

Ocean drilling project gets international relaunch

San Diego An international scientific programme that drills cores in the ocean floor gets a new name at the end of this month, after nearly 20 years studying the Earth and its climate.

The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP), which will be formally wrapped up at the end of September, drilled at 650 sites, taking in every ocean apart from the ice-covered Arctic. Its last trip ended at the beginning of September, when the *Resolution* returned from drilling a 2-kilometre core near Bermuda. This core will provide data from about 145 million years ago when North America and Europe were joined and the Atlantic Ocean did not yet exist.

On 1 October the ODP will be replaced by another international project, the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). More than half of the ODP was funded by the United States, whereas the IODP's larger budget will be mainly split between the United States and Japan, which has



Sea change: the Japanese research vessel *Chikyu* will start drilling ocean cores in 2007.

contributed a new research ship, the *Chikyu*. The IODP's first project is scheduled for next June.

NASA boldly goes into the world of academia

San Diego The University of California at Santa Cruz has won a \$330-million contract to head a joint research effort with the NASA Ames Research Center.

Under the deal, signed on 15 September, university scientists will conduct mission-

specific projects for NASA in such areas as information technology, biotechnology and astrobiology. The centre will be based at NASA Ames' site at Moffett Field near San Francisco.

Europe's global navigation system heads east

London European plans to build an alternative satellite navigation system to rival the US-run Global Positioning System (GPS) received a boost last week when China agreed to back the project.

European Commission officials say that China is expected initially to invest at least €200 million (US\$230 million). Chinese officials will be trained at a new centre for satellite navigation opened on 19 September at Beijing University.

The Galileo system, which will cost more than €3 billion and is due to be operational by 2008, will be made up of 30 satellites. Its backers say the new system will also provide navigational information faster than GPS.

Correction

Abbott, A. *Nature* 425, 4; 2003.

In this News article, it was wrongly stated that the cancer-vaccine trial reported in *Nature Medicine* in 2000, which has now been retracted, was supported by the healthcare company Fresenius.

Editorial policy changes *Nature* is extending its policy on competing financial interests to include the authors of Review and Progress articles. Further extensions are being considered.

Also, *Nature* has extended its policy on peer review to include considerations of risks such as assisting bioterrorism. See www.nature.com/nature/submit/policies for further details.