

Minutes from group session A Technology challenges

The group session was divided into three parts, an introduction to the COSMOS project, industry presentations, and discussion.

The objectives of the group session was to inform in closer detail about the infrastructure, provide a meeting place between researchers and industry, and to explore possibilities for the subsea industry as technology development partners and suppliers. Deliverables included which companies are interested in the COSMOS project and what expertise and technology can be provided by the companies? In addition to ideas for R&D projects and general feedback on the COSMOS project.

The technology group session was introduced by Anne A. Hageberg (CMR) and Geir Pedersen (CMR), where a more detailed description of the proposed infrastructure was given, as well as discussing possibilities for the subsea industry. It was stressed that good cooperation with the subsea industry is crucial for the success of COSMOS.

Three minutes were set aside for presentations from industry. Five companies presented their relevant technologies and expertise (see the presentation on the NOON webpage).

- Tom Eriksen, Bennex
- Terje Torkelsen, METAS
- Gunnar Berthelsen, Nexans
- Gunnar Sagstad, SAIV
- Trond Gulbrandsøy, AADI
- Derek Reith, Hydro Group

The discussion session started with a discussion on cost. The general consensus was that this is a viable project. There was some debate on cable deployment costs, and Svalbard is more expensive to develop than Vesterålen due to the remote location, weather etc.

AADI has experience with cabled networks from the Lighthouse Ocean Research Initiative, and stressed focus on existing technology for the infrastructure, and to establish a back-bone system as fast as possible after the project is funded.

The industry was interested in how the project will be developed before funding, and the time-frame from project start. The industry also requested access to the specifications of the COSMOS infrastructure. It would be an advantage to follow up this workshop with information sharing and discussion between the COSMOS project and interested industry.

The industry stressed standardization, using standard sub-sea interfaces etc. The Statoil standardization initiative was mentioned.

The group session was closed with a round on motivation for the industry to take part in realizing COSMOS. The industry was mixed as to whether or not technology development for COSMOS was a R&D project or a matter of supplying “off-the shelf” technology and expertise. However each project is unique and engineering is required.

There was a general consensus that cabled observatory networks is a potential marked, although it was some disagreement as to on what time-scale.