Dear Colleagues:

Over the past decade, the NSF has participated in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, designed to address a wide variety of important scientific objectives as described in the Program's Initial Science Plan (http://www.iodp.org/isp). The primary US contribution to this international program has been the operation of a leased drilling vessel (D/V JOIDES Resolution).

To ensure the nation is receiving the greatest value for its substantial investment, it is the intent of NSF to competitively solicit proposals for the operation and management of the JOIDES Resolution drill ship to support the future International Ocean Discovery Program. Re-competed tasks will include onboard science operations, down-hole measurements, core and data repository management, management of the ship leasing subcontract with Overseas Drilling, Limited (ODL), and integrative logistical, planning and management support.NSF expects a solicitation to be issued before the end of August 2012, with at least a 120 day window for proposal submission. All proposals will be reviewed by an external panel convened by NSF, with suggestions regarding evaluation criteria welcome before August, 2012. Contingent on availability of funds from NSF and its international partners, NSF would seek approval from the National Science Board in December 2013 for a Cooperative Agreement to continue support for operation of the JOIDES Resolution beyond FY 2014.
A tentative timeline is shown below:

Event	**Estimated Date**
Formal Announcement of Re-competition	May 2012
Solicitation Issued	August 2012
Full Proposals Due	Jan 2013
Evaluations and Negotiations	Feb 2013 - Nov 2013
NSB Approval	Dec 2013
Notify Ship owner of contract renewal	April 2014
New Operations Award Starts	September, 2014

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