

APPLICATION FOR USE OF NATIONAL OBS FACILITY

Applicants should make initial contact with the Scientific Coordinator before submitting an application to secure details of likely transport costs, mobilisation fees and the insurance arrangements needed for the equipment

Notes for applicants:

ANSIR Ref: Reference number provided by ANSIR Access Committee

1. Project Title

Provide a concise, descriptive title for the project which is informative for workers outside your field.

2. Principal Investigator and contact details

Give the title, first name and surname of the Principal Investigator, institutional affiliation and contact details.

3. Co-investigators

Give the names and institutions of any co-investigators.

4. Summary of Scientific Objectives

Provide a brief statement (in dot point form) of the major objectives which you hope to achieve through your project.

5. Summary of Equipment Request

Provide a concise specification of the equipment requested from ANSIR

6. Proposed Timing

Indicate the most suitable dates for the project and the reason for choosing them.

7. Name and Class of Vessel to be used for deployment and retrieval

Provide a brief overview of the ship specifications, including tonnage, dimensions, power supply, winch availability, storage space, primary function - e.g. fishing, scientific etc. - and country of registration).

Has the vessel been used previously for OBS deployments?

8. Has ship time been approved or is it pending?

Gives details of source of ship time, and provide alternative deployment plan if approval is pending.

9. Have you had any preliminary contact with the ANSIR OBS coordinator regarding your project?

Applicants are expected to have discussed their projects with the Scientific Coordinator before submission. If not they may be returned until such contact has been made.

10. Class of Application

Funding will need to be secured for the project before ANSIR equipment can be released. The Access Committee will consider proposals for which funding is already available and also preliminary applications which have yet to secure funding. The class of application must be indicated here (see also 11.)

11. Does funding cover the cost of shipping, insurance, ballast and mobilisation?

Shipping includes door-to-door pick-up and return to Geoscience Australia in Canberra. Contact the ANSIR OBS coordinator for current mobilisation costs, ballast costs and OBS replacement costs.

In some circumstances it may be possible to split costs with the previous and/or next user if there is no down-time between consecutive experiments.

12. Ballast Tube arrangements

By default, the ballast tubes will be supplied at cost. However, they need to be filled with marine grade concrete (rebar optional).

Please indicate whether you have the facilities to do this locally. If not, ANSIR can provide this service at a cost (contact ANSIR OBS coordinator); also please factor in additional shipping costs if this option is needed.

13. Provide details of proposed on-board technical support.

OBS deployments should be undertaken by technicians/scientists with prior experience, and their level of experience should be indicated.

All technical support needs to be approved by ANSIR.

Suitably trained technicians can be hired through ANSIR (contact ANSIR OBS coordinator for further details).

14. Provide details of on-board scientific support

This should include relevant details of the Scientist in charge of the deployment

We recommend that scientists with prior experience in OBS deployments be present. Note that factors such as wind speed, wave height, near surface currents and sea floor topography are crucial factors to consider when deploying OBS units.

15. Approval by relevant Authorities:

Please specify the approvals obtained for the experiment – approval may be need to undertake an OBS Experiment and to discard the ballast on the ocean floor?

Experiments cannot be conducted unless the appropriate approvals are in place.

16. Scientific Background

Provide a single page description of the scientific background for the project so that the context can be understood by the Access Committee.

17. Justification for Experiment

Provide a single page justification for the project, including an expansion of the scientific objectives outlined in 4.

18. Equipment Request and Proposed Experimental Design

Provide a single page description of the experimental design and a justification of the equipment request including the time period for the project.

A clear map (no larger than A4) of the proposed experimental configuration and its relation to the scientific target should accompany this section - separate page provided.

The map should include the proposed vessel route, and approximate water depths at deployment locations.

19. Minimum Equipment Configuration

Indicate the minimum equipment configuration that would be required for a successful project, i.e.. below what number of OBSs will the scientific return no longer justify the effort of deployment?

20. Alternative Project Dates & Timing Constraints

It may not be possible to schedule your project for the dates specified in section 6 and hence ANSIR may need to offer you some other time period. Please indicate alternative possible timings. Given the sometimes unpredictable nature of ship time and OBS deployments, increased flexibility with regards to timing will maximise our ability to furnish you with the instruments you require

If there are particular periods when it is not possible for a project to be carried out, indicate those dates and the reasons.

21. Nature and Source of Funding

Indicate the level of funding available to carry out the project and the source of funds. Sufficient funds will be expected to undertake both the field component and subsequent interpretation.

For a preliminary application, where funding is being sought from e.g. the Australian Research Council, indicate the level requested and the nature of the request.

ANSIR will need to be satisfied that adequate funding is available before Facility Equipment is firmly scheduled.

22. Signature of Principal Investigator

23. Confirmation of Institutional Support

It is essential that an appropriate Officer of your institution formally indicates support for the project and accepts responsibility for all charges, insurance and project costs, should your application be successful.

Completed applications should be sent to the Chair of the ANSIR Access Committee