Marine Data News

MEDIN
marine environmental
data & information network

September 2009 **Issue 14 - Marine Data News**

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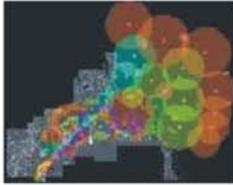by Dave Cotton (MEDIN)

MEDIN

Proposals are invited in response to the following announcements of opportunity:

1 Investigating and Reporting on Approaches to Data Policy in the Marine Sector
2 Improving Marine Reference Information
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MARIN (Media Art Research Interdisciplinary Network)
Sonifying data files to give a sense of changing values

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MEDIN

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Announcements of Opportunity (x3)
by Dave Cotton (MEDIN)

AO 1
Investigating and Reporting on Approaches to Data Policy in the Marine Sector

Marine data and information exists in many forms and is acquired, managed, manipulated, and used by a wide range of public and private sector organisations. The manner by which these organisations are funded varies significantly as do the commercial and other interests that these organisations place in the use and reuse of data.

The purpose of this contract is to generate an independent and balanced picture of the situation with regard to approaches within the Marine Sector to charging for access to data and licensing / charging for re-use. The intention is to identify any areas of the current legislation or guidance that are unclear and provide a balanced view of the issues to allow government to take/ make the necessary judgements and steps to improve access to data overall.

The deadline for complete proposals is Friday 23rd October

For further information contact David Cotton (**dcott@oceannet.org**)

For the full Announcement of Opportunity please go to the following link:
http://www.oceannet.org

AO 2
Improving Marine Reference Information

An objective of MEDIN is to document barriers to the effective use of marine data and deliver a programme of improvement. A key aspect of this identified by users is the need to improve the availability and content of reference information, so that it is comprehensive, authoritative and well maintained.

MEDIN is therefore making funds available to facilitate the improvement of key reference and application datasets, thereby providing overall cost savings and ensuring a consistent reference base.

The call for proposals is open to competent authorities or organisations delegated or licensed by competent authorities either already making their data available for wider use or willing to make it available. The evaluation will favour proposals in which the final products will be freely available.

The deadline for complete proposals is Friday 23rd October

For further information contact Gaynor Evans (**gave@bodc.ac.uk**)

For the full Announcement of Opportunity please go to the following link:
http://www.oceannet.org

AO 3
Marine Discovery Portal

Marine Date News is produced by MEDIN with funding from its sponsors. Contributions do

Editor: **Mr Terry**

MEDIN aims to develop a significantly improved Marine Discovery Portal in 2009-10. A specification for this portal is being finalised and an Invitation to Tender will be issued in September. An announcement will be placed on the MEDIN website and circulated widely. If you wish to register interest and find out more information please email Gaynor Evans (**gave@bodc.ac.uk**)

In all cases proposals will be reviewed according to defined evaluation criteria by an independent review panel.

MARIN (Media Art Research Interdisciplinary Network)
Sonifying data files to give a sense of changing values

M.A.R.I.N. (Media Art Research Interdisciplinary Network) which was founded by artists Tapio Mäkelä and Marko Peljhan, is a mobile residency programme set onboard a catamaran sailboat, redesigned and equipped to be a sustainable environment for transdisciplinary research in arts, sciences and technology.

Inspired by the need to share models of best practice in art & science field, they will develop a set of open data policy and participation guidelines. These guidelines can be extended for future use by a variety of organisations and individuals working within ecological and sustainable scientific, cultural and academic projects and activities. In this way, the mobile, ecological monitoring and research unit, with the establishment of an open communications infrastructure, will serve as a model for an empowered mediated sustainable mobility, one of the primary long term aims of the project. The content produced through the initiative will be open-source, co-managed by the M.A.R.I.N. network organizations.

Sonic representation of data

When working with location based applications, one notion that presents difficulties is stationary location with changing time. Transition from one location co-ordinate to another, the trace, does contain a time shift and can easily be represented. While an interview audio file can create a time dimension to a locality it is embedded in via narrative, layers of data going back for several years are difficult to represent on a map interface. How can data be represented vertically on a map? During this project, **data files will be sonified** to give a sense of changing values.

As part of the **ISEA 2009 BELFAST** project, M.A.R.I.N. will operate a mobile water sampling bio-sensing station in conjunction with a met station to observe pollution and over-nutrition. They will also use existing data such as oceanography and GIS information. As outputs, they will publish a daily "**ecolocated blog**", publish podcasts and produce a location based media installation with sonic and ecological data combined with interviews and maritime narratives of the sites, pictures of which can be viewed **here**.

M.A.R.I.N. will realise workshops that are an important aspect of collaborative authoring and research of the **Ecolocated project**. They are awaiting funding decisions, but themes of the workshops and residencies include:

- Baltic Sea marine ecology.
- Sustainable energy technologies (solar, wind, bio technologies).
- North and Arctic Sea marine ecology (Norwegian coast up to Murmansk).
- Art residency as a sustainable, mobile platform.
- Climate change as a wider framework.
- Mapping, open source navigation and low power computing for the seas.

While being serious about marine ecology research, M.A.R.I.N. also offers a playful angle to sustainability. They will invite interaction designers and wearable computing specialists and artists to conceptualise and stitch together special outfits with sensors, add insightful devices to the residency vessel as well as to help us build engaging interfaces for public presentations and performances. Also known from the research on "serious games", innovative interaction design can be a key factor in successful engagements of target audiences to deal with issues -

in our case, with ecology.

M.A.R.I.N. are also developing the Common Data Processing and Display Unit (CDPDU) which is a data display and processing architecture built to open hardware and software standards.

http://marin.cc/projects

Making Priority Marine Data Sets available through MEDIN
by Dave Cotton (MEDIN)

A major objective for MEDIN is to support the archival of important data sets into the MEDIN Data Archive Centre network so that they are available for use by the wider community.

Three initiatives supported by MEDIN were started earlier this year:

- Streamlining data flow from the National Marine Aquarium, Shark Trust and Marine Conservation Society into the DASSH Marine Species and Habitats Data Archive Centre.
- Archival into the British Oceanographic Data Centre of temperature logger data held by Countryside Council for Wales.
- The British Geological Survey are mobilizing data from Strategic Environmental Assessments carried out for BERR (as was) on the UK Coastal Shelf .

More recently, thirteen proposals were received in response to an **Announcement of Opportunity** issued at the end of June. Following review by an independent panel, nine projects have been accepted for funding. These projects will start in September, and will mobilise the following data sets through the MEDIN DAC network.

- Oceanographic data from the Menai Straight (1995-2005) and Isle of Man (circa 1900 onwards).
- 112 Cruise data sets, and 144 mooring time series from Marine Scotland (2001 onwards).
- 330 site years of sea level data (circa 1920s onwards).
- Access to Oil and Gas industry site surveys generated as a condition of licencing with the Department for Energy and Climate Change.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Special Area of Conservation surveys from the Dogger Bank and Solan Bank.
- Scottish West Coast Inshore Fisheries data (Scottish Association of Marine Science) from the 1970s.
- Plankton data from the Rockall Trough (1970s).
- Deep sea Benthic Habitat data from a number of sites.
- Historical Saltmarsh data.

Where appropriate these projects will also be establishing improved and documented procedures to facilitate future flow of data into the DAC network.

NEWS

Simplifying data access - BODC access control
by Kay Thorne (BODC)

As part of BODC's continuing commitment to improve data services and users' experience on our web site, upgrades have been made to our data applications to introduce a single log in.

How does this work?

Once logged in, users will be free to navigate around the BODC web site, entering all data delivery areas without the need to log in again. This can be achieved by either

- Using the link provided on the top right-hand side of the web pages
- Using the link presented at each of the data delivery applications

Some restricted areas require that additional permissions are obtained; should a user encounter one of these they will be informed whether their account satisfies the entrance requirements.

After a period of inactivity, to keep the account secure, the session will time out and access will be closed. A session can be closed at any time, using the log out link presented at the top right-hand side of the web pages.

This completes a major step towards BODC's aim of making all of their data holdings accessible online.

http://www.bodc.ac.uk

Standard data-exchange format for commercial fisheries

A data format for sampling, landings, and effort data from commercial fisheries is defined and suggested as a standard for the exchange of data between partners in the community of fishery research, advice, and management of the Northeast Atlantic, including the Mediterranean and Black seas.

http://www.ices.dk/pubs/crr/crr296/CRR%20296.pdf

Delphi-Google Earth

A growing number of organisations, universities, ports, river authorities, survey companies are interested in visualizing their own sonar and magnetometer data in Google Earth.

With the new release of DELPH Sonar V 2.7, IXSEA is pleased to announce easy and intuitive export functionality to Google Earth in sonar interpretation.

DELPH Sonar Interpretation enhances sonar data interpretation in a very user friendly environment.

Export of .XTF sonar data into Google Earth is accurate, quick and easy. (The same facility is also available in DELPH Mag V 2.7).

IXSEA offers to all sonar data users the possibility to visualize their own data in this environment. All interested parties are invited to send one or several of their favourite data sets to IXSEA who will return them processed and ready for visualisation in Google Earth. (for the Sonar: XTF, for Mag data: ASCII with time, position and field values).

Data set can be sent by CD/FTP or other means, please contact **delph@ixsea.com**.

Events

Hydrography & Marine SDI Symposium – October 27th 2009

UK National Hydrographer Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff will be the Keynote Speaker at a one-day symposium on Hydrography & Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure organised by The Hydrographic Society UK's Southern Region at Bradfield College, Reading on Tuesday 27 October.

Dealing with data collection and related issues under the theme, Measure Once, Use Many, the programme will cover a wide range of issues with important implications for the future of hydrography and marine data sets.

The event will appeal to all those who work with marine data, and those looking to make their projects and businesses more streamlined and cost effective through more intelligent gathering and use of marine data sets.
Session topics include:

What is Spatial Data Infrastructure?

- Vertical Offshore Reference Frame - Concept, Status & Validation
- Hydrographic Workflows & Standards
- The UK Civil Hydrography Programme
- Ireland's INFORMAR Project for Sustainable Development of Marine Resources
- Collaborative Near Shore Surveys
- UK Marine Bill

Proceedings will conclude with an open forum.

Lead speakers are drawn from all sectors of government, industry and academia including DEFRA, the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the Channel Coastal Observatory, University College London (UCL), Geological Survey of Ireland, CARIS, Dumashie Associates, Gardline Geosurvey, and SeaZone Solutions.

The delegate registration fee up until 31 August is £85 and thereafter £100. A concessionary rate of £65 is available for retired individuals and bona fide students.

Full details are available at **http://www.ths.org.uk/content.asp?page=24**, where online registration and payment options are available.

Editor: **Mr Terry**