



InterRidge

Meeting Report

*InterRidge Meeting held at York, UK
Merchant Adventurers' Hall*

March 11-13, 1992

Convenors: H. David Needham
John R. Delaney

Host: J. Cann
University of Leeds

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INTRODUCTION

Representatives of ten InterRidge countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States) met in York, UK, on March 11-13, 1992. Representatives of other invited countries (Italy, Norway, Russia [C.I.S.], India, and South Korea) were unable to attend. N. Holm (Sweden; chair of SCOR WG 91 on chemical evolution and origin of life in marine hydrothermal systems) participated as a SCOR scientific liaison, and J. Bender as an ODP liaison (see Attachment 1). The meeting was hosted by J. Cann of the University of Leeds.

PURPOSES OF MEETING

The principal goal of the meeting was to reach agreement on a Program Plan for InterRidge, and to establish the framework for its implementation over the coming decade. Major items on the agenda (Attachment 2) were:

- Specific themes or projects, if any, on which InterRidge should concentrate its efforts during the first part of the decadal program;
- Levels of InterRidge coordination appropriate to these projects;
- Organization and administration of InterRidge;
- Schedules for program development and implementation.

The supporting document for the meeting was an updated version of the InterRidge Draft Program Plan. A previous version was widely circulated for comments in December 1991.

DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT PROGRAM PLAN

Following recommendations made at the 1990 Brest meeting, the draft Program Plan was developed by the Interim InterRidge Steering Group (IIRSG) in consultation with National Correspondents and other colleagues. Members of the IIRSG met for discussions over the following year, and a full gathering was convened at the University of Cambridge, England, in May 1991. An InterRidge project meeting, charged with proposing guidelines and ideas for implementation of a Global Studies effort, was held at the Institut de Physique du Globe in Paris on 3-4 February, 1992 (Attachment 3).

The draft Program Plan was developed in consideration of several points:

- (1) Although ridge studies concern many subjects, ranging from seismology to bacteriology, most ridge research concerns in one way or another the role of intra-planetary (mantle) processes, as opposed to processes driven by external (solar) energy.
- (2) National resources devoted to ridge-related research are significant. Seagoing efforts alone currently involve more than 24 months (approximately \$15 million) of ship time spent annually by InterRidge nations.
- (3) The purpose of InterRidge cooperation is to make significant advances in knowledge of ridge dynamics through intelligent scientific and logistical integration of ridge research projects. InterRidge should focus particularly on problems that cannot be addressed as efficiently by nations acting alone.
- (4) Although particular actions will be geographically or thematically restricted, InterRidge should be global in the overall scope of its objectives.
- (5) InterRidge should be an intellectually and internationally open program for creative research by individual scientists, but for the program to constitute a

