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Joint IOC-WMO Circular Letter DBCP No. 05-59

Paris, 1 December 2005

Annex: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: **Position for a Technical Coordinator of the Data Buoy Co-operation Panel**

Actions required: To identify and encourage the submission of candidatures for the position of DBCP/SOOPIP Technical Coordinator

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO represented on JCOMM Member States of IOC

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are seeking candidates for the position of technical coordinator for the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) and the Ship Of Opportunity Programme (SOOP) Implementation Panel (SOOPIP), which form part of the JCOMM in situ Observing Platform Support centre (JCOMMOPS) (www.jcommops.org), located within CLS/Service Argos in Toulouse, France.

The DBCP and SOOPIP are subsidiary bodies of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), which is a major constituent body jointly sponsored by WMO and IOC. Both undertake coordination at the international level of the observational networks for which they are responsible. The DBCP coordinates the deployment, maintenance and collection of data from instrumented oceanographic and meteorological drifting buoys and moored buoys on the high seas. The SOOPIP undertakes a similar role regarding ship based ocean sub-surface observations, primarily from Expendable BathyThermographs (XBT). Both address data requirements expressed by the World Weather Watch (WWW), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Since September 2005, the DBCP coordinates a network of about 1250 drifting buoys operational in the world oceans. SOOPIP is working towards the goal of routinely sampling 51 ship lines on a global and sustained basis. The particular needs of oceanographic research for deferred time quality data and of operational meteorology and oceanography for real time data are stressed. The role of the technical coordinator is essentially to assist in the DBCP and SOOPIP programme implementation, to monitor programme activities and performances, and to act as a focal point for buoy and ship operators, data centres, data users, satellite data telecommunication providers, and manufacturers. The successful applicant reports to the DBCP and SOOPIP chairmen, with line management being provided by the Executive Secretary IOC. The Technical Coordinator is also responsible for the development and operations of the JCOMMOPS. In this regard, he/she works in close cooperation with the Argo Technical Coordinator who runs the Argo Information Centre (AIC), also presently located in the JCOMMOPS, Toulouse.

Practical details regarding the position and required skills and experience are provided in Annex A; duties and responsibilities of the coordinator are listed in Annex B.

Qualified candidates without distinction of sex or nationality are invited to apply for the position, by submission of a UNESCO application form (which can be downloaded from http://www.jcommops.org/doc/DBCP/UNESCO_CV.doc). More details can be obtained by contacting Ms Boram Lee at the IOC Secretariat:

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All applications should be submitted (if possible by e-mail) before 15 January 2006.

We look forward to receiving applications from suitably qualified candidates, for the future improvement of JCOMMOPS and the continued successful implementation of DBCP and SOOP programmes.

Yours sincerely,

P. Bernal
Executive Secretary IOC

Hong Yan
for the Secretary-General of WMO

cc: National focal points for the DBCP
Chairperson, Vice-chairpersons and Technical Co-ordinator, DBCP

* English version is being dispatched. Other versions will follow as soon as available.

ANNEX A

**DBCP and SOOPIP technical coordinator
Position description**

Grade	UNESCO Appointment of Limited Duration (ALD), grade P1, P2, or P3 depending upon skills and experience..
Type	Full time
Location	Toulouse
Starting date	As soon as possible after 1 March 2006
Duration of contract	1 year contract in the first instance with the possibility of renewal up to a maximum of 4 years.
Salary	(without dependants) P1: About \$32 600 net salary plus about \$16 600 for post adjustment (1 year) P2: About \$41 000 net salary plus about \$20 900 for post adjustment (1 year) P3: About \$49 100 net salary plus about \$25 000 for post adjustment (1 year)
Benefits	Included (health insurance, retirement). 30 days vacation yearly. Salaries and other emoluments paid by the Organization are free of income tax in France.
Work environment	Large office (about 20 m ²) in modern and recent building with view over historical "Canal du Midi" shared with Argo Technical Coordinator. Team work with the latter. Located within CLS, Service Argos, a 210 people subsidiary of the French space Agency (CNES), in Toulouse, where all required computer facilities are made available to the Technical Coordinator, including high speed Internet access, laptop portable computer, Power Mac G5, flat LCD screen, usual office software, and any additional required software. Local secretariat support also provided by CLS and good spirit of cooperation. Proximity with Mercator (operational ocean model), CNES, and Météo France. JCOMMOPS information system includes 3 servers, including 1 Apple Xserve, a database, a Geographical Information System (GIS), and a dynamic web site.
Titles and skills	University degree in physics, mathematics, engineering or an oceanographic or atmospheric science. Computer skills, including ability to write technical specifications, computer programmes in java, understanding of data-base management systems and SQL, and practical experience in Internet web server development.
Experience	4 years of practical experience at national level in physical oceanography or meteorology or its applications. Understanding of observational platform requirements for operational meteorology and oceanography. Understanding of data management procedures in place at meteorological or oceanographic centres for the exchange of observational data. Experience in software development. Good sense of communication, ability to deal with very technical matters as well as with more political or organizational ones. Some experience or understanding of international activities in marine or atmospheric sciences and a willingness to work in this environment would be useful.
Language skills	Excellent knowledge of English both speaking and writing. Working knowledge of other working languages of the WMO_IOC Secretariat (French, Russian and Spanish) would be an advantage.

ANNEX B

**DBCP and SOOPIP technical coordinator
Duties and responsibilities**

Under the general supervision of the Executive Secretary, IOC, acting in close collaboration with the Secretary General of WMO, and under the technical guidance from the Chairman of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP, www.dbcp.noaa.gov), and the Chairman of the Ship Of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel (SOOPIP, www.brest.ird.fr), the incumbent through direct contacts with observing platform operators, data telecommunication providers, and data assimilation centres, will assist as appropriate in the implementation and operations of a global system. The incumbent will therefore have the following duties and responsibilities. Observing platforms below refer to drifting buoys, moored buoys in the high seas, and ship based observational platforms. 70% of the time will be spent on DBCP related issues, and 30% on SOOPIP.

Duties and responsibilities	% time
a) Assist when requested with the development of cooperative arrangements for buoy deployment and operations of ship based observing platforms; maintain information on buoy deployment opportunities;	5%
b) Assist in collection and distribution in real time of quality observational platform data for operational meteorology and oceanography, as well as for research purposes. This involves in particular assistance in promoting and facilitating the insertion of all available and appropriate data from observing platforms into the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and into appropriate data distribution system and permanent archives (e.g. GTSPP, RND/OC/DB);	15%
c) Act to resolve any issues arising between observational platform operators, manufacturers, data telecommunication providers, data assimilation centres, quality control and archiving agencies, WMO and IOC;	15%
d) Assist in the development, implementation, and management of quality control procedures for observing platform data; assist in relaying feed-back quality information from data users to platform operators, and in particular monitor and maintain DBCP “quality control guidelines”;	4%
e) Assist in collection of metadata regarding observing platforms;	4%
f) Assist in standardization of instrumentation, data formats, and operational procedures;	4%
g) Provide technical assistance and support to DBCP Action Groups;	5%
h) Through direct contacts with potential users in member states, advertise the DBCP and SOOP programmes, encourage use of observing platform data, and active participation of new member states in these programmes;	4%
i) Act as a clearing house for information on all aspects of observational platform data use; maintain DBCP and SOOPIP web sites;	10%
j) Develop and maintain JCOMMOPS, its database, Geographical Information System, and web based monitoring system as far as data buoys and ship based observing platforms are concerned. Work in synergy with the Argo Technical Coordinator in this regard;	10%
k) Compile and produce monthly monitoring products, including (i) DBCP monthly status by country and maps, (ii) JCOMMOPS monthly status maps, (iii) SOOP monthly BATHY report, (iv) SOOP monthly quality report, and (v) SOOPIP semestrial resources survey. Suggest and produce additional products as requested or needed;	5%
l) Promote an improved international dialogue between oceanographers and meteorologists, and between research and operational communities;	5%
m) Supervise administratively the Argo Technical Coordinator, bearing in mind that his/her work priorities and tasks are defined by the Argo Steering Team (AST).	4%
n) Prepare documents for, participate in and report to the regular meetings of the DBCP and SOOPIP, and represent these groups at other relevant technical meetings, both inside and outside WMO and IOC, as required.	10%