

May 28, 2018

## OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA AND EMSO ERIC SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On May 7, 2018, Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) and the European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water-Column Observatory (EMSO ERIC) signed an important new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Victoria, BC. The MoU further strengthens collaboration between Canada and the EU's leading ocean observing research infrastructures. Under the accord, ONC and EMSO will intensify joint efforts to deliver high-quality, continuous data for scientific research to address global ocean challenges such as climate change mitigation, tsunami and geo-hazards prevention, and environmental protection.

The MoU formalises the already close collaborative relationship between ONC and EMSO ERIC at both the strategic and working level, focusing on the further development of common data access methodologies, sharing of knowledge and best practices, personnel exchanges and joint training to foster ocean research excellence, with a special focus on cooperation in marine polar regions.



**From left to right: Kim Juniper, ONC Chief Scientist; Scott McLean, Director, ONC Innovation Centre; Juanjo Dañobeitia, EMSO ERIC Director General; John Picard, EMSO ERIC Head of International Strategy and Innovation.**

**Kate Moran, President/CEO of ONC:**

“Ocean Networks Canada is delighted to be partnering with EMSO ERIC, which is the leading ocean observing infrastructure in Europe. The ocean is global and partnerships like this are essential for understanding 70 per cent of the planet, especially as we undergo ongoing climate change.”

**Juan Jose Dañobeitia, Director General of EMSO ERIC:**

“This is the first international accord signed by EMSO ERIC since I started operating as Director General of EMSO in October 2017. Ocean Networks Canada is the leading deep sea research infrastructure in the world and has a head start over EMSO of more than one decade of activity and experience so for sure we will learn a lot as we see them as both a natural partner and a beacon for us as we implement EMSO to become the world-class reference point for fixed ocean observation in Europe.”

**ABOUT OCEAN NETWORKS CANADA (ONC)**

The University of Victoria’s *Ocean Networks Canada* (ONC) monitors the west and east coasts of Canada and the Arctic to continuously deliver data in real-time for scientific research that helps communities, governments and industry make informed decisions about our future. Using cabled observatories, remote control systems and interactive sensors, and big data management ONC enables evidence-based decision-making on ocean management, disaster mitigation, and environmental protection.

**ABOUT EMSO ERIC**

The *European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water-column Observatory (EMSO)* is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) which provides energy, communications, smart sensors, and data infrastructure for continuous, high-resolution, (near-)real-time, ocean observations across a multidisciplinary range of research including biogeochemical, physics, engineering, and computer science, from polar to subtropical environments, through the water column down to the abyss and sub-seafloor. EMSO, a large-scale environmental European Research Infrastructure (RI) on the ESFRI Roadmap, has eight deep-sea and three shallow Regional Facilities spanning from the North Atlantic through Mediterranean, to the Black Sea. EMSO represents a fundamental contribution to understanding the key environmental processes in the medium-to-large changes with the long-term vision of creating the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and will play a key role providing *on site* observations for the COPERNICUS earth observation program.

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