Program Summary

The Berth of Opportunity program matches OES members who are students or young professionals with available berths on the R/V Falkor (too), an oceanographic vessel owned and operated by Schmidt Ocean Institute.

Falkor (too) conducts ocean-related biology, chemistry, physics, geology, oceanography and/or marine technology research. Research cruises normally last between 10 and 30 days. Participants in the program will either support the Principal Investigators of the research cruise or conduct their own experiments in addition to supporting the PI's research program.

The purpose of this program is two-fold:

(1) provide members who do not have access to sea trials with an opportunity to experience field research, learn valuable skills, and make life-long connections;

(2) build and strengthen relationships between the IEEE OES community and the scientific community through Schmidt Ocean Institute's network.

Application Process

- Interested candidates are requested to submit an application here: [https://forms.gle/w2rbvv9x4CDTh2xJ9](https://forms.gle/w2rbvv9x4CDTh2xJ9)

- Travel costs associated with participating in a cruise will be paid by the IEEE-OES. These costs include airfare, accommodations, incidental and meal allowance, and ground transportation. On-cruise costs, such as accommodation and meals, are covered by SOI.

- A tentative schedule for future expeditions will be available on the Cruise Website. Applicants should provide 1-3 preferred expeditions that they would like to join;

- Berths can be made available during shorter transits between ports if candidates want to test technology or use the vessels underway systems;

- All submitted applications will be reviewed by the IEEE-OES committee, SOI team, and PIs of the research cruises that the applicant selects;

- Applicants will receive notification of acceptance of their application no later than one month before cruise departure.

- Selection criteria include the applicant's research plan, career goals, academic qualifications, professional qualifications, creative innovation, and the relevance of their research interests with the research cruise.

Expectations

- Participants are expected to follow the SOI operational procedures before and during the cruise, including its COVID policy, as well as safety training onboard the Falkor (too) on the day before the R/V sets sail;

- Participants are expected to maintain good health before and during the cruise. If you experience COVID symptoms or any serious health conditions before the cruise, please contact the SOI and IEEE-OES to review if we need to reschedule;

- If participants conduct their own experiments during the cruise, they are expected to share the data from these experiments as specified in the SOI agreement;

- Participants are expected to obtain a receipt for all costs that they submit to the IEEE-OES for reimbursement after the cruise;

- Before joining the expedition, participants are required to have completed Basic Training in Sea Survival Techniques or Personal Survival Techniques, as outlined in table A-VI/1-4 of the STCW Code.

- Participants are expected to submit a short report of their experience for publication in Earthzine, the IEEE-OES on-line magazine and the IEEE-OES Beacon newsletter;

- Participants are encouraged to present papers based on the research done during the expedition at an upcoming IEEE OCEANS conference.