

VENUS Operating Philosophy

This document presents the basic philosophy upon which the VENUS Data Policy and Users' Guide are built. Mechanisms to implement this philosophy are built into the data management system and will be modified as needed.

The Objectives of the VENUS Facility:

- i) To provide a sustainable operation that meets the needs of the users.
- ii) To maintain a world-class seafloor laboratory of instruments linked by two-way communication to the Internet and users.
- iii) To deliver quality data as soon as possible to the scientific users.
- iv) To maintain a high quality repository of data collected by VENUS.
- v) To facilitate communication and collaboration within the "VENUS Community of Users".

Cultivating the Community

To help achieve its objectives, VENUS seeks to develop a community of users who embrace a culture that includes:

*cooperation, mutual support, sharing information,
teamwork, respect, and good humour.*

Good communication is the single most important vehicle for this development.

Identifying the Needs of the Partners

Scientists are the primary users of VENUS. They have the responsibility to:

- transform the investment into new knowledge, information and understanding.

The Facility must ensure:

- the potential for discovery and subsequent proprietorship of that discovery;
- reliable access to data and information for both the primary users and other interested parties;
- access to context and supporting information;
- an open door to new users and a supportive community.

The University of Victoria has accepted responsibility for operating the VENUS facility including securing operating funds. To that end, the institution's needs include:

- demonstration of 'research excellence';
- demonstration of benefits to British Columbia and to Canada;
- public support;
- some degree of intellectual property ownership.
- Development of highly qualified personnel through student training.

Fostering the Highly Qualified Personnel

Development of a cadre of informed users will ensure the long-term sustainability of VENUS. Formation of highly qualified personnel is deemed a major benefit to Canada. Students, in particular, must have assurance that their work is protected and their progress supported. The community will foster their development by:

- sharing interpretation and qualified data;
- minimizing inappropriate competition;
- encouraging collaboration.

Promoting Collaboration

Data from all instruments will be widely available. The mechanism to foster discovery and reduce competition will be communication within the community. Communal awareness of data analyses in progress will promote collaboration. Users are, therefore, expected to:

- provide easily interpreted real-time summaries to make others aware of breaking events, to precipitate response, and to promote VENUS;
- share the most accurate data possible in a timely fashion;
- discuss all intended use of observations generated by others before proceeding and request permission in the case of publication;
- share their observations when requested and reduce roadblocks to publication.

Creating the Data Legacy

Much of the success of VENUS depends on the quality of the archived data. The legacy belongs to the community; users are obliged to:

- put the best possible data in the archive;
- report quality problems in any datasets as soon as possible;
- deposit interpreted results;
- promote data standards.