

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP)



**Japan's *Chikyu*
December, 2002**



Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Basic Infrastructure: a network providing two-way, high bandwidth communications and electrical power

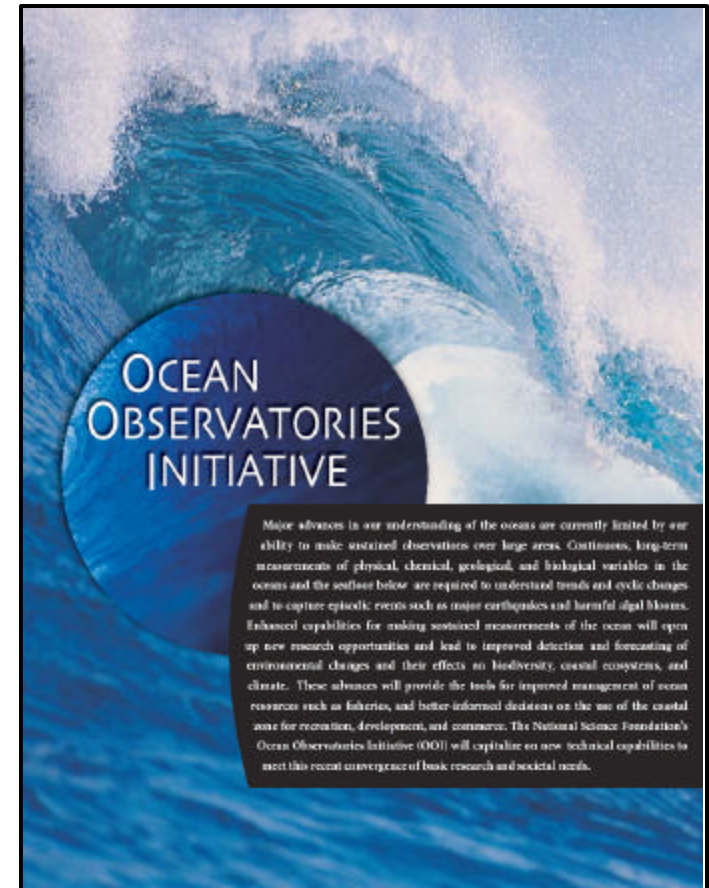
Three primary components:

Regional-scale seafloor fiber optic cable system

Moored buoy systems

Coastal observatories

Data Handling and Dissemination System



Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV)



"The Board approved a resolution for including a funding request for the ARRV as part of the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account in a FY2005 or future budget request by the National Science Foundation."



Regional Class Ships

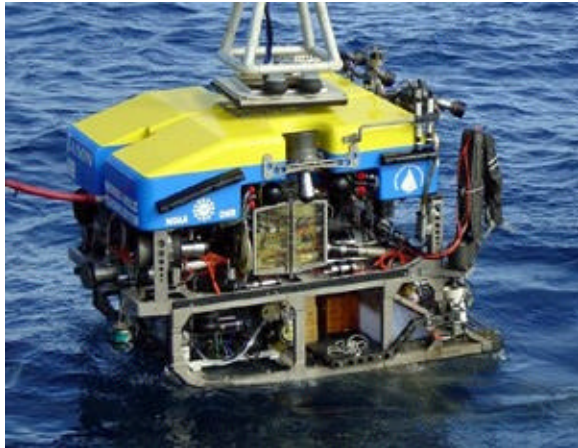
- **OCE is discussing design and acquisition strategies for 3-4 ships based on SMRs and JJMA report.**
- **One possibility under discussion is the Integrated Product Team approach. Could be implemented with:**
 - MOU between NSF and another federal entity with shipbuilding expertise; form government team (incl. UNOLS rep.); issue RFP for Phase I design/build; select two competitors; evaluate competing designs and then downselect to one and execute a firm fixed price contract for Phase II; add lead ship operator to IPT; complete detail design and then build. Following lead ship construction, execute option for more ships; add second ship operator to team for second ship build, and so on.
 - NSF conducts separate competition for 3-4 operators with selection in time to join Phase II process.



Ewing Midlife Refit

- Ewing midlife refit community workshop in Oct. 2002: *“Only a replacement vessel can provide all the desired capabilities for improved 2-D MCS, an effective 3-D MCS and substantially improved general-purpose capabilities.”*
- OCE is discussing replacement vessel options with Lamont as an alternative to a Ewing refit.
- For replacement vessel option, total cost, cost in relation to refit and financing plan are key considerations.





ALVIN Replacement



- NRC committee report expected in October.
- OCE will carefully consider the report recommendations and discuss internally before making a recommendation.
- OCE has not determined the process for replacing ALVIN, should that option be chosen. Process will likely require NSF and NSB approval.
- Funds are available beginning in FY04, if NSF decides to support ALVIN replacement.



