

**Minutes of 12th European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) UK
Node meeting – 24th November 2016** – at British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge

Present:

David Paterson - University of St
Andrews / MASTS (Chair)
Colin Moffat – Marine Scotland
Martyn Cox - Marine Scotland
Alistair Main – University of St
Andrews
Gavin Grewar - Marine Scotland

Iveta Makejusova - Marine Scotland
Colin Brownlee – Marine Biological
Association
Axel Miller – SAMS
Melody Clark – British Antarctic Survey
Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley – British
Antarctic Survey

Apologies:

Nick Pade - Marine Biological
Association
Mark James - MASTS

Vincent Janik – University of St
Andrews
Claire Gachon - SAMS

Welcome and introduction

1. David Paterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked BAS for their hospitality.

Minutes and review actions of 11th meeting

2. Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. The Actions were all completed or would be covered as part of the agenda, except for:
 - a. **ACTION 11.2:** DP to pass MC list which will be circulated to check for accuracy before uploading to web site. This has been superseded as EMBRC HQ will be developing such an inventory on its web site.

ACTION 12.1: MC to upload minutes of 11th meeting to web site.

Next (14th) EMBRC EIB meeting

3. At this stage it was not known when the decision on the ASSEMBLE+ application to the EU would be known. It was appreciated that in the event of the application being unsuccessful, then the progress of EMBRC might be a little slower to begin with. It was now anticipated that the final EMBRC ERIC application would be submitted in March 2017.
4. The agenda and some papers had been received. The Node reviewed the Work Programme 2017 and the queries in the table below were to be clarified at the Madrid meeting.

ACTION 12:2: EMBRC work programme to be circulated to all members for comments to DP / CM ahead of Madrid meeting. DONE 25/11.

ACTION 12.3: DP and CM to raise issues below at Madrid.

1	<p><u>In relation to Priority Area 1 – ERIC Application</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check financial status of ERIC application (as opposed to ASSEMBLE+ application) due to be submitted in March 2017. • Check what is required re letters of support by the Founding Partners – would this be from the individual partners or from SG on behalf of the UK Node • Check whether update of statutes made by UK have been accepted.
2	<p><u>In relation to Priority Area 2 – Preparation of operational phase</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check timescales for development of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rules of Operation ○ Service Level Agreements & what information is required from the UK node in relation to SLA draft. Who will be required to sign for UK – all partners or SG on behalf of the Node; ○ User Access Contracts • UK Node wants to see drafts of all above ASAP.
3	<p><u>In relation to Priority Area 3 - e-Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check what UK Node needs to do in relation to e-infrastructure • check how UK partners can access the EMBRC-ERIC Access System Prototype to test it • to investigate why there is no UK representative on the EU Marine Portal Advisory Board.
4	<p><u>In relation to Priority Areas 6 & 8 - Secretariat Recruitments & EMBRC Management and Administration</u> – UK representatives need to ensure that secretariat provided good value for money and that costs are proportionate to work and funds flowing to partners.</p>
5	<p><u>In relation to Priority Area 7 – Policy interface</u> – it was recognised that this was an area that wasn't well developed yet. It would be helpful for the UK Node to understand what was being proposed.</p>
6	<p><u>In relation to Priority Area 9 – Industry engagement</u> – need to check on the nature of the BioMarine Event and ask about information being made available with enough time for partners to attend international events.</p>

5. Other actions arising from discussion:

ACTION 12.4: SharePoint / Google drive to be set up for UK Node partners- group members to advise MC what email address they would like to use to access the SharePoint. DP/MC.

ACTION 12.5: In relation to Priority Area 3 - e-Infrastructure - Dan Lear has been attending e-infrastructure meeting and NP attending User Access workshop on 7th Dec. Feedback to be sought.

ACTION 12.6: In relation to Priority Area 4 - Communication, Dissemination, Promotion - it was agreed to increase visibility of the UK Node through

- Setting up a Comms / outreach sub-group including increasing the EMBRC profile within own organisations
- Suggestions for members to be emailed to MC
- A coordinated approach to tweets

ACTION 12.7: In relation to Priority Area 5 - External funding and resources - map of funding opportunities will be available by February 2017. UK Node needs to understand and use it.

Committee of Nodes – update

6. The next meeting was on 8th December and the papers had just been received by Axel. After a discussion it was agreed there were a few matters for Axel to clarify at the CoN meeting:

- Check the role of the
 - Bibliometric relational maps generated by RISIS for the labs
 - EMBRC projects - CORBEL, ENVRI Plus, EMBRIC & how will EMBRC's role be coordinated with other infrastructures
- check intentions of EMBRC around sponsoring:
 - BioMarine Business Convention 2017 (Canada)
 - Heidi Levasseur (Atlantic swimmer)
- to note that development of new EMBRC promotional video may not be necessary until outcome of ERIC application known: much material existed already.
- Obtain information about cluster involvement in EMBRC

7. Other actions arising from discussion:

ACTION 12.8: CoN had requested country Nodes to safeguard suitable EMBRC domain names. EMBRC.UK to be purchased. DONE 24/11.

ACTION 12.9: From minutes of last CoN meeting (Israel) - EMBRC has made nominations to the 'EU Marine Training Portal Advisory Board' – DP to investigate why there is no UK representative on the EU Marine Portal Advisory Board. ACTION DP.

EMBRC UK Node business

8. UK Node as a legal entity – There was a short discussion based on the collation of views earlier in the year and the summary document circulated. There was a consensus that until there were distinct advantages of a legal entity being created, the current MoU approach would be sufficient. If necessary EMBRC can be asked as to why a legal entity might be needed. It was agreed to revisit the matter at regular intervals to establish if circumstances had changed.

9. UK MoU – with thanks for the input from all UK node partners, the Agreement was ready for signature. Signing took place at the meeting with the Director of Marine Scotland to sign once the document was back in Edinburgh. Following

completion, MAST-S would be in a position to sign the EMBRC Finance Agreement and issue invoices to partners to cover 2016 and 2017 in Jan/Feb. The 2018 invoices being issued in Oct/Nov 2017. The payments would be ~€5,000 each for 2016; ~€13,700 for 2017 and then either ~€15,500 or ~€18,500 depending on the legal position with MASTS.

10. **Position on Brexit** – there had been a question from one EMBRC partner country about the UK Node's position on Brexit. The MBA had already issued a statement see here - <https://www.mba.ac.uk/2016/07/06/statement-on-the-eu-referendum-from-the-marine-biological-association/> whilst other UK partners didn't necessarily have any official position published. It was agreed that for UK marine science to be effective at attracting collaboration partners and future European funding as well as influencing future funding calls then it was necessary to make it clear that we were open for business as usual. It was agreed to develop a UK Node statement that could be added to the future EMBRC UK web site and also for each UK Partner to compile a list of our European contacts,

ACTION 12.10: New EMBRC UK web site to develop in two stages – A transfer of the information from MS web page initially with Comms group to advice re later development. Initially transferring information from EMBRC website (SG-MS) onto EMBRC-UK website. DP and MC to develop.

ACTION 12.11: Statement to be developed by UK Node confirming EMBRC-UK collaboration with EU partners. DP and MC to draft to UK Node for clearance.

ACTION 12.12: each UK Partner to compile a list of their European contacts and send to MC.

11. **Position of Plymouth University** – MBA has been in discussion with Plymouth University to bring the 3 state of the art electron microscopes into the UK EMBRC Cluster. PU will have a working agreement with MBA to provide the faculties with the MBA maintaining the position of UK Node Partner and paying the subscription. The UK Node maintains the position that involvement in the Node remains open with a future UK Node meeting taking appropriate decisions.

Long term ambitions for EMBRC

12. Short presentations were made by the University of St Andrews (Scottish Oceans Institute); British Antarctic Survey; Marine Biological Association; Scottish Association for Marine Science and Marine Scotland setting out in various ways their ambitions for the future direction of EMBRC.

13. It was clear that the UK had significant suitable infrastructure that represented a large investment from which much return could be achieved in the long term and more so through future collaborations and access to suitable funding opportunities.

14. It was agreed that on the basis of the presentations, a summary document on ambition for UK Node would be developed for discussion at next meeting. An EMBRC UK Node 'strapline' was needed to encapsulate what we hoped to

achieve. One example was '*EMBRC to unlock the secrets of marine biology for responsible use for society and the economy*'. There was also a recognition that EMBRC UK node needed to gain recognition from the UK Research councils.

15. Training was an area where more thought was needed and it should be addressed in EMBRC UK objectives.

ACTION 12.13: - MC to collate 3 slide PowerPoint presentations for uploading to SharePoint site and use these to develop summary document on ambition for UK Node for next meeting.

ACTION 12.14: all to send suggested 'straplines' to MC.

ACTION 12.15: EMBRC UK to identify a way to gain recognition from UK Research councils.

ACTION 12.16: All to Provide lists of current training courses each organisation carry out and Make training course suggestions

AOB

16. **Date of Next Meeting** – A date for the next UK Node meeting would be made when the next EIB meeting was scheduled.

17. British Antarctic Survey was thanked for their hospitality and, after the formal business was closed, a visit was made to their EMBRC-ERIC infrastructure.

ACTION: 12.17 – MC to issue Doodle Poll in due course.

Martyn Cox
Marine Scotland
November 2016

EMBRC Web page <https://embrc.uk/>

An updated flyer that could be used to promote EMBRC – see [here](#).