

R/V MAURICE EWING  
Midlife Workshop

On 22,23 October 2002 a R/V MAURICE EWING Midlife Workshop was conducted. The report of this workshop are now available on the web at –

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/Ewing/Home.html>

The Overall Summaries and Conclusions as contained in this report are as follows:

**Key Statements:**

- \* Only a replacement vessel can provide all the desired capabilities for improved 2-D MCS, an effective 3-D MCS capability, and substantially improved general-purpose capabilities.
- \* Quality of these seismic operations would be substantially improved through increased repeatability of the airgun source.
- \* In the refit of *Ewing* use of a linear airgun array forces a serious compromise of OBS and general-purpose capabilities (but needs more investigation of alternative deck arrangements).
- \* In the refit of *Ewing*, without a linear airgun array, there are excellent options for new deck and lab layout.

**Recommendations:**

- Investigate thoroughly the replacement vessel option because it is the *only* way to get long streamer 3-D, a linear airgun array, and improved general-purpose capabilities.

If *Ewing* refit is the choice, then:

- Optimize 2-D seismics; 12 km streamer, improve source.
- Acquire a high-resolution multi-streamer capability.
- Investigate the handling capability for larger paravanes and reels for 3 x 4 km streamer capability.
- Study mechanisms to improve source repeatability (Would a port side upper deck linear array be workable?).
- Improve over-the-side capabilities and lab layout.
- Dynamic positioning: Highest priority for DP is “Option 4” (\$1.05M) with control stand, retractable azimuthing, bow thruster and a stern tunnel thruster. Next highest priority is “Option 4” less the stern thruster (\$800k).
- Acoustics: Highest priority is Kongsberg Simrad EM-300. Workshop attendees preferred EM-300 plus EM-120 plus parametric sonar.
- To address increased personnel requirements relating to QA, 3-D MCS, and marine mammal observers further consideration must be given to providing additional berths/rooms.

Sincerely,

G. Michael Purdy  
Interim Associate Director  
Office of Marine Affairs

Enclosures: