

26 November 2013

Dr. Kerstin Lehnert
President, IGSN e.V.
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
Columbia University
Palisades, NY, 10964

Dear Dr. Lehnert,

I wish to apply to the Executive Board of IGSN on behalf of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, for membership to the IGSN. I address the application requirement bullets below.

- **purpose and non-profit status of the organization (for full membership);**

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is dedicated to research and education to advance understanding of the ocean and its interaction with the Earth system, and to communicating this understanding for the benefit of society.

WHOI is a private non-profit organization.

- **reason for applying to become an IGSN Allocating Agent;**

WHOI needs to transition many of its sample repositories to a modern data/metadata handling system. While some of us are already using the IGSN/SESAR systems, in particular the Global Rivers Observatory, recent discussions w.r.t. the rock repository emphasize the need to transition other archives onto that system. Becoming an IGSN Allocating Agent would give us the authority to operate our own registration system, assigning name spaces and IGSNs and develop our own software, if we decide to go this route. However, we don't have to operate such services and could continue to use existing systems (SESAR).

- **targeted audience of the Allocating Agent;**

Many WHOI scientists and sample archivists would benefit from participating in this system. Users would include the scientists who are collecting samples and adding them to existing archives, archivists who want to add legacy samples to a modern sample registry, and anyone who needs data and relevant metadata on samples stored in WHOI archives.

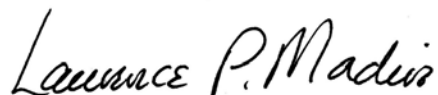
- **use of allocated IGSNs (object types);**

We are already using IGSNs for freshwater samples collected as part of the Global Rivers Observatory. These samples are currently stored at WHOI and the nearby Woods Hole Research Center. Recent discussions regarding a new data management system for the WHOI rock repository converged on the plan to use IGSNs for samples collected not only as part of many dredging cruises, but also to rocks collected by individual researchers and stored in the WHOI rock repository.

- **technical and organizational infrastructure to set up the Allocating Agent.**

While we certainly have the in-house expertise to develop software to build and operate our own services (e.g. BCO-DMO), it may - at least initially - be more appropriate to use existing services such as SESAR to register samples in our archives. Registering the sizable number of legacy samples in our archives will require some technical assistance and Institutional support. However, recent discussions by members of the Geology & Geophysics and the Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry departments indicate that this infrastructure support will be a wise investment into existing WHOI archives.

Sincerely,



Laurence P. Madin
Exec Vice President & Director of Research

LPM/emb