### Step 2: Apply for Grant-Aid via the online Research Information Management System (RIMS)

- Create a Ship-Time Funding Application Via RIMS:
  - ▶ If you are already a registered user of RIMS, please go directly to the [login page](#)<sup>3</sup>.
  - ▶ To register as a new user please email [rims.support@marine.ie](mailto:rims.support@marine.ie) with a password request, and include your organisation details.
  - ▶ Once you are logged in, click on the 'Open Calls Tab' and select 'Ship-Time' from the drop-down list.
  - ▶ Complete the on-screen fields and follow the on-screen instructions to download the Application Form. Please ensure you download and complete the correct Application Form (Research Surveys).
- The Application Form seeks additional information on the proposed Research Survey to assist in the evaluation of the proposal; e.g. context and rationale, benefits and impacts of the survey.
- Evaluation of the applications for grant-aid will be based on the information provided in this Application Form. The information provided should be consistent with that provided via the MFP application but should include additional information.

For assistance with registration on the Marine Institute Research Information System (RIMS) and the application process please email [rims.support@marine.ie](mailto:rims.support@marine.ie).

Applications (PDF version) must be submitted via RIMS by:

**15:00 HOURS ON FRIDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

All applications will be acknowledged.

#### **Note – RV Dulra na Mara only**

Applicants can continue to apply for funding ship-time applications on the RV Dulra na Mara in 2027 with a final close date **on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 15:00**.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://mi.marinefacilitiesplanning.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://marine.smartsimple.ie/>

## Terms and Conditions

### Grant-Aid

- The allocation of ship-time is dependent upon the availability of ship-time and funding.
- Funding is provided for ship-time on the R.V. *Celtic Explorer*, *Tom Crean* or *Dulra na Mara*. It may be awarded in lots of single or multiple days, depending on the evaluators' recommendations.
- Applicants may apply for funding to cover all or part of the vessel charter costs (see notes below regarding grant-aid rates). **The leveraging of funds from other sources for a portion of the total amount of ship-time applied for is strongly encouraged and should be clearly stated in the application form.**
- Grant-aid covers use of the vessels, full crew, fuel (at economical service speed), victuals and other standard operating costs. Grantees will not invoice the Marine Institute for any third-party costs (e.g. salary costs, equipment, transport, consumables, travel and subsistence costs).
- Allocated ship-time includes a one-day mobilisation at the start of the survey and a one-day demobilisation at the end of the survey. Applicants should bear this in mind when applying for ship-time.
- If the number of grant-aided days are reduced by the Marine Institute for any reason, or if the vessel is prevented from working (e.g. by poor weather or technical difficulties), no cash or any other form of compensation shall be payable in respect of any time lost.
- If a research survey has to be cancelled because of poor weather, technical difficulties or other reasons, or postponed at the request of the applicant, then the Marine Institute may facilitate re-scheduling of ship-time to the following year wherever possible.

### Grant-Aid Amounts and Rates

- The grant-aid allocations are as follows:

Vessel	Rate (per day)	Mob /Demob
Celtic Explorer	€22,500	Not Applicable
Tom Crean	€18,500	Not Applicable
ROV	€13,000	€15,000 (Discretionary)
Dulra na Mara	€2,500	Not Applicable
Glider	€2,500	Not Applicable

**Note:** Should the daily rate be revised following a review of costs (e.g. in case of increasing fuel costs), then the grant-aid allocation will be adjusted accordingly by the Marine Institute.

- The maximum grant-aid rate that can be applied to cover the ship-time costs is dependent on the nature of the lead organisation, as follows:

Higher Education Institutions	Public Research Bodies	Industry (SME) <sup>4</sup>	Industry (Non SME)
100%	100%	75%	50%

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix 3 for SME Definitions

## DPER Circular on Grant Management

Successful applicants will have to adhere to the relevant requirements contained in circular 13/2014 *Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds* issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014. These requirements, dealing with reporting of grant expenditure, publication of the award details in the grantee's financial statements and disposal of assets, will be detailed in the grant award letter. For ship-time grantees the requirements only relate to the publication of the award details in their financial statements.

### Reporting

- Successful grantees must submit a **Report** on the Research Survey to the Marine Institute (online via RIMS) **within three months** of completion of the Survey using a template provided by the Marine Institute.
- **Shapefile/CSV** showing locations and data types acquired are required as an attachment to the survey report.
- The Marine Institute may require the Grantee to provide clarifications and/or make changes to the Report. The Grantee shall co-operate in revising or amending the final report prior to its completion and before signing off by the Marine Institute.
- If deemed suitable, the Report, or a Synthesis Report, may be published by the MI.
- Failure to comply with this requirement will disqualify grantees from seeking future ship-time grant-aid.

### Sustainability

- Grantees are requested to engage in efficient survey planning to minimise the carbon footprint (including reducing energy consumption) of the research survey.

### Images

The successful grantee must upload a **minimum** of three digital images captured during their research survey in JPEG format on RIMS. These images will be uploaded on the understanding that they may be used in Marine Institute reports and promotional materials. Please ensure that the copyright owner and the photographer are identified, as these details will be included if the images are used.

### Acknowledgements

- All publications/presentations/publicity arising from the Research Survey should carry an acknowledgement of the funding source (as per Appendix 5).

### Survey Blog

- Successful grantees are requested to contribute to the research survey blog <http://scientistsatsea.blogspot.ie/> and to participate in any other publicity organised by the Marine Institute.

### Datasets

- It is the responsibility of the Grantee to submit a full description of the dataset(s) acquired during the research survey to the Marine Institute in ISO 19115 standard format. A template (MIKADO) will be provided by the Marine Institute for this purpose. This metadata is additional to any formal

project reports and will be made publicly available. The Grantee is required to provide details of how such datasets will be maintained and how other researchers can access and make use of them.

- Oceanographic datasets captured using vessel oceanographic equipment will be published on completion of the Research Survey.
- However, the Chief Scientist at the time of the pre-cruise meeting can request **in writing** that oceanographic datasets be held and temporarily not be made publicly available (other than to the Grantee and Marine Institute staff). If written request received, then the period of embargo is a maximum of 12 months from the completion date. After this period all datasets will be made publicly available.
- **Shapefile/CSV** showing locations and data types acquired is required to be submitted to the Marine Institute one month after the survey has taken place.
- If requested, the Grantee may be required to provide digital copies of all data to the Marine Institute at no additional cost.
- Datasets provided to the Marine Institute are available to access from the [Marine Data Centre](#) on the Institute's website. The Marine Institute supports funding for quality and responsible research with the results widely disseminated preferably via open access routes.
- **Images (still and video) obtained using the ROV** during funded research surveys are subject to specific copyright rules. Please refer to Appendix 4 for further details.

## Freedom of Information

Information supplied to the Marine Institute may be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. It is the responsibility of the applicant to indicate at the time of making an application which information should not be disclosed and the reasons for non-disclosure. The Marine Institute will consult with applicants about this information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request.

### *Data Protection*

Personal information supplied to the Marine Institute will be stored by electronic means (e.g. database) for use only in connection with applications for grant-aid. The provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 will be fully complied with. The Marine Institute and the Applicant will comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679) from the regulation enforcement date of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## Appendix 1: Evaluation Procedure

The evaluation of proposals is managed by the Research Funding Office. The process aims to be fair and transparent and to provide constructive feedback to applicants.

In accepting and evaluating proposals, the Marine Institute does not commit funding to any proposal or guarantee that funds will be made available to applicants.

### Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated by an expert review panel using the following criteria:

Criteria	Marks
<p>1. Strategic context and rationale and benefits and impacts of the survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance of the proposed research to national priorities (e.g. Ocean Knowledge 2025-2030, Ireland's Climate Action Plan, Food Vision 2030, Impact 2030, Powering Prosperity, etc.) and meeting international/EU legislative requirements (e.g. Marine Strategy Framework, Habitats, Birds, and Water Framework Directives).</li> <li>• Will the research undertaken support the generation of new knowledge in areas of importance to Ireland's economy, e.g. in advancing the sustainable development and management of marine resources?</li> <li>• Are the strategic objectives of the proposal clearly stated?</li> <li>• Are the benefits and impacts of the survey clearly specified and linked to the research objectives?</li> <li>• Will the benefits outlined deliver any particular advantages to the Irish marine sector?</li> <li>• Will the survey lead to the development of new research capacity and capabilities?</li> </ul>	<b>20%</b>
<p>2. The scientific and technical quality of the survey proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific/technical excellence of the proposal</li> <li>• Understanding of current state of knowledge in the research area</li> <li>• Extent to which the survey builds on current knowledge</li> <li>• Does the proposal demonstrate clear evidence of expected deliverables/outputs from the survey and are these achievable?</li> <li>• Relevant bibliography/references</li> <li>• Does the proposal include provisions for downtime/bad weather?</li> </ul>	<b>30%</b>
<p>3. Scientific quality/track record of the survey team and technical capability to carry out the survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background/track record of the Lead Applicant/Chief Scientist</li> <li>• Background/track record of the survey team</li> <li>• Are the roles and responsibilities of the survey team clearly stated?</li> <li>• Suitability of the expertise towards achieving the research objectives of the survey</li> </ul>	<b>15%</b>

<p>4. Multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach of the research programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this a multi-disciplinary research survey that maximises the use of the vessel? Could additional expertise be added to the survey team?</li> <li>• Is there a collaborative/partnership approach with other research groups/institutions/private sector? Is it an appropriate approach?</li> <li>• Does the proposed survey consider gender equality/equal opportunities within the team?</li> <li>• Does the proposed survey offer suitable training opportunities to students and early career researchers/scientists?</li> </ul>	<b>15%</b>
<p>5. Value for money and level of other funds provided by applicants for ship-time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposed survey maximise the use of the research vessel and associated infrastructure?</li> <li>• Does the proposal include provisions for downtime/bad weather?</li> <li>• Are the number of days requested justified?</li> <li>• Has the proposal identified or assessed any likely risks?</li> <li>• Has the applicant considered environmental best practices and how to minimise the carbon footprint, including how to reduce energy consumption and enhance sustainability of the research survey in their application?</li> <li>• Has the application shown that additional funding towards days at sea will be secured?</li> </ul>	<b>20%</b>

## Evaluation Procedure

Evaluation is conducted, as follows:

### 1. Eligibility Check

Proposals for funding received by the notified deadline are checked for compliance with the general **Eligibility Criteria**.

These criteria include:

- ▶ Was a completed application received on time?
- ▶ Is the proposal from an eligible institution?
- ▶ Are all sections of the application form completed correctly and is the declaration signed and stamped, and CVs uploaded where relevant?
- ▶ Does the proposed research address one or more of the defined research themes?

Proposals considered to be ineligible are returned to the applicant with a note explaining why they were considered to be ineligible. Proposals meeting the eligibility go forward for full evaluation.

### 2. Individual Expert Evaluation

The Marine Institute maintains a panel of expert evaluators to assist in the evaluation of all proposals for funding. The names of the experts assigned to individual proposals are not made public. However, the Marine Institute makes available lists of all the experts participating on its evaluation panels at regular intervals.

Eligible proposals are evaluated based on their individual merit by individual experts chosen from the Panel of Experts. The experts examine the proposal(s) assigned to them and score and comment on each proposal under the **Evaluation Criteria** (above).

### 3. Review Panel

A Review Panel, consisting of Marine Institute and, where appropriate, external, members will consider the outcome of the individual evaluations and, taking into consideration the availability of funding and the ships' schedules, make a ranking and a recommendation for funding. Note: applications under any targeted calls will be ranked separately.

### 4. Approval

Final approval for funding is provided by the Marine Institute senior management team (CEO, Directors and Board).

Taking the comments of the Individual Evaluators and those of the Review Panel a **Consensus Evaluation Report** will be prepared with constructive and informative comments suitable for feedback to the applicant. All applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, receive a copy of the Consensus Evaluation Report for their proposal.

Successful applicants may be asked to make changes to their proposals during the grant-aid negotiation phase to accommodate the comments of the evaluators.

### *Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest*

Evaluators are required to read and sign a Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Form. If an expert considers that they may have a vested interest in a proposal or that potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of their participation in the evaluation of any proposal they are asked to declare this and may not participate in the evaluation process. In line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation evaluators are requested to delete all personal information included in the application documentation once the evaluation process is complete.

**Note:** Members of the evaluation panel are prohibited from using generative *Artificial Intelligence* (AI) platforms or tools during the evaluation process.

## Appendix 2: Public Research Body

For the purpose of this call a public research body is defined as “a public sector body or a legal entity governed by private law with a public service mission providing adequate financial guarantees, who are undertaking research and are based on the island of Ireland”. A public research body must be a legal entity with their registered office address in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

Therefore, there are two clear cases of entities that are considered public bodies:

### 1) Public sector bodies

Any public authority or entity set up under public law by a state or one of its authorities (e.g. government). Even if such an entity has a legal personality, it acts on behalf of the State with regard to and within the limits of its specific areas or competencies. Activities carried out by such authorities or entities may be of a commercial nature.

### 2) Legal entities established under private law with a public service mission and providing adequate financial guarantees

#### With respect to the “public service mission”:

a) Where an entity established under private law is owned by a public sector body or the state, it can be deemed to have a public service mission.

b) For an entity established under private law that is not owned by a public sector body, the entity must be explicitly granted such a mission through a decision by a public sector body. Secondary and higher education establishments that deliver diplomas recognised by a public authority according to criteria established by the state or perform research with public funding and in accordance with objectives agreed by the state would meet this criterion. In cases of doubt proof of the public service mission can be required from the potential contractor showing that it falls into one of the two categories above.

#### With respect to the “adequate financial guarantees”:

a) If the entity is owned by the state, then it can be presumed to provide adequate financial guarantees as the state will honour its obligations.

b) If the entity is not owned by the state or a public sector body then it must prove that it will provide adequate financial guarantees (except for the secondary and higher education establishments that are presumed to provide such guarantees). In cases of doubt proof of the existence and adequacy of a financial guarantee can be required from the potential contractor showing that it falls into one of the two categories above.

The following organisations are considered to be eligible Public Research Bodies:

- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
- Atlantic Technological University (ATU)
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
- Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL)
- Dublin City University (DCU)
- Dublin Institute for Advances Studies (DIAS)
- Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Marine Institute (MI)

- Maynooth University (MU)
- Met Éireann
- Munster Technological University (MTU)
- Queen's University Belfast (QUB)
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)
- South East Technological University (SETU)
- Teagasc
- Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)
- Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- Tyndall National Institute
- Ulster University (UU)
- University College Cork (UCC)
- University College Dublin (UCD)
- University of Galway
- University of Limerick (UL)

The list above includes organisations who have previously been funded to undertake marine research in Ireland, but this list is not exhaustive and if any applicant is unsure whether they are eligible, then they should clarify with the Marine Institute by sending an email to [funding@marine.ie](mailto:funding@marine.ie).

## Appendix 3: SME Definition

1. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs<sup>5</sup>) are defined as enterprises which:
  - have fewer than 250 employees, **and**
  - have either,
    - an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million, or
    - an annual balance-sheet total not exceeding €43 million, **and**
  - conform to the criterion of independence as defined in paragraph 4.
2. Where it is necessary to distinguish between small and medium-sized enterprises, the '**small enterprise**' is defined as an enterprise which:
  - has fewer than 50 employees and
  - has either,
    - an annual turnover not exceeding €10 million, or
    - an annual balance-sheet total not exceeding €10 million,
  - conform to the criterion of independence as defined in paragraph 4.
3. Where it is necessary to distinguish micro-enterprises from other SMEs, these are defined as:
  - enterprises having fewer than 10 employees;
  - annual turnover not exceeding €2 million; or
  - annual balance sheet total not exceeding €2 million.
4. Independent enterprises are those which are not owned as to 25% or more of the capital or the voting rights by one enterprise, or jointly by several enterprises, falling outside the definitions of an SME or a small enterprise, whichever may apply. This threshold may be exceeded in the following two cases:
  - if the enterprise is held by public investment corporations, venture capital companies or institutional investors, provided no control is exercised either individually or jointly,
  - if the capital is spread in such a way that it is not possible to determine by whom it is held and if the enterprise declares that it can legitimately presume that it is not owned as to 25% or more by one enterprise, or jointly by several enterprises, falling outside the definitions of an SME or a small enterprise, whichever may apply.
5. In calculating the thresholds referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, it is necessary to cumulate the relevant figures for the beneficiary enterprise and for all the enterprises that it directly or indirectly controls through possession of 25% or more of the capital or of the voting rights.
6. Where, at the final balance-sheet date, an enterprise exceeds or falls below the employee thresholds or financial ceilings, this is to result in it acquiring or losing the status of 'SME', 'medium-sized enterprise', 'small enterprise' or 'micro-enterprise' only if the phenomenon is repeated over two consecutive financial years.
7. The number of persons employed corresponds to the number of annual working units (AWU), that is to say, the number of full-time workers employed during one year with part-time and seasonal workers being fractions of AWU. The reference year to be considered is that of the last approved accounting period.
8. The turnover and balance-sheet total thresholds are those of the last approved 12-month accounting period. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the thresholds to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index_en.htm)

## Appendix 4: Holland 1 ROV Image Data Policy & Copyright

The MI and the Grantee shall each retain copies of all images (still and video) captured using the ROV (Holland 1) during the course of the Survey.

The MI shall retain exclusive ownership of such images and controls all rights or copyright with regards commercial use.

The MI shall provide royalty-free rights to the grantee to reproduce the material, or portions thereof, in connection with their research and promotion of their activity, in perpetuity.

All uses of the images, or portions thereof, by any party, shall acknowledge:

- i) ownership of the images
- ii) the originator of the images (i.e. the grantee); and
- iii) the source of funding provided for the survey.

In the absence of a clear grantee data policy, the MI data policy will apply—*i.e.* data must be archived in the Marine Institute and made publicly available two years after the completion of the survey.

Data collected for PhD studies, or to fulfil EU project contract obligations, must be archived in national or international data centres and made publicly available one year after the completion of the PhD study/ EU project.

During the period prior to the data being made publicly available, the MI may wish to use certain images for publicity reasons. Such use shall require the consent of the Grantee, whose consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.

## Appendix 5: Ship-Time Publicity Guidelines

All published materials relating to the training programme should carry full acknowledgement of Grant-Aid funding, as follows:

“This research survey is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Government of Ireland.”

In addition to the above wording, the Marine Institute **logo** should be displayed:



### ***Presentations/Posters***

Presentations (Overheads/PowerPoint/Slides) and Posters should carry the full acknowledgement of Grant-Aid and the Marine Institute logo also. In a Presentation, this acknowledgement should come at the beginning of the presentation (e.g. after the introductory slide).

### ***Publications***

#### **Grey Literature and Scientific/Technical Literature**

The following text should be included in the Acknowledgements Section:

“This research survey is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Government of Ireland.”

#### **Further Information**

Further information on publicity requirements can be obtained from the Research Funding Office:

Email: [funding@marine.ie](mailto:funding@marine.ie)

Tel.: 091-387200