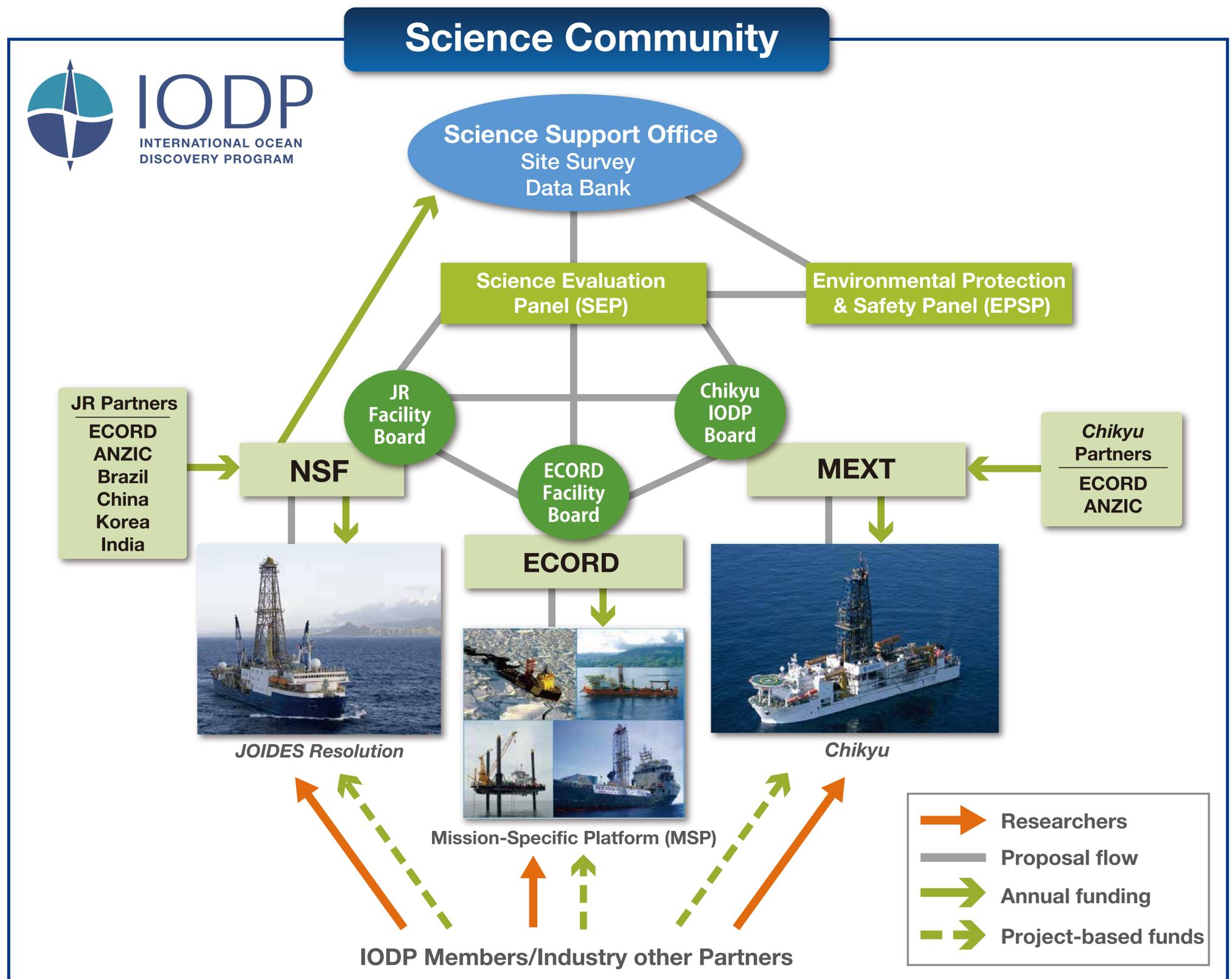


International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP)



Scientific ocean drilling began when Project Mohole first recovered core samples from the ocean's floor in 1961. From that effort, the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) aboard the Glomar Challenger in 1968 began a long and successful scientific exploration of the great unknown, the last great frontier on Earth, the ocean floor. The next phase, the Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) began in 1985, aboard the JOIDES Resolution. In 2003, ODP made way for the International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP), a joint effort between the US and Japan. With the launch of the Chikyu, and the European mission-specific platform (MSP) concept, the capabilities of the project were greatly increased. From the discovery of salt domes, confirmation of plate tectonics, the Chixulub impact, and recovering 175 mya remnants of the Pacific Oceans' original seafloor, to state-of-the-art subsea floor

observatories, the science results have had a huge affect on Earth Science - and the public. The adventure continues today.

The International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) is an international marine research collaboration that explores Earth's history and dynamics using ocean-going research platforms to recover data recorded in seafloor sediments and rocks and to monitor subseafloor environments. IODP depends on facilities funded by three platform providers with financial contributions from five additional partner agencies. Together, these entities represent 23 nations whose scientists are selected to staff IODP research expeditions conducted throughout the world's oceans.