



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Ocean Science Program Wins Metadata Award Grant

Washington, DC – The National Science Foundation recently announced an award to SURA and four other marine science partners for the Marine Metadata Interoperability project. With nearly a quarter-million dollars coming to SURA, the grant will continue to promote interoperation among educational, public, underprivileged and research users of marine science data.

“In the big picture goal of weaving together disparate systems that monitor scientific data in our oceans and coastal areas, this grant will help us advance the infrastructure needs of making those systems interoperable,” said Philip Bogden, director of the SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) program. “This grant will help SCOOP demonstrate how well our virtual laboratory can work.” SURA is one of five principal institutions, along with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Texas A&M University, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the University of California, San Diego.

The MMI project will build on recent advances in computer sciences, geosciences and in the biomedical field and provide guidance on metadata development and application within the ocean science community. It has engaged several institutions in an interoperability demonstration to find and access data based on mapped vocabularies and web services – in full support of data-interoperability needs of the SCOOP program.

The SCOOP program – under development with funds from the Office of Naval Research and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) since 2002 – is developing a cyberinfrastructure for ocean prediction designed to promote the effective and rapid fusion of observed ocean data and to facilitate dissemination to operational, scientific, public and private users. SURA will work closely with the Texas A&M Research Foundation and the University of Alabama at Huntsville to achieve the goals of the MMI project over a three-year period.

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