Proposal for two trainee positions for participation in an exploration cruise of the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) in 2014

According to the "Agreement on exploration for polymetallic nodules" with the International Seabed Authority, the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) announces two places onboard a research vessel for the participation of ISA trainees. These places are available for an exploration cruise to the German license area in the northeast Pacific which is planned for

April/May 2014
(25 working days plus transit; specific details for the cruise to be determined).

The major objectives of this cruise are the recovery and processing of sediment samples from a deep-sea environment for nodule resource evaluation and biodiversity studies. The cruise will also offer an opportunity for training in swath-beam bathymetry and sediment echosounding. Subsequently, the trainees will visit the BGR for a four-week post-cruise training. The cruise participant shall be nominated by his/her Government and confirmed and selected by the International Seabed Authority in consultation with BGR.

Details of the programme components are specified below:

1. The participant shall take part in the research cruise and then visit the BGR in Hannover for a four-week stay to work on the results of the cruise.

2. BGR will adopt the costs of the participants stay in Hannover; the following will be provided:
   - International travel expenses, economy class;
   - Accommodation and daily allowance according to German law for travel expenses.

3. Shipboard training will include:
   - Instructions in vessel navigation techniques and planning of an exploration survey;
   - Sediment and nodule description and processing for the determination of shear strength and metal concentrations;
   - Processing of biological samples for biodiversity studies;
   - Instructions in the use of geophysical mapping techniques (swath bathymetric profiling, sediment echosounding).
4. Post-cruise training at the BGR will consist of:
   - Introduction into laboratory facilities at the BGR;
   - Sample processing for physical sediment properties (dry bulk density);
   - Grain size analytics;
   - Interpretation seafloor images;
   - Compilation of the cruise report and preliminary resource evaluation.

5. General qualification of candidates for both cruises:
   - Candidates must hold a qualified Bachelor degree / Master degree of marine geosciences, geophysics, biology, oceanography or an equivalent education;
   - At least one year practical experience in the candidate’s field of specialization;
   - A sound knowledge of English;
   - Good state of health;
   - Recommended: seagoing experience (seaworthy).