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Dear Expedition 389 Science Party Applicant,

Postponement of IODP Expedition 389: Hawaiian Drowned Reefs

The European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) has regrettably announced the postponement of IODP Expedition 389: Hawaiian Drowned Reefs (X389), originally scheduled for September-October 2019 (see ECORD Headline #14, soon to be published at <http://www.ecord.org/outreach/headlines/>).

Based on the 2019-2023 MSP operational plan that has been approved by the ECORD Council at its last two meetings (see www.ecord.org), the ECORD Science Operator (ESO) has continued to plan X389, including the issuing of the drilling contract notice, evaluation of bids and holding contractual discussions with the preferred bidder.

In December 2018, the preferred bidder pulled out of negotiations citing business reasons. An alternative, not wholly compliant bidder was immediately engaged.

Discussions with the alternative bidder led to the conclusion that, at this time, X389 would carry significant technical risk. These risks were presented to ECORD Council and to the ECORD Facility Board (EFB) in February 2019, to inform a 'go/no-go' decision.

The ECORD Council has decided to postpone X389.

The EFB will discuss the rescheduling of X389 at its upcoming meeting that will be held in Bremen, Germany on 21-22 March, 2019. It is anticipated that rescheduling will not be before Fall 2020, and quite possibly later.

Preparation of permitting paperwork has continued, and is now ready for submission. This is currently on hold, but the work invested will be applicable in the event of rescheduling.

I wish to thank you for your interest in participating in this expedition, and for taking the time to prepare your application. Further announcements will be made via IODP-related channels in due course, and it is envisaged that a new Call for Scientists will be issued in the event that X389 is rescheduled.

David McInroy
Science Manager
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