

Press Release

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For Immediate Release
www.sura.org

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International Consortium Recognizes SURA Ocean Partnership

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association was recognized by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC) this month as a developing partner of the OOSTethys.org website – advancing the vision of a distributed “system of systems” for ocean observing. Recognized as the “Website of the Month,” it provides a community-developed set of standards-based software tools for data exchange that can enhance and expand ocean research.

“SURA’s role in the OOSTethys initiative is ultimately to weave together disparate systems that monitor processes and events in our oceans and coastal areas,” said Philip Bogden, the director of the SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) program. “This recognition by OGC is a great way to highlight the progress we’re making to leverage the intellectual firepower of our partner institutions.”

OOSTethys.org combines two initiatives: the OpenIOOS Interoperability Test Bed (www.openioos.org), developed by SURA partners, and the Tethys demo of the Marine Metadata Interoperability (MMI) project; SURA is a collaborative partner on the NSF-funded MMI (www.marinemetada.org). Specifically noted by OGC are four “cookbooks”, or guidance documents, which help data providers to get started with the data-exchange capabilities.

OGC is an international industry consortium of 351 companies, government agencies and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface specifications that “geo-enable” the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT. The SCOOP program supports the vision of enabling a distributed laboratory for research and applications with broad participation from research institutions working together in partnership with federal agencies and the private sector.

The “Website of the Month” article is at: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/pressroom/newsletters>

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (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.