



CORING NORTH SEA CENOZOIC WORKSHOP

Utrecht, Netherlands, 18-21 March 2015

We invite applications to a Workshop of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP) in order to develop a full proposal to core Cenozoic sediments of the North Sea Basin (NSB).

A continuously cored section from the NSB can unlock the full potential of this area for reconstructing Cenozoic climate and biotic changes. It targets sediments derived from the surrounding landmasses, deposited by fluvial systems that drained the Baltic (Eridanos) region, and the Rhenish Massif and the Alps (Rhine-Meuse system). The primary research aims are the long-term interaction between sediment accumulation and climate change, and the impact of geographic isolation on ecosystem divergence in a temperate climate region.

To address these research questions, the Coring North Sea Cenozoic (CONOSC) project aims to drill two sites that collectively span the majority of the Cenozoic in a marginal marine geological setting of the onshore part of the southern NSB. One drill site is situated in the Roer Valley Graben the SE extension of the NSB into the Lower Rhine Embayment, and is focussed on the Neogene and Quaternary record. The second drill site is situated in the northern Netherlands and will retrieve Paleogene sequences. Operational conditions and accessibility to these sites are excellent, and there is ample opportunity for integrating fundamental and applied geoscientific goals. Both sites will be wireline logged, dated palaeomagnetically and a range of biological, physical and geochemical proxies will be employed to calibrate stratigraphy, produce records of terrestrial and regional palaeoclimate, and regional vegetation. Core scans (imaging, XRF, near-infrared) and measurements of sedimentological properties (lithofacies, grain size, mineralogy) intends to deduce depositional regimes, sediment provenance, and changes in climate conditions.

Members of the international scientific community who are interested in contributing to the workshop and the project are invited to submit an application with contact details, a short CV, a brief summary of their relevant expertise, and intended contribution to the scientific content (max 2 A4-pages). The application should be sent to the secretary of the workshop (wouda.visser@tno.nl) before 15 November 2014. Scientists will be invited on the basis of their relevance to the aims of the project and the need for a balanced representation of expertise and disciplines. Full or partial travel support will be available. Preference will be given to scientists from ICDP member countries. More information will be posted on <http://conosc.geo.uu.nl>.

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