



Call for bids to host the next InterRidge Office, 2010-2012

Submission deadline: **31 March 2009**

In January 2010 the InterRidge Office is due to rotate under the appointment of a new Chair. All interested Members of InterRidge are invited to submit bids to host the new office and nominations for the new Chair. The full call for bids is posted on the IR website (<http://www.interridge.org>).

The following conditions apply:

The InterRidge Office will be located at the home institution of the selected Chair. Only Principal Members of InterRidge are eligible to host the Office and the InterRidge Chair (bids will be accepted from those countries who are not currently Principal Members, if the bid is accompanied by an undertaking to become a Principal Member by 1 January 2010). The period of tenure of the Chair is normally three years. Each bid should be submitted through the National Representative on the Steering Committee. Each country may submit more than one bid, on the understanding that the Member will accept the decision of the Steering Committee as final. Bids should be sent to the InterRidge Office by **31 March 2009**. The final decision on the bids will be made at the InterRidge Steering Committee meeting to be held in July 2009. The Steering Committee may seek further information and/or negotiate with Members who have submitted bids before making a final decision.

Bids should be about 5 to 10 pages in length, and should include a brief supporting case together with the following:

- The name and institution of the proposed Chair, who should be active in ridge research and have an international reputation;
- A statement of the resources that will be available to the Office, including office space and communications links and commitment of the hosting institution/country to contribute yearly funding equivalent of one Principal Member;
- A statement of the services it is proposed to offer. The level of service should not be less than that offered by the current Office;
- A proposed budget, to include Office costs (e.g., Coordinator's salary, running costs of the Office, travel costs for Office personnel, Office set-up costs) and InterRidge activity costs (e.g., funds for workshops, travel, student awards, education and outreach);
- A statement of the proposed Chair's vision for the period of office and a copy of the proposed Chair's CV.

Bids should be submitted electronically to the InterRidge Coordinator: coordinator@interridge.org. More information can be obtained from the IR office (coordinator@interridge.org) or from the IR Chair, Jian Lin (jlin@whoi.edu).

What services does InterRidge provide?

- Provides scientific and logistical coordination for the IR working groups.
- Promotes communication and exchange of information and ideas amongst members of the international ridge-crest research community. By organizing and facilitating meetings and workshops around the IR scientific themes, IR provides a venue for identification and discussion of the scientific issues of chief concern to the community.
- Facilitates informing and educating the policy-makers, media, and the public in ridge-crest science through education outreach initiatives.
- Nurtures the next generation of ridge-crest scientists through student poster awards and the InterRidge Student and Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.
- Disseminates information:
 - 1) *IR website* (<http://www.interridge.org>) that includes:
 - Information on the organization (current office, steering committee members, member nations, working groups, the 'Next Decade' science plan, code of conduct for responsible research at hydrothermal vents);
 - Databases (member database, cruise database, global hydrothermal vents database);
 - News and upcoming events calendar;
 - Education and Outreach (projects, free downloads, links to E&O websites).
 - 2) *IR biweekly e-news*. IR Office also announces relevant jobs by e-mailing list.
 - 3) *IR annual newsletters*. These newsletters are edited and published annually by the IR Office and made available free to approximately 2,500 members of the international research community. They contain reports on recent ridge-crest cruises, updates on IR projects, news from national and international research programs, announcements and notices pertaining to ridge-crest research, and upcoming international ridge-crest cruises.
 - 4) *Meeting and workshop reports*. These reports serve not only to communicate the proceedings of IR workshops and meetings to the community, but are also a vehicle for recommendations to various national and international research and funding agencies.

A rough guide to the InterRidge 2010 funding:

The expected funding in 2010 for the IR program is US \$205K, but is subjected to changes in IR membership. The expected contributions include the following:

- *Principal Members*: China, France, Germany, Japan, UK, US (\$25K/member/yr), total=\$150K/yr
- *Host Country/Institution Contribution*: \$25K/yr
- *Associate Members*: India, Korea, Norway, Portugal (\$5K/member/yr), total = \$20K/yr
- *International Seabed Authority Endowment Fund* for IR Student/Postdoc Fellowships: \$10K/yr for 2009-2011

Previous InterRidge Offices:

1991 – 1993: USA/France (Co-chairs J. Delaney/D. Needham)

1994 – 1996: UK (R. Searle)

1997 – 1999: France (M. Cannat)

2000 – 2003: Japan (K. Tamaki)

2004 – 2006: Germany (C. Devey)

2007 – 2009: USA (Chair J. Lin, Co-chair C. German)