



3 July, 2014.

IRSO 2014 – First Information

Dear Colleagues

We are pleased to provide you with details of the 27th International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) meeting which will be hosted by Ifremer in Nantes, France from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th September, 2014.

Background Information

The International Research Ship Operators Meeting (ISOM) was founded in 1986 and is an annual meeting of managers of ocean research ship fleets for the purpose of discussing topics and sharing information of mutual interest. This includes discussion on new research vessels, marine scientific and ships operational equipment, changing scientific requirements, scheduling, manning, training, classifications and certifications, liabilities and insurances, and equipment exchange and vessel barter between members. The meeting is held in one of the participating countries. ISOM was renamed the International Research Ship Operators (IRSO) meeting in 2010 to more clearly reflect its membership and purpose. For more information, please refer <http://www.irso.info/>

Ifremer

Ifremer was created on 5 June 1984 by the merger of CNEXO and ISTPM. Under the presidency of François Jacq, President-Managing Director of Ifremer (CEO), the institute is structured as following:

- a Scientific Division and 4 scientific departments (Biological Resources and Environment, Physical Resources and Deep-sea Ecosystems, Oceanography and Ecosystems Dynamics and Marine and Numerical Infrastructures) ;
- 5 research centers (Channel/North Sea in Boulogne-sur-mer, Brittany in Brest, Atlantic in Nantes, Mediterranean in Toulon and French Polynesia in Tahiti) ;
- support Divisions (Scientific Information, Communication, Mediation and Institutional Relations; European and International Affairs; Human Resources; Legal Affairs; Financial Affairs; Business Development; Naval Facilities and Operations).

Based on its multidisciplinary and integrated approach to sustainable development, Ifremer has identified ten priority orientations on which to structure its work, linked with strategic international priorities. To develop in these directions, combining both continuity and renewal, it must aim for excellence and to improve its capacity to integrate cross-cutting research themes through partnership. A point in common between these ten priority orientations, described below, is that they all require research-based work linked with expert advice-giving and monitoring, as well as the realization of the supporting technology.

- Learn about ocean circulation to supplement the understanding of global change
- Learn about and characterize marine biodiversity to improve its protection
- Develop enhanced value and use of biological resources through biotechnologies and bio-prospection
- Contribute to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Promote sustainable use of mineral and energy resources
- Supplement monitoring networks to meet global and European challenges
- Optimize the oceanographic fleet as a major resource facility
- Implement a national and European strategy for marine databases
- Promote shared capacity for technological innovation

27th IRSO Meeting Programme

There will not be a workshop at IRSO 2014 and the meeting will begin with registration at 8:30am on Tuesday 9th September 2014. Later on Tuesday afternoon, there will be a visit organized to the “Machines de l’Isle” <http://www.lesmachines-nantes.fr/en/> . In the evening, an icebreaker event will be held in *Beaulieu* island on *Loire* river.

The IRSO meeting will then continue on Wednesday (with the conference dinner Wednesday evening on board “*Bateaux nantais*” <http://bateaux-nantais.fr/>) through to 5:00pm on Thursday. On Friday morning 12th September, a visit to the STX shipyard <http://www.stxeurope.com> in Saint-Nazaire (50 Kilometers from Nantes) will be organized, followed by lunch at STX shipyard and a visit of the Ifremer flag R/V *Pourquoi pas?*, returning to Nantes at 5:15pm.

Registration Fee

The cost for each member and guest participating in the IRSO Meeting will be **180 Euros** and must be paid in cash during registration for the meeting on Tuesday 9th September. The registration fee includes all events described in the meeting programme immediately above.

Meeting Location

IRSO proceedings will be held in the amphitheater of the Ifremer Atlantic center in Nantes. Coffee, tea, lunches and snacks will be served within the meeting space. The usual visual and audio systems as well as wireless internet access will be available. There is easy access from the hotels in downtown Nantes to the Ifremer center by tram. Tram tickets will be provided by the Organization Committee.

Accommodation

There are four hotels which offer a group rate for IRSO located in downtown Nantes. We encourage you to make your hotel reservation early since the hotels may fill up before this date.

Hôtel LA PEROUSE***

Cours des cinquante otages
3 allée Duquesne
44000 Nantes
France
Tel: +33 (0)2 40.89.75.00
www.hotel-laperouse.fr
Price: 90 €/ night (bedroom and breakfast)

Hôtel IBIS accorhotels

Nantes Tour Bretagne
19 Rue Jean Jaurès
44000 Nantes
France
Tel: +33 (0)2 40.35.39.00
<http://www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-1394-ibis-nantes-centre-tour-bretagne/index.shtml>
Price: 102.50 €/ night (bedroom and breakfast)

Hôtel DUQUESNE**

Cours des 50 otages
12, allée Duquesne
44000 Nantes
France
Tél: +33 (0) 40.47.57.24
www.hotel-duquesne-nantes.com
Price: 90 €/ night (bedroom and breakfast)

MERCURE CENTRE GRAND HOTEL

Rue du Couëdic
44000 Nantes
France
Tel: +33 (0) 2 51 82 10 00
<http://www.accorhotels.com/fr/hotel-1985-mercure-nantes-centre-grand-hotel/index.shtml>

Accompanying Guests Programme

At present we do not plan to organize a formal accompanying guest programme. Nantes and the surrounding regions have many tourist attractions and the organizing committee is very willing to advise on options and assist with arrangements either before or during the meeting. Guests are welcome to attend the social sessions.

Travel to Nantes

There is easy access to Nantes from Paris by planes or trains. The *Nantes Atlantique* airport is located 10 km south of Nantes. Nantes downtown may be reached either by taxi (25-30€) or shuttle (around 7.50€). Nantes railway station is located in downtown Nantes. Travel time from *Paris Montparnasse* railway station by high speed train (TGV) is around 2 hours. The railway station is located 2 km from the hotels area.

Visas

Some international participants will need a visa prior to arriving France. Please check the website of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/>. You are encouraged to apply for any necessary visa as soon as possible. If you need a formal letter of invitation from the meeting organizers as part of a visa application please contact the Organizing Committee meeting as soon as possible (see below).

Confirmation of Participation – PLEASE NOTE

To allow the organization of conference events, please send a completed Registration Form to the Organizing Committee by email at irso2014@ifremer.fr no later than **Thursday 24th July 2014**.

A more detailed meeting agenda will be sent out in due course and we look forward to meeting you in Nantes.

Best regards,

Olivier Lefort
Ifremer Organizing Committee



Ron Plaschke
IRSO Chair

