

Scientific Ocean Drilling in the 21st Century

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The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) comes to an end in September of 2003. Some of the drilling objectives already defined cannot be addressed in the present program because the technology available to ODP is not adequate to meet the needs of the science proposed. To address these limitations and technological constraints we need a new ocean drilling program. Over the past few years, the international community of marine scientists have come together to develop the goals of a new ocean drilling program. We have a wealth of ideas that can be addressed by ocean drilling and a rapidly developing technology that will allow us to explore exciting new areas that in the past were unapproachable. The new program will take advantage of a new ship with deep-water well control technology being built by our Japanese colleagues. This ship will be able to target objectives much deeper in the ocean crust than ever before achievable in scientific ocean drilling. The new program will have a replacement for the present *JOIDES Resolution* with expanded capabilities for riserless drilling, as well as access to alternate drilling platforms that will target drilling areas where conventional dynamically positioned ships cannot operate. We need broad community support for such a new program and we need to establish a fiscal, scientific, and managerial framework in which the new program can operate. Now is the time for a new drilling program that takes advantage of a diverse drilling technology to fulfill our scientific needs.