Engineering in the service of science; construction of a cabled ocean observatory

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Abstract
This Seminar will present the challenges of using leading edge technology to build subsea infrastructure to support scientific research. Subsea infrastructure is, by its nature, high risk. The deep ocean is an extremely harsh environment, and need for maintenance can quickly make a system uneconomic. Peter Phibbs was project manager for the $75M construction of the NEPTUNE Canada core infrastructure. NEPTUNE Canada, at 800km long, is the world’s first regional cabled ocean observatory, and went into operation fifteen months ago. The infrastructure demonstrates not only that it is possible to build such an observatory, but also that engineers and scientists can work together. Mr. Phibbs will describe technology used, the choices made, and the relationship between technology choices, quality assurance and project success.

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Please join us for the coffee hour at the seminar venue a half hour before the seminar, 3:00 – 3:30 pm