



AIR CENTRE
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

LETTER OF INTENT
FOR A COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK AND
TRANS-REGIONAL ACCESS TO ATLANTIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Delivering the
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE
(AIR CENTRE)

Las Palmas, Canary Islands,
25-27 November 2018

Bearing in mind the conclusions and the commitments of the first two High-level meetings on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Terceira (Açores, Portugal) and in Florianopolis (Santa Catarina, Brazil) in 2017, regarding the establishment of the AIR Centre - Atlantic International Research Centre as an internationally distributed scientific organization across Atlantic countries, in association with scientific and research organizations worldwide, to be established in a stepwise process,

Reaffirming the need to promote an innovative scientific agenda with a multidisciplinary approach that can surpass the existing R&D gaps and link the areas of Oceans, Space and Climate, in a South-North and North -South cooperation, including a Basic Scientific Program, as identified in the third High Level meeting on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Praia (Santiago, Cabo Verde), in May 2018,



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The signatories, during the “Forth High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions” held in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 25-27 November 2018, making use of the terms and common understanding described below,

Hereby:

- Stress that the observation of the ocean and atmosphere from *in situ* infrastructures and from space, aligned with collaborative science and development, is essential to improve the knowledge and understanding of phenomena involved in the global challenges;
- Acknowledge the value of the existing Research and Observation Infrastructures (ROI) related to the ocean, atmosphere and space located in the Atlantic region and its outermost territories, with differential regional, national and/or international scopes;
- Recognize the growing interest in the articulation of research and observation activities in the Atlantic region to maximize the existing resources and the knowledge transfer, while also addressing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development (UN 2030 Agenda);
- Give note of the growing interest in the access and use optimization of North and South Atlantic trans-regional ROI, and in the share of knowledge in an increasingly international and interconnected research and observation ecosystem;
- Recognize the need and opportunities associated with the development of a coordinated collaborative framework, designed to align and integrate Atlantic ROI
- Express their support to the AIR CENTRE and endeavour to provide the appropriate information to enable AIR CENTRE to present a collaborative framework of study for trans-regional access and researcher mobility in Atlantic ROIs, in a South-North and



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North-South cooperation, and jointly serve science and society expectations within the scope:

- Facilitate the access to research and observation facilities in a common strategic framework – including physical facilities, instrumentation, data, computing and storage capacity – to a diverse group of users and stakeholders in the Atlantic region;
- Explore and use the potential of a common strategic framework;
- Build and promote local and regional capacity and scientific literacy, while limiting duplication of efforts and reducing potential competition with existing entities and/or networks;
- Promote mobility programs for knowledge and technology transfer, also enabling the cooperation of Atlantic regions within different scientific and socioeconomic realities;
- Identify and propose facilitating mechanisms to access different maritime zones of the Atlantic and for customs-related issues associated with the import/export of specific scientific equipment, including vessel and drones;
- Identify existing funding programs, and potential evolution towards a financial framework for geographical scope to all the Atlantic region, including adjustment of temporal scope towards responding the long-range initiatives required to face the global challenges;



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Las Palmas, 2018,

The signatories,

European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC-ERIC), Ilaria Nardello, Executive Director

SINTEF, Norway, Arne Freidhem, Research Director

LifeWatch ERIC, Jesús Miguel Santamaría, CEO

European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water Column Observator (EMSO-ERIC), Prof. Juanjo Dañobeitia, Director General