

# NODC-i - The national infrastructure for opening up of oceanographic and marine data and information

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“To build a national, distributed infrastructure for marine and oceanographic data, providing the users free and open access to the data holdings of the partner institutes” was the goal for the very successful NODC-i project, ending on December 31. The project started in early 2005 as an initiative by the Netherlands National Oceanographic Data Committee (NL-NODC). Funding was provided by the NODC partner institutes and the Space for Geo-Information (RGI) Innovation Programme.

The Data Management Group at NIOZ proved to be at the technological forefront once again, by being the very first partner within Europe to provide access to the NIOZ data holdings in the newly developed NODC-i/EU-SeaDataNet infrastructure.

The NODC is the national platform for exchange of oceanographic and marine data and information. It consists of eight partner institutes, listed on the web site at [www.nodc.nl](http://www.nodc.nl). Right from its start, the NODC has been working towards fulfilling the goal of lowering organisational and technical thresholds for data exchange. With the signing of a Covenant and the National Oceanographic Data policy following from that, organisational barriers were quickly dealt with. However, technological barriers proved to be a far greater challenge, with each of the institutes operating different data base systems with different underlying data models.

These technological barriers were addressed within the NODC-i project. Co-funding from the Space for Geo-Information (RGI) Innovation Programme, in conjunction with technical developments within the European SeaSearch and SeaDataNet projects, offered the opportunity for this project. It started in 2005 with the first phase and the second phase ended on December 31. The goal of the NODC-i project was to implement a national infrastructure for access to oceanographic and marine data and information, that is interoperable with international networks and developments. Using techniques developed within the EU-SeaDataNet project (and also contributing actively to the develop-

ment of these techniques, as partner within SeaDataNet), the NODC-i partners successfully managed to build an infrastructure, which allows users for the first time in history to access the combined data holdings of the NODC-i partners in a harmonized and uniform way.

The Data Management Group (DMG) has been very actively involved in the NODC-i project, both at an organisational level as well as at a technical level. NIOZ was the very first partner within Europe (!) to fully comply with all technical requirements and to bring its data holdings online within the NODC-i/SeaDataNet infrastructure.



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