

Announcement of Argo platform and sensor workshops

September 11-15, 2017

University of Washington, Seattle, USA

Conveners: S. Riser, B. King S. Wijffels

The conveners are pleased to announce the intention to hold a series of workshops organized around float platforms and sensors used in the Argo program. These will be hosted by the University of Washington in September 2017.

Motivation

There are two chief motivations for these workshops.

1) Some float types are used by a wide range of national Argo programs, yet the performance (number of cycles) achieved has significant variation between different groups using the same or similar equipment. The intention is to provide a forum in which users can establish best practices and improve performance across the fleet.

2) There are a number of evolutions and innovations becoming available in float types, controllers, sensors, and sampling capability. These meetings will provide an opportunity for users and manufacturers to discuss optimum use of the latest technologies, and for users to indicate to manufacturers their requirements and expectations for the coming years.

Format

The meeting will be broken into discrete workshops of a half or whole day, each concentrating on a specific float or sensor type. It is hoped that the manufacturers of each technology will participate in the relevant sessions to provide expert technical input and to hear the users' detailed feedback on requirements or difficulties encountered. To protect manufacturers' interests, each session will be 'closed' for the relevant manufacturer only.

Who should participate ?

Engineers and technical staff involved in receiving floats and preparing them for deployment.

Anyone involved in or responsible for procurement decisions and float specification, mission planning, float evaluation.

Attendees will be able to select which sessions most align most with their interests. All participants must be self-funded.

Scope of discussion

An agenda for each workshop will be developed in response to suggestions from registered attendees.

Discussion on specific float types could include any of: selecting options on procurement; battery choices; bench testing; ship testing before deployment; controllers; sensor options and implications; requirements for core Argo; Argo extensions, including BGC options; ice capability; sampling (discrete; continuous; near surface); telemetry options (RUDICS; SBD); data compression; data decoders;

Discussion of sensor/instrument types may include: pressure sensor errors; time constants and thermal lag; calibration issues and tracking sensor metadata.

We do not expect there to be time for detailed discussion of particular BGC sensors, but scope could include identifying BGC options.

What happens next ?

If you plan to attend the workshop, please email Brian King (b.king@noc.ac.uk). You will then be sent a questionnaire to discover the topics you are interested in and issues you would like covered. Given the time limitations, we will focus on the topics of interest to the largest number of attendees.

If you need a letter of invitation for visa or other travel purposes, please email Steve Riser (riser@ocean.washington.edu).

A formal registration process will be opened and advertised in due course. There will be a registration fee to cover the cost of lunches and refreshments.

Conveners

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