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## About the Marine National Facility

Funded by the Australian Government since 1984 and overseen by an independent Steering Committee, the Marine National Facility (MNF) provides a keystone element of the nation's research infrastructure by providing a blue-water research capability to Australian marine researchers and their international collaborators for work in Australia's vast marine estate. Through merit based grants of sea time, research undertaken through the MNF contributes to Australia's national benefit by providing key information to government, industry and other stakeholders to support evidence-based decision-making. Research use is focused on challenges in environmental and fisheries management, geological resources, regional and global climate, coastal and offshore developments and marine operations. Complementing this research, User Funded Voyage applications are assessed and awarded sea time at a financial rate commensurate to the national benefit offered by the proposal.

## Our Mission

To provide world-leading capability to Australian blue-water marine scientists and their international collaborators for excellent research of national importance.

## 2012–14 Research Schedule

An overview of the MNF schedules for 2012–14, Voyage Plans, Voyage Summaries and Scientific Highlight reports for each voyage can be found on the [MNF Website](#).



Setting up the CTD on *Southern Surveyor*

MNF Voyages	OPERATIONAL DAYS	OPERATIONAL DAYS
	2012–13	2013–14
<i>Southern Surveyor</i> (SS) research voyages (GV)	146	47
<i>Southern Surveyor</i> transit voyages (GV)	44	21
<i>Southern Surveyor</i> research charters (UFV)	21	0
<i>Southern Surveyor</i> Research voyages mob/demob	13	5
<i>Southern Surveyor</i> Days in-port/dry dock	141	36
Gap in voyage schedule due to transition from SS to <i>Investigator</i>	0	256
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>365</b>

## Health, Safety and the Environment

*Southern Surveyor* operates in a challenging marine environment and to do this safely requires a Zero Harm mindset and commitment to risk management that aims to mitigate adverse results to the health and safety of personnel or the environment.

In accordance with the contract with CSIRO to provide ship management services for the *Southern Surveyor*, P&O is obliged to implement a Safety Management System (SMS) that meets the requirements as outlined by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) and the International Safety Management Code (ISM Code). P&O is required to report on HSE incidents to CSIRO quarterly. A combined summary of recorded incidents for 2012–13 and 2013–14 is provided in the table below.

### 2012-14 Incident Snapshot

Metric	2012	2013
LTI	0	0
MTC	1	0
FAC	6	11
OTH	0	0
Ship Incidents	10	12
Illness	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>

## MNF Financial Performance

Total funding for the MNF in 2012-14 was \$42.6 m.

	2012-13	2013-14
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Revenue</b>		
External Funding	153	216
Internal Funding	15,563	26,650
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>15,716</b>	<b>26,866</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries (including Pan-Deployments)	4,177	3,676
Travel	275	277
Other Operating	10,198	7,714
Enterprise costs	3,625	4,827
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>18,275</b>	<b>16,494</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>-2,559</b>	<b>10,372</b>
<b>Capital</b>		
Capital Purchases (excluding FRV)	198	466

## Future Research Vessel Project (FRV)

In May 2009, the Australian Government allocated \$120 million for a new ocean-going research vessel to replace the Southern Surveyor.

The new vessel is being designed, built and commissioned by CSIRO through the Future Research Vessel Project, an initiative of the Australian Government under the Super Science Initiative and financed from the Education Investment Fund.



*Investigator* under construction.

Following a rigorous procurement process undertaken by CSIRO, Teekay Holdings Australia Pty Ltd was awarded the contract in January 2011 to design, build and commission the new vessel. The vessel was designed by RALion (Robert Allan Ltd and Alion Science and Technology) from USA and Canada and is being built by Sembawang Shipyard Pte Ltd in Singapore. As a condition of their approved Australian Industry Participation Plan, Teekay is ensuring Australian suppliers and expertise are used where possible.

A national competition was run to find a name for the new research vessel, and *Investigator* was chosen as it linked the ship to Australia's maritime history — Matthew Flinders first circumnavigated the continent in His Majesty's sloop, *Investigator* (1801-03).

The MNF expects delivery to occur early in the first quarter of 2014-15.



From Left: CSIRO, Mr Dave Terhell & Mr Ben Rae receive new science equipment for the FRV Project.

## Sale of RV *Southern Surveyor*

Following an open RFT, RV *Southern Surveyor* was sold to Excel International in December 2013 for \$271,700. The vessel is currently being chartered for survey work around East Africa, and is based in Port Victoria, Seychelles.

*Southern Surveyor* has been a key element of the Australia's national research infrastructure since 1984, but moving forward, *Investigator* will now provide Australia's marine science community with a step-change in the way blue water research is conducted into the future.



*Southern Surveyor* departing Hobart

## ASP Contract Award

CSIRO released a request for tender (RFT) for vessel management services in January 2013. At the conclusion of the tender process, and after approval by the CSIRO Board, CSIRO executed a contract with ASP Ship Management Pty Ltd (ASP) for vessel management services. Under this contract ASP is responsible for the safe operation of the vessel including provision of the ship's crew.



From Left: ASP Group Chief Operating Officer, Robert Bird; ASP Group Managing Director and CEO, David Borcoski; CSIRO FRV Project Director, Ms Toni Moate; Marine National Facility Ship Manager, Mr Stephen McCullum

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We innovate for tomorrow and help improve today – for our customers, all Australians and the world.

Our innovations contribute billions of dollars to the Australian economy every year. As the largest patent holder in the nation, our vast wealth of intellectual property has led to more than 150 spin-off companies.

With more than 5,000 experts and a burning desire to get things done, we are Australia's catalyst for innovation.

**CSIRO. WE IMAGINE. WE COLLABORATE.  
WE INNOVATE.**