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Managing failures and issues in the French National Glider Facility DT INSU CNRS

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Abstract (Oral Presentation)

The French Glider National Facility DT INSU operates a fleet of about 8 Slocum gliders, 1 Seaglider, 1 Spray and 1 SeaExplorer, involved in different projects for French and European research teams. Since its creation in 2008, 19 gliders have joined the fleet, and during ten years, our team accomplished great missions but there was also some lost and failures... At the beginning with brand new gliders it seems pretty easy. Then the number of missions increase... with deployments occur so many different issues due to mechanical problems, bad configurations, piloting mistakes, or simply due to external conditions at sea... Working with gliders is really exciting and also exhausting. The amount of issues, sometimes discourages even the best of us and turnover is important in our team. Each time a glider operator leaves, information leaves with him or her.

So we had to find ways to collect and to list the problems we have to face. But we can't work isolated, trying to solve our own issues in our team. We need to see what happen in the community and to create more cooperation. We noticed than the other users have the same problems. Of course we can contact experimented technicians at Teledyne Webb Research, Kongsberg Undewater Technology Inc, Alseamar... There is a forum for the community on Ego-network.org. We also hear about best practices. But actually, how can we solve or at least deal with our problems? What are the tools and the process we can apply or develop? What kind of cooperation can we build with the Glider user community?