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## Selection Report SEA Programme Call “OCEANS”



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## 1 Introduction

The EUROFLEETS+ work package (WP) 4 is devoted to the practical management of the calls for proposals requesting the use of Research Vessels (RVs) and Marine Equipment (ME) within EUROFLEETS+. The management includes the preparation of the EUROFLEETS+ Access programmes, call dissemination, launching of the calls, the proposal evaluation handling, the selection procedures and post-cruise project evaluation.

This Deliverable is dedicated to the evaluation of the Ship-time and Marine Equipment Application (SEA) Programme Call “OCEANS” which gives access to 14 Research Vessels (RVs) in the North Atlantic Ocean, North-West/West Atlantic, Arctic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea/Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean; and 10 pieces of Marine Equipment, either together with an EUROFLEETS+ cruise or on board a non-EUROFLEETS+ cruise.

The foundation for the evaluation and review procedure was already laid by the EUROFLEETS 1 and 2 projects.

The SEA Programme Call OCEANS opened on the 26th of June 2019 and closed on the 27th of September 2019.

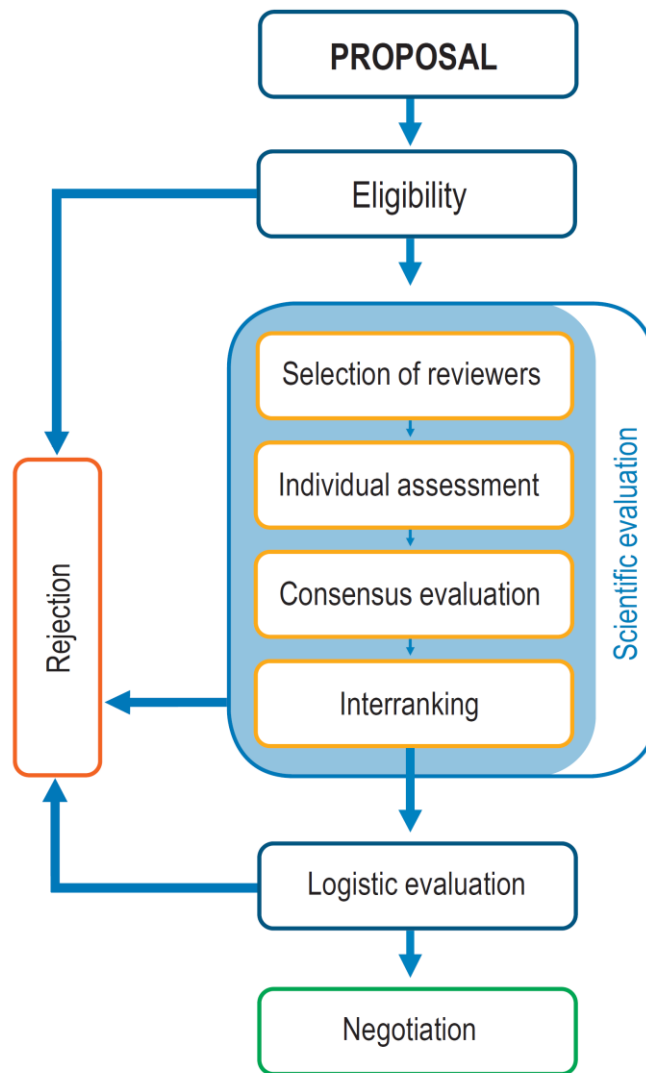
## 2 The EUROWLEETS+ evaluation procedure

### 2.1 General description of the evaluation procedure

In EUROWLEETS+ we followed the evaluation procedure established in EUROWLEETS 1 and 2 which proved to be successful. The evaluation procedure was based upon the best experiences from different European ship-time application and evaluation procedures further considering general European Science Foundation (ESF) as well as European Commission evaluation procedures. Figure 1 below outlines the different stages of the evaluation and the bodies involved in the execution of respective tasks.

Upon call closure the first step is to check if proposals meet the eligibility criteria put forward in the “EUROWLEETS+ Guidelines for Applicants” for the respective call, which is carried out by the EUROWLEETS+ Call Management & Evaluation Office (EO). If proposals fail to meet the eligibility criteria they are excluded from the further evaluation process and the decision to reject the proposal is taken by the EUROWLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP). The SLP is established by the EUROWLEETS+ Consortium and consists of international experts covering all fields of marine science.

Following this, a so called “watchdog”, i.e. a member of the SLP, who is an expert on the respective proposal topic, is allocated to each proposal by the chair of the SLP and the EO. The idea behind this concept is that the “watchdog” accompanies the proposals he/she is responsible for throughout the different steps of the evaluation process and if the proposal is successful, even afterwards for reporting. The first task of a “watchdog” in this respect is to recommend and suggest suitable reviewers for the individual assessment of proposals. In principle the review is carried out by a minimum of three individual experts for each proposal. With regard to this task the “watchdog” is supported by the EO which contacts the suggested reviewers and surveys the preparation and reception of individual assessments.



**Figure 1:** Work flow and different steps involved in the EUROFLEETS+ evaluation procedure

Once the individual experts to whom proposals have been assigned have completed their individual evaluations, a **Consensus Meeting** is convened to enable joint consideration of proposals by the EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel.

### 2.1.1 EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel

The EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel is composed of independent international experts in different research areas relevant to marine research. The members were selected for a balanced composition in terms of various skills, experience and knowledge, geographical diversity and gender balance. Given the focus in EUROFLEETS+ on innovation, we also ensured representation from industry.

**Table 1:** EUROLLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel

Discipline	Name	Affiliation	Research expertise
Oceanography	Urmas Lips (Chair)	Tallinn University of Technology, Department of Marine Systems, Estonia	Physical oceanography, mesoscale and submesoscale processes, development of stratification, impact of physical processes on oxygen, nutrients and phytoplankton, high-frequency autonomous observations
	Gilles Reverdin (Chair)	CNRS Directeur de recherche, LOCEAN (Sorbonne Université), France	The ocean circulation, the earth water cycle, ocean salinity, the upper ocean (physical and geochemical), long time series of ocean variability, instrumental development, recent climate variability, ocean data validation
Chemistry	Toste Tanhua	GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany	Chemical Oceanography, transient tracers, carbon cycle, ocean observing, repeat hydrography
Marine Geology	Martina Busetti	National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics, Italy	Scientific interest: marine geologist/geophysicist, interpretation of seismic data for the reconstruction of the geological evolution (tectonic and paleoenvironment) of the continental margins
	Matthias Forwick	UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø, Department of Geosciences	Marine geosciences, glaciated continental margins, fjords, sedimentary processes, ice-sheet dynamics, slope failure, swath bathymetry, high-resolution seismics, sediment cores
	Caterina Morigi	University of Pisa, Italy	Marine geology, micropaleontology, palaeoceanography, paleoecology, and paleoclimatology. Specific interest in extreme environments, paleoecology, and biostratigraphy, of planktonic and benthic foraminifera.
	Luis Menezes Pinheiro	University of Aveiro, Portugal	Marine Geology and Geophysics. Lithospheric structure and evolution of continental passive margins. Mud volcanism, hydrocarbon-rich fluid seepage and Gas Hydrates. Seismic Oceanography.

Discipline	Name	Affiliation	Research expertise
Marine Biology & Ecology	Silvia Spezzaferri	University of Fribourg, Department of Geosciences, Fribourg, Switzerland	Micropaleontology, application of micro-organisms, in paleo/oceanography and biomonitoring, cold water coral ecosystems, marine geology, sedimentology, geochemistry.
	Louise Allcock	National University of Ireland, Galway	Evolution, systematics, biodiversity, deep-sea, Antarctica, cephalopods, octocorals (including sea pens)
	Carlotta Mazzoldi	Department of Biology, University of Padova, Italy	Teleost and Elasmobranch fish, fishery, management and conservation, life history traits, behavioural ecology, sexual selection, reproduction
	Chiara Papetti	Biology Department, University of Padova, Italy	Molecular ecology, population genetics and genomics, phylogeography, marine organisms, Antarctic fish, population connectivity, evolutionary and ecological responses to climate change
	Holly Alice Shiels	Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, University of Manchester, UK	Cardiac Physiology, Environmental Physiology, metabolic responses to temperature and hypoxia in fishes and sharks, pelagic and intertidal
	Paul Tyler	Emeritus Professor University of Southampton, UK	Deep-sea biology; canyons, vents and seeps, cold-water corals, reproductive biology, submersibles and ROVs
Industry	Ned Dwyer	Randbee Consultants, Lisbon, Portugal	Applications of satellite remote sensing, GIS, data management, ocean literacy, coastal and marine spatial planning, stakeholder engagement

## 2.2 SEA Programme Call “OCEANS”

For the SEA Programme Call “OCEANS”, the first SLP Meeting was held in order to provide a consensus evaluation for the submitted proposals. This first SLP meeting took place in Bremen, Germany, from 21st of January to 23rd of January 2020.

During this meeting, the following working principles and procedures were agreed upon and applied:

- Conflict of interest

In case of conflict of interest of any of the SLP members, either being a Principal Investigator (PI) or partner on a proposal, or belonging to an institution involved in the proposal under discussion, the SLP member is requested to leave the room during the evaluation of this respective proposal.

- Feedback to applicants

Applicants receive a Consensus Evaluation Report (CER), which is prepared by the “watchdog” of the respective proposal, based upon the existing individual reviews and taking into account comments and judgements made during the SRP discussion. The CER shall not contain any scores and use a common Consensus Evaluation Form provided by the EO.

The EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) closely cooperated with this supervising the full process. One member of the SAC took part at each evaluation meeting to ensure that the evaluation and selection process and the ship-time allocation were transparent and fair.

The actual evaluation of proposals was carried out as follows. All proposals were discussed and evaluated according to the EF+ SEA Call OCEANS evaluation criteria (<https://www.eurofleets.eu/access/sea-call-oceans/evaluation-criteria/>). Primary criteria were the scientific excellence and work programme, and further secondary criteria, like the involvement of countries with less access to marine infrastructure and new user groups, the age/position of the PI, female applicants and, if applicable, the potential use of remote access by shore based scientists were also taken into account. The watchdog gave a report and commented on the received reviews for a given proposal followed by an open discussion. Each of the proposals was assigned to the following categories defined previously in the “Guidelines for Applicants”:

- A - Recommended for scheduling
- B - Additional proposals
- C - Not recommended

Based on the discussion and agreement of the SLP, all proposals recommended for scheduling (“A”) were ranked as 1st choice (A1), 2nd choice (A2), ...etc. for each of the infrastructures offered in the OCEANS Call.

As a result of these discussions the recommended for scheduling proposals were forwarded to the EUROFLEETS+ Operational Review Panel (OLP) as the basis for their discussion, in order to check the logistic feasibility of the cruises. The OLP meeting took place via email communication with a final review held at the 2020 General Assembly.

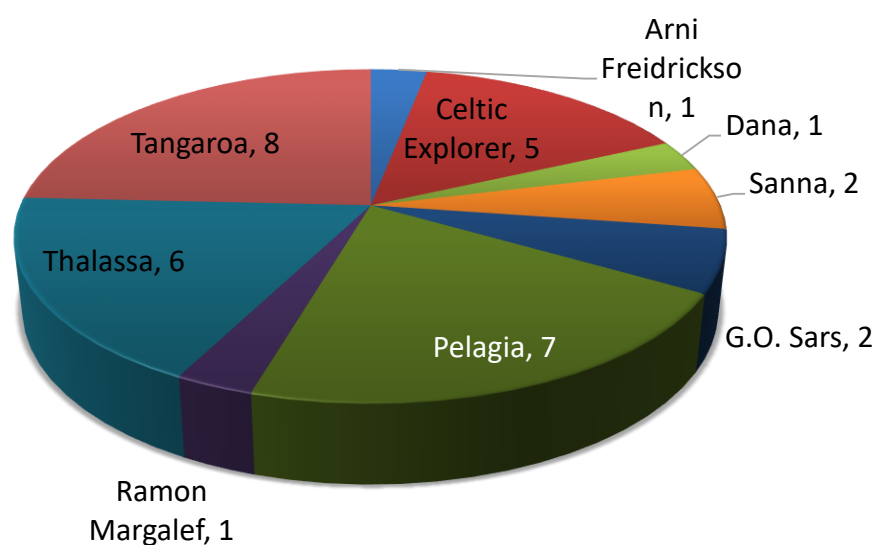
### 2.2.1 Submitted applications

Thirty-four proposals were submitted to the SEA Programme Call “OCEANS”, all of them passed the eligibility criteria.

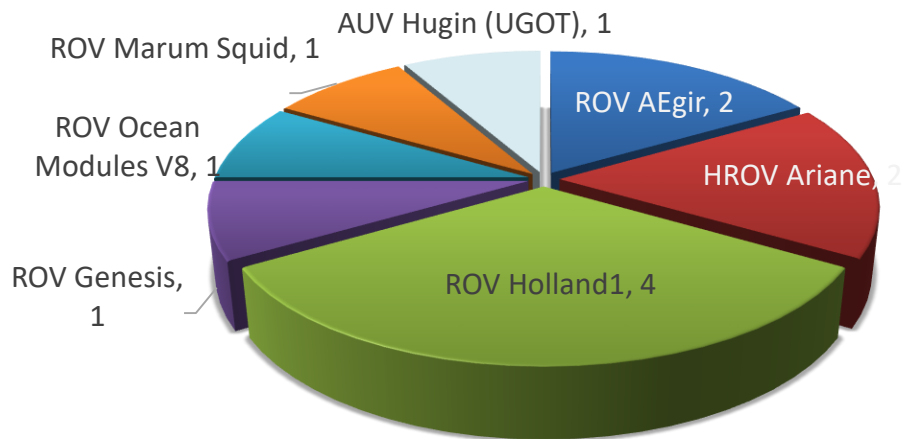
The proposals requested the following regions: North Atlantic Ocean (5), Arctic Ocean (6), Mediterranean Sea/Atlantic Ocean (14) and Pacific/Southern Ocean (9).

From the 14 RVs offered within the call “OCEANS”, 9 were requested as a first option: RV Arni Freidrickson, RV Celtic Explorer, RV Dana, RV Sanna, RV G.O. Sars, RV Pelagia, RV Ramon Margalef, RV Thalassa and RV Tangaroa. The most requested vessel was the RV Tangaroa with 8 proposals (24% of the applications) (Figure 2). RVs Magnus Heinason, Alliance, and Atlantic Explorer were not requested as a first or second option.

Regarding the marine embarked equipment, 10 pieces of equipment were offered. ROV Aegir, HROV Ariane, ROV Holland1, ROV Genesis, ROV Ocean Modules V8, ROV Marum Aquid and AUV Hugin (UGOT) were requested as first choice. The most requested equipment was ROV Holland1 (33% of the applications). ROV LUSO and AUV Hugin (FFI) were only requested as second option, and the Telepresence Unit was not requested at all.



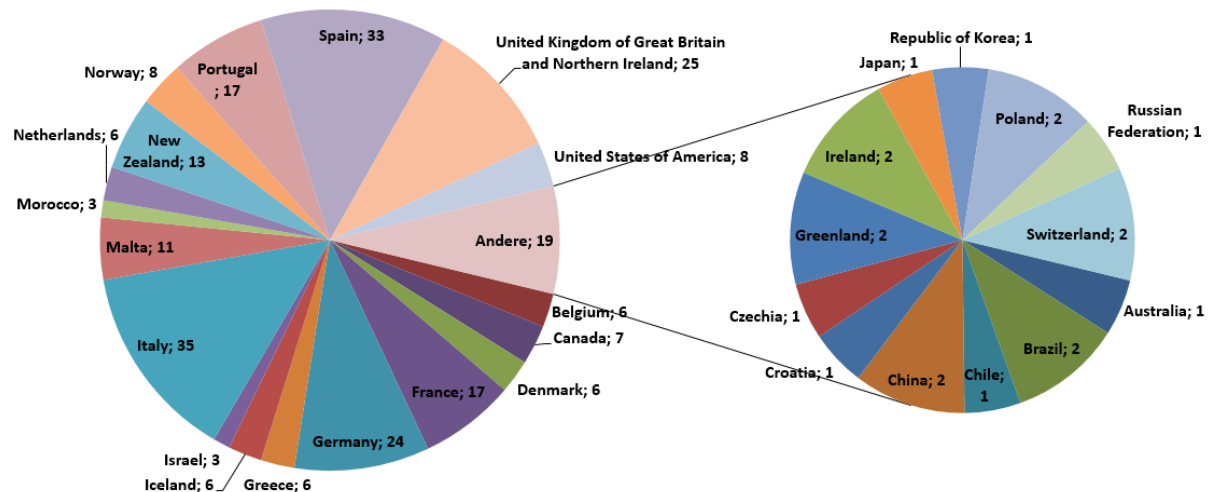
**Figure 2:** Pie chart showing the Research Vessels requested on the EUROFLEETS+ “OCEANS” call



**Figure 3:** Pie chart showing the Marine Equipment requested on the EUROFLEETS+ “OCEANS” call

Applicants were based in 30 different countries (Figure 4), reflecting a high international collaboration. Most of the applicants were from Italy (14%), followed by Spain (13%) and the United Kingdom (9%). These three countries were followed by Germany (9%), France (7%), Portugal (7%), New Zealand (5%) and Malta (4%).

### Applicants nationality



**Figure 4:** Pie chart showing the nationality of applicants to the Call “OCEANS”, as an indicator for international collaboration (30 nationalities for 34 proposals).

### 2.2.2 Evaluation outcome

Each proposal was assigned a Watchdog within the Scientific Liaison Panel. Afterwards, each proposal was sent to external evaluators with the aim of collecting at least 3 evaluations per proposal.

A total of 570 external evaluators were contacted for the evaluation process, with a success range of 3-5 external evaluations per proposal.

As a result of the SLP meeting, held on the 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2020 in Bremen, Germany, 10 proposals were recommended for funding (Table 1), 6 were ranked in category B, and 3 were not recommended for funding (C).

**Table 1:** Proposals recommended for scheduling by the SLP (A1-A3):

RV/ME (1 <sup>st</sup> choice)	Proposal number	Proposal acronym	Priority if more than one proposal per RV
Arni Freidickson	021	SENERGY	A1
DANA	035	GShark2020	A1
Ramon Margalef	029*	VOLSIC	A3
Celtic Explorer	022	PORO-CLIM	A1
GO SARS + ROV /ROV AEgir	051**	BENCHMARK	A1 for GO SARS
Pelagia	027	Calypso	A1
Pelagia + ROV Genesis/ROV Marum Squid	040	ALTITUDE	A3
Pelagia	007	iMAR	A2
Tangaroa	014	VISIT	A1
Tangaroa	011	HYDEE OBS	A3
AUV Hugin	028	FOCUS-AUV	A1
Sanna	043	IOPD	A2
Sanna	048	GLICE	A1
Thalassa	017***	TAIPro2021	A1 Thalassa/A1 Ramon Margalef
Thalassa + HROV Ariane	033	FLARES	A3
Thalassa + ROV Marum Squid/ROV Luso	047****	OASIS	A2

**Notes:**

\* Proposal #029 was only third choice on Ramon Margalef

\*\* Proposal #051 was suggested for funding on **G.O. SARS** with first priority

\*\*\* #017 received the highest ranking for RV Thalassa and was suggested to be scheduled with highest priority on RV Ramon Margalef.

\*\*\*\* #047 was suggested for scheduling on RV Thalassa

The Operational Liaison Panel examined each of the selected proposals for logistical feasibility. Following contact with each of the vessel operators to determine availability of the vessels and suitability for use of equipment, the cruises given in Table 2 will be scheduled.

**Table 2:** Proposals with ship-time and marine equipment granted after the logistic evaluation.

<b>RVs</b>	<b>Marine Embarked Equipment</b>	<b>Application Ref No</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Cruise Name</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Cruise duration (days)</b>
<b>Arni Freidickson</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-021	Bangor University	SENERGY	2020, tbd	8
<b>DANA</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-035	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	GShark2020	August 2020	7
<b>Celtic Explorer</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-022	University of Birmingham	PORO-CLIM	2021	12
<b>G.O. Sars</b>	<b>ROV AEgir</b>	EFP_SEA01-051	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute	BENCHMARK	Summer 2021	10
<b>Pelagia</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-027	University of California, San Diego	Calypso	January 2021	17
<b>Tangaroa</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-014	Imperial College London	VISIT	November 2021/February 2022	12
-	<b>AUV Hugin</b>	EFP_SEA01-028	NIWA	FOCUS-AUV	Fall 2020	14
<b>Sanna</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-048	Geomar Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel	GLICE	Late summer 2020/2021	14
<b>Ramon Margalef</b>	-	EFP_SEA01-017	CNR - Istituto di Scienze Marine (ISMAR)	TAIPro2021	Spring 2021	10
<b>Thalassa</b>	<b>ROV Ariane</b>	EFP_SEA01-047	Spanish National Research Council	OASIS	Spring/Summer 2021-2022	10
<b>On hold</b>						
<b>Pelagia</b>		EFP_SEA01-007	University of the Azores	iMAR	2020	17

<b>Pelagia</b>	<b>ROV Genesis</b>	EFP_SEA01-040	Sapienza University of Rome	ALTITUDE	Spring-fall 2020	10
<b>Thalassa</b>	<b>ROV Ariane</b>	EFP_SEA01-033	University of Malta	FLARES	June-Sept 2020/2021	9
<b>Sanna</b>		EFP_SEA01-043	Flanders Marine Institute	IOPD	Summer 2021/2022	12
<b>Ramon Margalef</b>		EFP_SEA01-029	Instituto Nazionale di Oceaografia e di Geofisica Sperimetale (OGS)	VOLSIC	Summer-fall 2020	10
<b>Tangaroa</b>		EFP_SEA01-011	GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel	HYDEE OBS	2020	8

**As a result of the logistic evaluation, 10 highly ranked research projects, representing a success rate of the EUROFLEETS+ SEA Programme Call “OCEANS” of 29,4%, will get access to 114 days at sea fully funded by the project.**

Five proposals were given a different status (see table 2):

Reserve list to proposal #007, 029, 033, 040, 043: These highly ranked proposals are kept on hold waiting for the results of the SEA Programme Call “REGIONAL” which closed 28th of February 2020, in case funds are still available and/or no sufficient excellent proposals were submitted to the call.

Both liaison panels accomplished their respective tasks. The partition into two steps, with a scientific evaluation of proposals before taking into account any logistical considerations, guarantees that only excellent proposals are awarded ship time/marine equipment time.

### 2.2.1 SEA Programme Call “REGIONAL”, Co-PI and RTA Programme

The SEA Programme call “REGIONAL” is open from 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 until 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. In total, 22 proposals were submitted to the REGIONAL call. The consensus evaluation meeting by the SLP, to decide on the proposals suggested for scheduling in the REGIONAL call, is anticipated for mid-June 2020. Therefore, no proposals submitted to the REGIONAL call were evaluated or selected by the due date of this deliverable.

Both the Co-PI and RTA Programme calls are running calls, which opened at 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2019 and are continuously open for the submission of proposals until 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. By the date of this deliverable, no applications have been submitted to the Co-PI or RTA programme. Thus, no selection report could be provided for these two programmes yet.