

Glider Science/Steering Team - Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Glider Science/Steering Team (GST) provides scientific leadership to promote ocean sub-surface gliders (herewith referred as gliders) as a tool for sustained ocean observations globally, responding to integrated requirements of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), incorporating GCOS requirements, and reporting to the WMO/IOC JCOMM Observations Coordination Group (OCG). The GST oversees the development and implementation of a global-scale glider array for observing key regions of the ocean on the long term, based on national and regional glider projects.

Terms of reference

- The GST will define the scope, and promote the long-term development, of global-scale glider activities addressing relevant requirements as well as advice from relevant panels and working groups for purposes of research, forecasts, and other uses. Such activities should have a primary objective of obtaining profiles of temperature and salinity, dissolved oxygen, as well as ocean current in key regions of the ocean on a sustained basis, in complement with other observing networks (additional sensors/variables can be added based on readiness and maturity).
- The GST will fully consider unique capabilities of gliders, complementarity with other observing systems, and incorporate recommendations from numerical design studies, e.g. OSSEs, and regional observing development activities/processes (e.g. TPOS-2020, AtlantOS, SOOS).
- The GST shall promote the free and unrestricted exchange of glider data, including in real-time;
- The GST shall promote interoperability, and standardization of best practices and standards in glider operations and data management.
- The GST will advance plans for a global network of glider activities, identifying suitable objectives, targets, and metrics to assess progress and fitness for purpose.
- In conjunction with the Glider Data Management Team (GDMT), the GST shall take responsibility for, and provide advice on, the contents, quality and timeliness of the glider data stream to ensure scientific and operational requirements are met.
- The GST will provide advice and guidance relating to technical innovations and their adoption within the glider community
- The GST will work through the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group to liaise with related global observing systems (e.g. Argo, OceanSITES, GO-SHIP,...) in the framework of the GOOS, its expert panels and development projects.
- The GST will assist national and regional programs to ensure sustained funding for

the operation of the glider array and related activities.

- Explore requirements for international capacity development and develop a capacity building strategy/workplan.
- The GST will report regularly to JCOMM OCG. The GST shall supervise the activities of the Glider Technical Coordinator. The GST, in consultation with the JCOMM OCG, shall establish the Terms of Reference for the Glider Technical Coordinator.

Membership

The GST shall be made up of

- a. scientists and technical experts from national or regional projects contributing to the international Glider Program. Normally this will be the scientific leader of a national or regional project but more members will be allowed in the case of large contributors.
- b. the (co-) chairs of the Glider Data Management Team
- c. the Glider Technical Coordinator (ex officio)
- d. representatives of co-sponsoring bodies of the Glider Program (ex officio)

Meetings of the GST may also include

- experts and representatives of organizations with whom the Glider Program interacts shall be invited to attend as appropriate
- other national representatives whose scientific expertise is of value to a specific meeting

The GST shall be (co-) chaired by GST member(s) selected by the GST.

The GST shall form an Executive Group consisting of

- The GST (co-) chairs
- The GDMT (co-) chairs
- The Glider Technical Coordinator
- Up to five GST members selected in order to provide an appropriate regional distribution and to reflect major contributions to the Glider Program

Membership term

There shall be no fixed term of membership of the GST.

Meeting schedule

The GST will normally meet annually but may substitute a meeting of the Executive Group

for a plenary annual meeting when deemed appropriate. GST Activities and meetings will be self funded through national programmes/institutions. It is the **responsibility of GST members**

- to be the primary point of contact between the GST Chairs and their national or regional project and to ensure appropriate attendance at GST meetings
- to report to the GST the views, problems and successes of their national or regional project
- to ensure that the decisions of the GST are reported in their country and that appropriate actions are taken
- to take all necessary steps to ensure that their national or regional project contributes appropriately to the Glider Program, to the data system and to Glider infrastructure
- to encourage scientific and operational uses of the Glider data stream and publicize achievements