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Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project teams up with Fugro to kick start crowd sourced data contributions



David Millar, Fugro Government Accounts Director, Americas, speaking on the importance of sharing data to create a culture of international cooperation

The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project is teaming up with Fugro, one of the world's leading private sector off-shore survey companies, to help map the entire ocean floor by 2030.

One of the main ways in which Fugro is participating in the project is through the contribution of high resolution crowdsourced bathymetry datasets collected while its survey vessels transit between projects. Thanks to innovations in its technology platform, these ships are able to collect data without dedicated staff on board.

Fugro has contributed around 65,000km² of data to date and has just doubled the number of vessels working on the project to four. It plans to eventually roll out the approach to its entire deepwater global survey fleet.

“We are proud to continue our support of the Seabed 2030 programme and to lead industry participation in this way,” announced David Millar, Fugro’s government accounts director in

the Americas. “As an appreciable portion of our work is ocean related, Seabed 2030 provides a perfect opportunity for us to contribute to global society and practice good ocean stewardship,” he said.

Welcoming Fugro’s support, Seabed 2030 Project Director, Satinder Bindra noted: “Fugro has displayed exemplary corporate leadership by sharing transit data from two of its survey vessels. In the coming months we look forward to receiving more transit data from all its survey vessels, which we believe will serve as a shining example to others in the industry.”

Fugro has announced it is also working with its clients to investigate how proprietary data might be shared with the scientific community for the benefit of human kind. It is recognized that some datasets contain sensitive information. In such cases, the integrity of client-owned data can be protected by reducing the resolution of the datasets and/or delaying their release until sensitives are removed.

Companies that share data with Seabed 2030 will be issued a special commendation, be invited to our key forums and will become key stakeholders in the project, said Project Director Bindra. “Their contribution will ensure we can collectively support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal # 14 ‘to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.’”



Fugro collects multibeam echosounder data from specialist equipment housed in a gondola platform mounted beneath the hull of survey vessel Fugro Equator. Photo courtesy of Fugro.

For more detailed information on the Seabed 2030 Project, please visit our website, www.seabed2030.gebco.net – our Facebook page, or contact Satinder Bindra on satinder.bindra@seabed2030.org.

The Nippon Foundation, a private, non-profit foundation, was established in 1962 for the purpose of carrying out philanthropic activities, using revenue from motorboat racing. The

Foundation's overall objectives include social innovation, assistance for humanitarian activities and global ocean management. Its philanthropic ideals embrace social development and self-sufficiency, and it pursues these principles by working to improve public health and education, alleviate poverty, eliminate hunger and help the disabled.

The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) partners The Nippon Foundation in the Seabed 2030 Project. GEBCO is a joint project of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO – the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is the only organisation with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor. It has its origins in the GEBCO chart series initiated in 1903 by Prince Albert I of Monaco, and aims to provide the most authoritative, publicly-available bathymetric datasets for the world's oceans.