MARS (MONTEREY ACCELERATED RESEARCH SYSTEM) AN OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC CABLED OBSERVATORY

CONTRACTOR IN

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The world ocean is in crisis. Evidence abounds that global climate change is turning the ocean more acidic; oxygen minimum zones are expanding, anoxic dead zones are appearing in formally rich fishing grounds around the world and threaten the ability for the ocean to support human life. Additionally, the rapidly melting polar and Greenland ice may threaten the global thermohaline circulation. The threats to human populations are evident.

Understanding ocean processes are critical and oceanographers require a persistent ocean presence to understand the complex and dynamic ocean. To achieve a persistent ocean presence, advanced nations around the world are considering ocean observatories and low cost free sensor arrays to supplement oceanographic ships.

MBARI (Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute) supported by the US NSF (National Science Foundation) have contributed to the ocean observatory effort by building MARS (Monterey Accelerated Research System) a cabled test bed observatory.





Underwater life. Picture taken by Ramon Margalef.