

Proposal for SPP 1144, 3rd phase

Coordination of the Priority Program 1144 „From the mantle to the ocean“

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The aim of the Priority Program 1144 (Schwerpunktprogramm 1144 or “SPP”) is to carry out a multi-disciplinary, multi-segment scale study of the mid-ocean spreading system in the Atlantic. For this work two areas (15°N and 4-11°S) were selected. The program has two particularly highly innovative features:

- The integrated study of pre-defined areas by groups covering the highly disparate fields of petrology, volcanology, geodynamics, geophysics, hydrothermalism, microbiology, macrobiology, oceanography, water chemistry and convection modelling
- The use of state-of-the-art technologies (ROV, AUV etc.) for precise, well-located sampling and observation of the seafloor.

Following a successful four years of research, in this proposal we seek funding for the infrastructure necessary to complete the work in the SPP and to get the most value out of the individual projects. This infrastructure consists of three distinct components: (1) a coordination office to act as an interface between the various research groups, coordinate ship usage, workshops etc. and to link the SPP into the wide InterRidge community; (2) the necessary technical personnel to make best use of the deep-sea technologies available for studying the spreading axes; (3) database management to provide all members of the SPP with all information available from the areas being studied and to provide a lasting record of the results of the SPP.