



InterRidge

Steering Committee Meeting 1997 Report

**Paris, France
25-26 September, 1997**

**Chair:
Mathilde Cannat**

(January, 1998)

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List of participants

1. **Mathilde Cannat**, Chair (1997)
Laboratoire de Pétrologie,
Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris 6),
4 place Jussieu,
F-75252 Paris Cédex 05, FRANCE
Tel: +33 1 44 27 51 92
Fax: +33 1 44 27 39 11
E-mail: mac@ccr.jussieu.fr
2. **Philippe Blondel**, *ad hoc* (1997)
Southampton Oceanography Centre,
European Way, Empress Dock,
Southampton, SO14 3ZH, UK
Tel: +44 1703 596 555
Fax: +44 1703 596 554
E-mail: pbo@soc.soton.ac.uk
3. **Alan D. Chave**, *ad hoc* (1997)
Department of Geology & Geophysics,
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,
Woods Hole MA 02543, USA
Tel: +1 508 289 2833
Fax: +1 508 457 2150
E-mail: alan@faraday.whoi.edu
4. **David M. Christie** (1997)
College of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences,
Oregon State University,
104 Oceanography Administration Building,
Corvallis OR 97331-5503, USA
Tel: +1 541 737 5205
Fax: +1 541 737 2064
E-mail: dchristie@oce.orst.edu
5. **Juanjo Dañobeitia**, NC (1995)
Instituto Jaime Almera de Ciencias de la Tierra,
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas,
C/Lluis Sole i Sabaris s/n,
08028 Barcelona, SPAIN
Tel: +34 93 330 2716
Fax: +34 93 411 0012
E-mail: jjdanobeitia@ija.csic.es
6. **Daniel Desbruyères**, *ad hoc* (1991)
Laboratoire d'Ecologie Abyssale,
Département de l'Environnement Profond,
Direction des Recherches Océaniques,
IFREMER Centre de Brest,
B.P. 70, F-29280 Plouzané Cédex, FRANCE
Tel: +33 2 98 22 43 01
Tel: +33 2 98 22 45 47;
Fax: +33 2 98 22 46 53
E-mail: ddesbruy@ifremer.fr
7. **Christopher G. Fox**, guest
NOAA/PMEL/VENTS Program,
S.E. OSU Drive,
Newport OR 97365, USA
Tel: +1 541 867 0276
Fax: +1 541 867 3907
E-mail: fox@pmel.noaa.gov
8. **Jean Francheteau**, NC (1991)
Département des Sciences de la Terre,
Université de Bretagne Occidentale,
6 Avenue le Gorgeu,
BP 809,
F-29287 Brest Cédex, FRANCE
Tel: +33 2 98 01 61 21
Fax: +33 2 98 01 66 20
E-mail: franch@univ-brest.fr
9. **Hiromi Fujimoto** (1997)
Ocean Research Institute,
University of Tokyo,
1-15-1 Minamidai,
Nakano-ku,
Tokyo 164, JAPAN
Tel: +81 3 5351 6429
Fax: +81 3 3377-3293
E-mail: fujimoto@ori.u-tokyo.ac.jp
10. **Christopher R. German** (1997)
Challenger Division for Seafloor Processes,
Southampton Oceanography Centre,
European Way, Empress Dock,
Southampton,
SO14 3ZH, UK
Tel: +44 1703 596 542
Fax: +44 1703 596 554
E-mail: cge@soc.soton.ac.uk
11. **S. Kim Juniper**, guest
Le Stang - rue Jim Sevellec
Ste-Anne-du-Portzic
29200 Brest
FRANCE
Tel: +33 2.98.05.06.71
Email: juniper.kim@uqam
(on sabbatical from Université du Québec, Montreal)
12. **Catherine Mével**, *ad hoc* (1997)
Laboratoire de Pétrologie,
CNRS-URA 736,
Université Pierre et Marie Curie, case 110,
4 place Jussieu,
F-75252 Paris Cédex 05, FRANCE
Tel: +33 1 44 27 51 93
Fax: +33 1 44 27 39 11
E-mail: cam@ccr.jussieu.fr

13. **Miguel A. Miranda**, NC (1996)
 Instituto Nacional de Invest Cientifica,
 Centro de Geofisica,
 Universidade de Lisboa,
 Rua da Escola Politécnica 58,
 PT-1250 Lisboa, PORTUGAL
 Tel: +351 1 396 1521 ext 209
 Fax: +351 1 395 3327
 E-mail: jmiranda@fc.ul.pt
14. **Lauren S. Mullineaux**, *ad hoc* (1995)
 Biology Department,
 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,
 Mail Stop 34,
 Woods Hole MA 02543, USA
 Tel: +1 508 289 2898
 Fax: +1 508 457 2134
 E-mail: lmullineaux@whoi.edu
15. **Lindsay M. Parson**, *ad hoc* (1996)
 Southampton Oceanography Centre,
 European Way, Empress Dock,
 Southampton,
 SO14 3ZH, UK
 Tel: +44 1703 596 541
 Fax: +44 1703 596 554
 E-mail: lmp@soc.soton.ac.uk
16. **Roland Rihm**, NC (1995)
 GEOMAR,
 Forschungszentrum für Marine Geowissenschaften,
 Wischofstrasse 1-3,
 Gebäude 12,
 D-24148 Kiel, GERMANY
 Tel: +49 431 600 2630
 Fax: +49 431 600 2978
 E-mail: rrihm@geomar.de
17. **Roger C. Searle**, NC (1994)
 Department of Geological Sciences,
 University of Durham,
 South Road,
 Durham,
 DH1 3LE, UK
 Tel: +44 191 374 2537
 Fax: +44 191 374 2510
 E-mail: R.C.Searle@durham.ac.uk
18. **Eirik Sundvor**, NC (1996)
 Institute of Solid Earth Physics,
 University of Bergen,
 Allegaten 41,
 N-5007 Bergen, NORWAY
 Tel: +47 55 58 3401
 Fax: +47 55 58 9669
 E-mail: eirik.sundvor@ifjf.uib.no
19. **Cara Wilson**, Coordinator (1997)
 InterRidge Office
 Université Pierre et Marie Curie,
 4 place Jussieu,
 F-75252 Paris Cédex 05, FRANCE
 Tel: +33 1 44 27 74 78
 Fax: +33 1 44 27 39 11
 E-mail: intridge@ext.jussieu.fr
20. **Karen L. Von Damm**, NC (1995)
 Department of Earth Sciences,
 University of New Hampshire,
 James Hall,
 Durham NH 03824-3589, USA
 Tel: +1 603 862 0142
 Fax: +1 603 862 2649
 E-mail: kvd@christa.unh.edu
- Absent Steering Committee Members:
 Peter M. Herzig (Germany)
~~X~~ Kensaku Tamaki (Japan)
 Tetsuro Urabe (Japan)

Agenda

- **Introduction and Welcome** (Cannat)
- **New Members**
Endorsement of Italy and Canada as new Associate Members and of their representatives to the Steering Committee. (Wilson)
- **General Organization of meeting**
- **Agreement on meeting agenda**
- **Ratify InterRidge Program Plan Addendum 1996**
- **Accept the Minutes of 1996 meeting** (Wilson)
- **Coordinator Report**
- **National Updates** (Von Damm)
 - RIDGE (German)
 - BRIDGE (Francheteau)
 - DORSALES (Fujimoto)
 - InterRidge-Japan (Rihm)
 - De-Ridge (Dañobeitia)
 - Spain (Miranda)
 - Portugal (Sundvor)
 - Norway (Juniper)
 - Canada
- **InterRidge Projects**
Receive project reports from Project chairs. Review progress made during the last year and discuss direction, membership and action for the upcoming year.
 - SWIR (Mével, Chair)
 - Arctic Oceans (Rihm, Chair)
 - Global Digital Database (Blondel, Chair)
 - 4-D Architecture of the Oceanic Lithosphere (Parson, Chair)
 - Quantification of Fluxes (German, Acting Chair)
 - Back-Arc Basins (Fujimoto, Prospective Chair)
 - Biological Studies (Mullineaux, Chair)
 - Undersea Cables (Chave, Chair)
 - Event Detection and Response/Observatories (Fox, Prospective Chair)
- **Make decisions on Chair(s) for the following Projects**
 - Back-Arc Basins
 - Event Detection and Response
 - Quantification of Fluxes
- **InterRidge liaisons with other programs**
 - ILP
 - SOPAC
 - SCOR (Mével)
 - ODP
- **InterRidge Steering Committee members and National Correspondents:**
 - Steering Committee
 - National Correspondents
- **InterRidge Budget** (Searle)
 - Receive final Durham Budget (Wilson)
 - Receive the 1997 financial report
- **Determine date and location of next Steering Committee Meeting** (Wilson)
- **Receive and, if necessary, update the 1998 Calendar**
- **Summary of Principal Conclusions**

InterRidge Steering Committee 1997 Report

Paris, France, 25-26 September, 1997

1. Introduction and Welcome (Chair, M. Cannat)

The Chair acknowledged the work of R. Searle, H. Sloan, and R. Williams who established most of the office structure that allowed for a smooth transition to the new office in Paris. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced those participants who were observers or new steering committee members. A round table was conducted to identify all participants.

2. New Members

The Steering Committee endorsed Italy and Canada as new Associate Members to InterRidge. We have not yet received nominations for Steering Committee members from their national organizations.

Action: • Letters of welcome and confirmation will be sent to the new Italian and Canadian Steering Committee members.

3. General organization of meeting and agreement on meeting agenda

The general timeline of the meeting was established and the agenda was accepted.

4. Ratify InterRidge Program Plan Addendum 1996 and accept the Minutes of 1996 meeting

The Program Plan Addendum 1996 was ratified and the minutes of the 1996 meeting were accepted.

5. Matters arising

5.1 SOSUS

Karen Von Damm tried numerous times to contact SOSUS about the status of their Atlantic arrays but never received any response. The Atlantic arrays are effectively not operating.

5.2 Science Funding

The dwindling of science funds was a theme that came up recurrently in the European reports and throughout the meeting. This problem is evident on two levels, marine sciences in general, and ridge crest sciences specifically. Science on a fundamental level needs to be promoted within the European community. A more visible InterRidge could serve to promote the importance of ridge crest science. We need to make people, and funding agencies in particular, aware of what InterRidge does and what it has accomplished scientifically. The brochure being written by the SCOR 99 was also brought as a potential media for education about ridge science for a variety of audiences.

Actions: • InterRidge will write a lobbying letter to European funding agencies and program managers emphasizing the importance of ridge research and expressing our concerns. It will be circulated to the Steering Committee before being sent out.

- InterRidge will write a general article about InterRidge for EOS. The BRIDGE article that R. Searle wrote for BRIDGE can be used as a starting point. It will be circulated to the Steering Committee before being sent out.
- InterRidge will write a general letter outlining InterRidge goals and objectives and send it to funding agencies.

5.3 InterRidge Projects and Working Groups

The issue was raised during the meeting of what it means if we talk about a working group that has no members. For this reason the semantics have been changed and the term 'project' is used for the nine projects that were created at the 1996 meeting when the three themes, Global Meso-scale and Active Processes were broken down into these smaller components (Phase II projects). It was envisioned then that these projects would have working groups which would implement the project plan established for the project. Most of the projects do have working groups, and the term 'working group' is now used only to refer to those groups.

6. Coordinator Report

6.1 InterRidge Office Transfer

January 1997 marked the end of InterRidge's three-year term in Durham, and the office moved to the Laboratoire de Pétrologie at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, France, where it will reside for the next three years. Mathilde Cannat took over as InterRidge Chair from Roger Searle. Ruth Williams, the assistant Coordinator during the Durham term, oversaw the office transfer and was acting Coordinator until March 1997 when Cara Wilson started as the InterRidge Coordinator. Hélène Horen is the current assistant Coordinator.

6.2 InterRidge Membership

Italy and Canada have definitely decided to upgrade to Associate Members in 1998, and India and Korea have been discussing upgrading as well. South Africa and Brazil have joined as new Corresponding members. Thus, at the end of 1997 InterRidge is composed of 21 member countries: 6 principal members (France, Germany, Japan, Spain, UK, and USA), 2 associate members (Norway and Portugal) and 13 corresponding members (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland).

6.3 InterRidge WWW Pages

Since the InterRidge web pages (<http://www.lgs.jussieu.fr/~intridge>) were transferred to Paris considerable effort has been put into restructuring and updating these pages. The primary changes have been to streamline the structure of the main home page, and to add more information that is published in *InterRidge News* (which follows the decision at the 1995 IRSC meeting to put *InterRidge News* on the web). Links have been made from the list of Steering Committee Members and National Correspondents to the electronic directory. However, very few steering committee members or national correspondents were on the electronic directory. Steering Committee members were encouraged to place themselves on the directory. Forms were available at the meeting to place oneself on the electronic directory. Almost everyone at the meeting who was not already on the directory filled one out. It was discussed that the community should be told again about this resource, with emphasis on the fact that it now contains over 200 entries, and it can be a useful resource.

Pages have been created for the almost all of the InterRidge projects (currently only Event Detection and Response & Observatories, and Hydrothermal Fluxes do not have one). These pages include the working group membership, a summary of current activities, and workshop reports. A list of all past InterRidge workshops, with links to a workshop summary (as written in the IRSC reports) has been added. Pages have also been created for most InterRidge member nations, which contain the most recent national update (as published in *InterRidge News*). So far, these pages have been made for the 16 countries for whom a recent update exists, and include the first bilingual page (Brazil's page has an English and Portuguese version). Member nations were encouraged to submit national updates for *InterRidge News*, which would also be placed on the web. Two principal members, Spain and Japan have not contributed an update since 1995 and an associate member, Portugal, has never contributed an update.

As before, the InterRidge web pages include the InterRidge Researcher Electronic Directory and Ridge Crest Biologist Directory, information about InterRidge program structure, a calendar of upcoming meetings and workshops, a list of InterRidge publications, the global Ridge-Crest cruise schedule and links to other relevant home pages.

There was discussion about the difficulty of accessing the InterRidge pages from the USA, and of European access problems to the Ridge page when the network is busy. It was suggested that Ridge and InterRidge set up mirror sites for one another.

- Actions:**
- The form in the *IR News* to be placed on the electronic directory will be revamped.
 - The InterRidge Office will contact the Ridge Office about the possibility of setting up mirror web sites.

6.4 Working Group Communications

One of the ongoing problems for the working groups is how to have productive interactions in the absence of formally scheduled workshops or meetings. Some working group members have expressed a frustration with determining what (if anything) is happening within their group. A possible solution to this problem is to establish electronic bulletin boards for the working groups, which would contain the working groups objectives and current plans for achieving those objectives. They would operate similar to web pages, except that each member has the ability to add items to the board, and members would be automatically notified of additions to the board. Preliminary investigation into what type of system/software requirements would be needed to do this have started, but needs more development. The Ridge Office has done some work with setting up a board like this for the EDR community, although it has not received much use because there is little awareness in the community of its existence. It was decided that the InterRidge Office should contact Chris Keeley in the Ridge Office for help on establishing bulletin boards for the working groups.

- Actions:**
- The InterRidge Office will contact Chris Keeley in the Ridge Office for more information on electronic bulletin boards.
 - An announcement about the Ridge EDR page will be in the next *IR News*.

6.5 Activity in the InterRidge Office

The office transfer, publication of *InterRidge News 6(1)*, organization of the First International Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vent Biology Symposium and its abstract volume, working on workshop reports, and restructuring and updating the web pages were the major activities of the first portion of 1997. The Office continues to reply on a daily basis to e-mail inquiries from the international ridge crest research community, and to update and maintain the InterRidge database, which contains over 2200 entries.

7. National Updates

7.1 US - RIDGE (Von Damm)

RIDGE is in the process of revising the RIDGE science Plan for the next five years. It is likely that the new Science Plan will be organized around questions relating to various time and spatial scales, rather than the Program Element Committees (PECS) that currently exist. A draft of the revised Science Plan will be put on the RIDGE website for community input. A draft should be available prior to the Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco.

RIDGE has co-sponsored several workshops in the last year, including the Magnetization of the Ocean Crust in Orcas Island in October 1996 (a summary appeared in EOS, May 13), an Event Detection and Response Workshop in Washington in March 1996 (a report is in the draft stage), A Workshop on the Subsurface Biosphere in Washington, DC in March 1996, and the Summer School on MOR Processes in Iceland in August/September aimed at US participants. The next RIDGE meeting is the MELT Workshop on Mantle Flow and Melt Generation beneath Mid-Ocean Ridges in Providence, RI in October 4-6, 1997.

The new support vessel for Alvin and JASON, the *Atlantis*, came on-line this past June. This happened sooner than scheduled because of a breakdown on the *RV Thompson* which had been scheduled to conduct ROV operations with Jason and Alvin.

The Ridge Office will be rotating to another office next fall.

7.2 UK- BRIDGE (German)

The BRIDGE program is winding down. Since its inception in 1993, 40 proposals have been funded. There will not be a BRIDGE II in 98/99, although they will continue to fund InterRidge. Post-BRIDGE ridge research in the UK will be supported by core funding, and scientists will probably rely more on international collaboration.

A data synthesis is now being planned that will integrate data from the different geological, oceanographic, chemical and biological cruises. The BRIDGE Steering Committee has formed a small BRIDGE Data Committee to oversee the collation and integration of the data from all BRIDGE research and produce a definitive dataset for the BRIDGE geographical areas. This monumental task is being undertaken by Philippe Blondel of Southampton Oceanography Centre, InterRidge Steering Committee member and Chair of InterRidge's Global Ridge Bathymetry Database Project. It is expected that the unified BRIDGE data product will be available in CD-ROM format by the year 2000 and should have educational as well as research interest.

7.3 France -DORSALES (Francheteau)

DORSALES is now in its fifth year of a program that was initially set up for 10 years. It is currently undergoing a mid-life review by the funding agency. An international board has been set up to evaluate the program, which will be reviewed during a national symposium that will take place in Paris November 24-25.

7.4 InterRidge-Japan (Fujimoto)

The government in Japan is currently planning for reorganizing which has had ramifications on InterRidge-Japan. Their RIDGE FLUX program is half way through its six year program. They have compiled a video report of this project which was distributed at the meeting.

JAMSTEC (Japan Marine Science and Technology Center) is now preparing four cruises, two in the Mid-Atlantic Ocean and two cruises in the Indian Ocean in 1998 using the submersible "Shinkai 6500" and the surface ship "Yokosuka". In each ocean one cruise will be carried out under JAMSTEC-WHOI, while the other cruises are open for international proposals.

7.5 Germany - De-Ridge (Rihm)

Currently De-Ridge has no funding, the office is located in Kiel and shared between R. Rihm and C. Devey. Last March De-Ridge decided to focus on two major themes - (1) Evolution of oceanic crust and (2) Back-Arc Basins. Workshops were held last summer to further define these themes.

7.6 Spain (Dañobeitia)

The Institute of Earth Sciences (Jaime Almera) from the CSIC and the Marine Geosciences Group of the University of Barcelona (UB) started working on ridge-related studies in 1992, when the *R/V Hesperides* was launched as part of the Spanish Antarctic Programme. Seven geology-geophysics cruises have been made which concentrated on the NW Antarctic Peninsula - Bransfield Basin region, Galapagos Region, and the EPR at southern (Eastern Island) and northern latitudes around 22°N at the junction between Pacific and Rivera plates.

