

UNOLS COUNCIL MEETING
University of Southern Mississippi
Long Beach, Mississippi
2,3 June 2003

R/V MAURICE EWING
Midlife Plans

1- On 22 April representatives from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory visited the National Science Foundation and presented three options for upgrade of the EWING and the academic seismic capability. These options included:

- Maximize the EWING's general purpose capability and enhance general MCS
- Outfit the EWING with linear gun arrays
- Acquire replacement vessel suitable for 3D MCS and convert for general purpose capability.

Based on the information presented, Lamont has been encouraged to further evaluate capabilities, costs, and availability of a suitable replacement vessel.

2- Lamont is in the process of evaluating proposals from naval architects to review proposed modifications to a 3D seismic vessel. The intent is to complete a conceptual design study of the acquisition and modification. Among the issues to be addressed are:

- GAP analysis to address re-flagging issues.
- Structural review of proposed modification
- Trim & Stability review and assessment of vessel's science load carrying capacity
- Crewing requirements
- Estimate of deferred maintenance costs
- Dynamic Positioning
- Study of hydro acoustic noise and bubble sweep down
- Swath and sonar installations
- Draft of ship modification specifications to be submitted to shipyards for obtaining budgetary estimate.
- Science equipment and integration issues.

3- In early July a visit to a 3D seismic vessel currently available in Norway is scheduled. The visit will involve a meeting with the ship owners along with a day on board the vessel itself. Dave Hebert of FIC will be visiting the 3D Seismic Vessel under consideration as a possible replacement vessel.

4- Briefing of the UNOLS Council and/or FIC at the September meeting.