



## ***Press Release***

**February 1, 2006  
For Immediate Release**



### **Ocean Science Consortia Partner in Observation Initiative**

**Washington, DC** – Today, three major oceanographic organizations CORE, JOI and SURA joined forces to act as partners in collaborating on opportunities to develop, integrate and deploy ocean and coastal observing systems and the Integrated Ocean and Observing System (IOOS) and Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

The signed memorandum of agreement assures the academic research community plays an integral and essential role in partnership with federal agencies and the private sector for the design, development, implementation and evolution of earth observing infrastructure. The organizations believe that it is in the best interest of their collective membership and respective organizations that the academic research community work together as a unified voice in pursuit of opportunities rather than separately.

The groups' first opportunity to work as partners is with the NOAA Request for Quotation (RFQ) dated January 4, 2006, which entails "a conceptual design of IOOS, an estimate of the cost to produce the system based on that conceptual design, and a narrative explanation of the viability of the design." The parties will develop partnering agreements with private sector organizations pursuing those opportunities where commercial partners are explicitly or implicitly required in response to a funding opportunity. CORE, JOI and SURA commit to draw broadly from their combined memberships to provide "best-in-class" domain experts to IOOS and GOOS planning exercises.

For further information contact one of the participating organizations: Tomeka Rawlings, CORE, [trawlings@coreocean.org](mailto:trawlings@coreocean.org); Jon Corsiglia, JOI, [jcorsiglia@joiscience.org](mailto:jcorsiglia@joiscience.org); Greg Kubiak, SURA, [kubiak@sura.org](mailto:kubiak@sura.org).

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*CORE is the Washington, DC-based non-profit association representing leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry. Since 1994, CORE has established a leadership role on oceanographic issues and the development of marine science policy. CORE is respected as the voice of the ocean community and is dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the oceans among government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public. For more information, visit [www.coreocean.org](http://www.coreocean.org).*

*JOI is a consortium of 20 premier oceanographic research institutions that serves the U.S. scientific community by leading large-scale, global research programs in scientific ocean drilling and ocean observing. For more than 25 years, JOI has helped facilitate discovery and advance global understanding of the Earth and its oceans through excellence in program management. For more information, visit [www.joiscience.org](http://www.joiscience.org).*

*SURA is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit [www.sura.org](http://www.sura.org).*