

Case for allowing national portable instrument centres membership of FDSN

Temporary array seismic experiments are being run by academic groups all over the world. In the USA the data volumes generated from temporary PASSCAL deployments exceeds that from permanent stations. Recent advances within Europe have seen a large increase in the capabilities of national instrument pools in UK, France and Germany. Everyone is agreed that the data from these temporary arrays makes a valuable addition to the global seismic dataset. The geographical coverage obtained from these temporary arrays often complements that obtained by the permanent networks (see Maps 1 and 2). What is needed now is a structure that allows the various national portable instrument centres to work together wherever possible towards common standards. The major European portable instrument centres are collaborating as a part of a major new initiative (the NERIES project). If the funding application is successful this project will link together the data products from each centre and provide a unifying structure ensuring that best practice and common standards are adhered to within Europe.

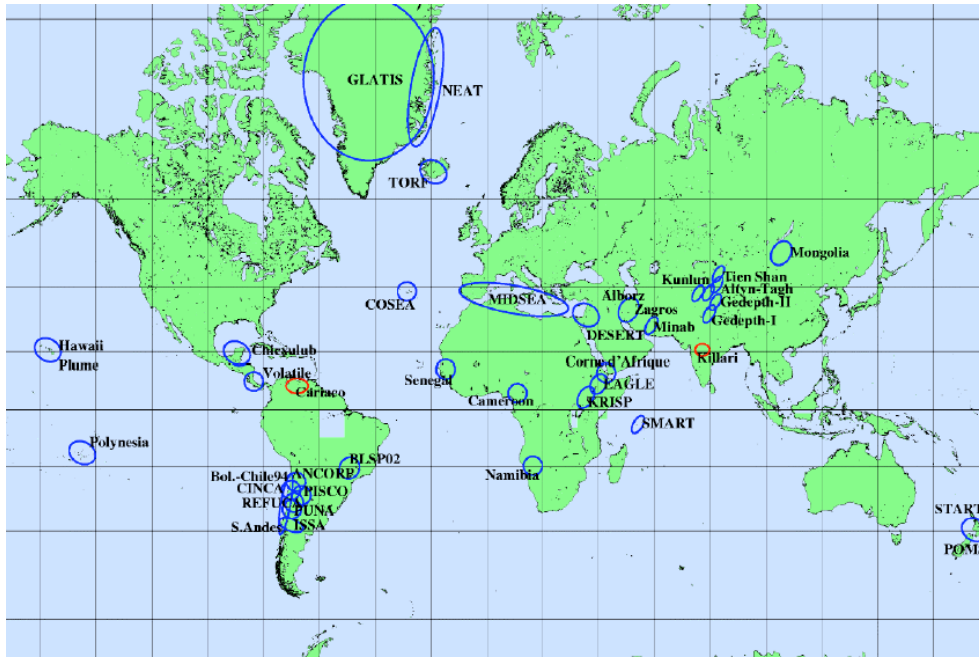
What is lacking is a forum for linking together the portable instrument centres of Europe, North America, Australasia and Japan. At a special meeting held at EGS/AGU Nice 2003 it was proposed that FDSN would make a natural home for such a global forum. Many national portable instrument centres currently archive their data in SEED format using FDSN temporary network codes. There is a convergence between data from temporary deployments (often years in length) and data from permanent stations. This convergence is happening with data formats, with archive methods and with the ultimate use of archived data. It is therefore important that any changes proposed by FDSN on matters such as data formats or exchange methods between data centres are compatible with solutions implemented by portable instrument centres.

Details of the proposal.

- 1) Open membership of FDSN to allow membership by national portable instrument centres, or in countries where portable instrument experiments are managed by several institutions, to have a national delegate representing all interested groups within that country.
- 2) To form a fifth working group of FDSN for portable instrument centres.

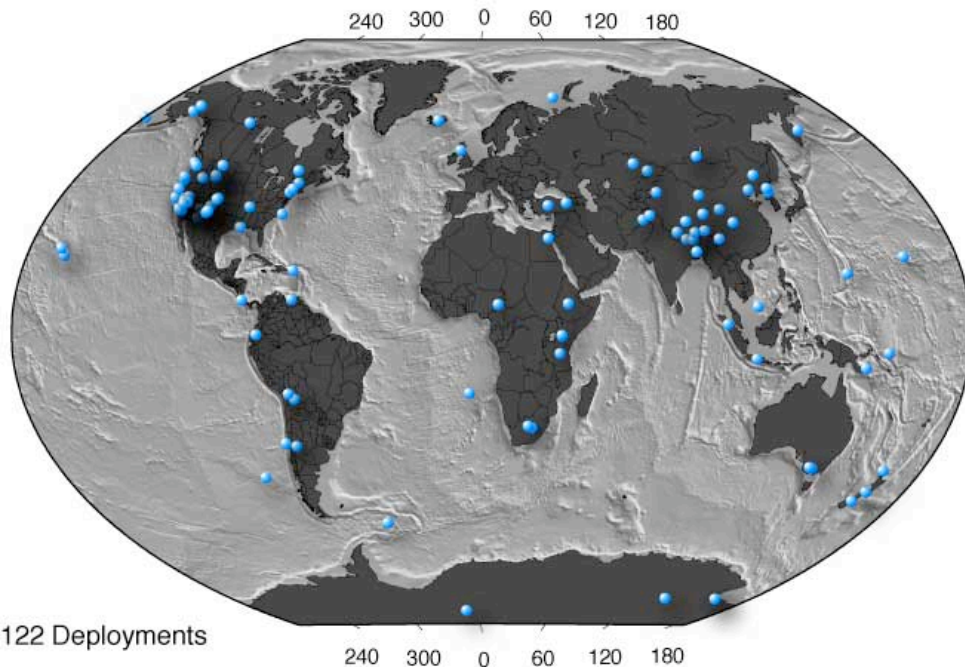
The Fifth working group would undertake to

- Provide input to the other working groups (in particular WG2) from the perspective of portable instrument centres.
- Maintain a webpage hosted at FDSN.org with a list of current and completed projects undertaken by members and links to each centre.
- Share best practice procedures and common standards for data management.



Map 1: Global coverage of seismic experiments supported by European Portable instrument centres.

PASSCAL Broadband Experiments 1986-2003



Map 2. Global coverage of seismic experiments supported by U.S. national portable instrument centre (PASSCAL)