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Dear Members of the Ocean Drilling Community,

Update - IODP Expedition 373: Antarctic Cenozoic Paleoclimate

In November 2016, the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) Science Operator (ESO) regrettably announced the postponement of IODP Expedition 373: Antarctic Cenozoic Paleoclimate, originally scheduled for December 2017 to February 2018.

Shortly after the postponement, ESO explored possibilities to reschedule the expedition for winter 2019-2020, and aimed to issue a new Call for Scientists in late 2017 or early 2018. This is now not the case, as the latest ECORD budget forecasts for 2018 and 2019 suggest that implementing an Arctic (Exp. 377) and Antarctic expedition in consecutive years is not possible.

Consequently, the earliest that Expedition 373 can now take place is winter 2020-2021, and ESO are renewing scoping efforts to assess all available platforms and seabed drilling technologies (academic and commercial systems) for this expedition.

Given the uncertainty of the schedule and coring technologies for Expedition 373, I advise existing and potential new applicants for this expedition to consult the IODP and affiliated websites/announcements for expedition updates, and to wait for notification of a new Call for Scientists.

I hope this letter gives clarity to scientists interested in applying for scheduled expeditions on board the *JOIDES Resolution*, such as Exp. 379: Amundsen Sea West Antarctic Ice Sheet History (Jan-Mar 2019), and Exp. 382: Iceberg Alley Paleoceanography & South Falkland Slope Drift (Mar-May 2019).

David McInroy
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