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14. ABSTRACT The goal of the Marine Physical Laboratory FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform) program is to maintain FLIP fully operational to support Office of Naval Research (ONR) sponsored research programs. Management of FLIP includes providing a trained crew to support all scheduled scientific expeditions and maintaining FLIP and included support systems materially ready for sea. Routine maintenance funded under this proposal includes the repair, overhaul and/or the replacement of existing platform equipment necessary for FLIP to continue to operate safely in support of ONR research. Funding has also covered the cost of a routine dry docking of FLIP in 2013. Dry dockings occur at 3-year intervals.						
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Operation and Maintenance of the Research Platform FLIP
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Award #: N00014-13-1-0361
Period of Award, 01 February 2013 to 30 June 2015

Long-Term Goals

The goal of the Marine Physical Laboratory FLIP (Floating Instrument Platform) program is to maintain FLIP fully operational to support Office of Naval Research (ONR) sponsored research programs. Management of FLIP includes providing a trained crew to support all scheduled scientific expeditions and maintaining FLIP and included support systems materially ready for sea. Routine maintenance funded under this proposal includes the repair, overhaul and/or the replacement of existing platform equipment necessary for FLIP to continue to operate safely in support of ONR research. ONR funding has also covered the cost of an 18 June to 18 July 2013 routine dry docking, of FLIP. Dry dockings occur at a 3-year interval.

On 22 December 2014, management responsibility for FLIP was transferred from the Scripps Marine Physical Laboratory to the Scripps Nimitz Marine Facility.

Description of the research platform FLIP

FLIP is a 355-foot long non-propelled stable platform, a facilities asset of ONR and operated by the Marine Physical Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego. FLIP was launched 22 June 1962, at the Gunderson Brothers Engineering Company, Portland, Oregon. The mission of FLIP is to serve as a stable platform in support of ONR sponsored research. Carrying a research party of 11-people and a crew of 5, FLIP can support research operations up to 30 days and can operate drifting or anchored in deep or shallow water. FLIP operates from the Scripps Nimitz Marine Facility in San Diego, California. Units of the Military Sealift Command and commercial tugs support FLIP for at-sea operations.

Work Accomplished During this Grant Period, February 2013 through June 2015

During the period of this grant, FLIP supported 1 ONR funded research cruise and one commercial funded research program. FLIP spent 24 days at sea. From 18 June to 18 July 2013, FLIP underwent a routine dry dockings in the navy floating dry dock USS ARCO ARDM 5 at the Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego. Routine maintenance and platform preservation was performed by the FLIP crew throughout the award period.

Throughout the award period, FLIP maintained on inport crew of 3-Floating Lab Crewmembers, increasing to 5-crewmembers for the underway periods. Also, the FLIP program manager was funded at 40% for the period February 2013 to 31 December 2014.

On 26 June 2014, during replacement of the Nimitz Marine Facility Pier, FLIP was moved to the Naval Base Point Loma pier at the Submarine Base, San Diego, California.

Research Programs Supported by FLIP

2013

03-06	Teledyne Commercial Research Program Commercial tug support
18 Jun-18 Jul	ONR funded dry docking USS ARCO
5-25 Nov	PI K. Melville, ONR Waves Program. Moored commercial tug and R/V Sproul. USNS Salvor mooring recovery

2014

26 Jun	FLIP moved to Naval Base Point Loma
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2015

01 Jan to 30 Jun	Moored Naval Base Point Loma
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