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1. DFG notification about proposal results

All official notifications about the outcome of the SAMPLE proposals should have been sent by now to each PI. In case you did not receive anything, please get in touch with me. I will contact the DFG.

Those PI, whose proposals have been positively evaluated, are kindly requested to communicate the name(s) and contact detail(s) of their appointed doctoral student(s) as soon as possible, so that we can keep them updated about national and international research programs and instruments particularly suited for young scientists.

2. First SAMPLE Workshop

The 3-days SAMPLE-Workshop will take place in the first week of May 2009, between 4 and 9 May. The exact dates, the venue and the program with international top-class speakers will be finalized by the end of this year. More detailed information about the event will follow in the January newsletter.

3. List of the proposals funded within SAMPLE

39 proposals were submitted to the DFG for evaluation. 17 were funded, 15 were not funded, 7 were put on hold. The funded proposals are:

Hans-Peter Bunge (LMU)	PROMAN (Program Management and Scientific Networking)
Hans-Peter Bunge (LMU)	Rapid plate motion variations as a probe into plate boundary forces in the South Atlantic basin
Rolando di Primio (GFZ)	Long-term evolution of the Argentine continental margin: implications for hydrocarbon generation, migration, leakage and climate feedback
Ulrich A. Glasmacher (Heidelberg University)	Thermal history, exhumation, uplift, and long-term landscape evolution of the Western South Atlantic passive continental margin, Brazil
Dieter Franke (BGR)	Transition from a sheared to a volcanic rifted margin: The crustal structure of the southern South Atlantic margin off Argentina
Reinhard O. Greiling (Karlsruhe University)	Structures and mechanisms of dyke emplacement at a volcanic rifted margin – AMS, microfabric analyses and geochronology of mafic dyke swarms from NW Namibia
Kaj Hoernle (IFM-GEOMAR)	WALVIS I: Ar/Ar Geochronology and Geochemistry of existing samples from the Walvis Ridge and Rio Grande Rise
Gregor Markl (Tübingen University)	Petrogenesis of gabbroic and doleritic Etendeka rocks East of Cape Fria, NW Namibia
Thorsten Nagel (Bonn University)	Splitting continental lithosphere during early rifting in the South Atlantic with emphasis on the role of magmatism
Sönke Neben (BGR)	Geophysical image of the continent-ocean boundary, implications on mantle dynamics and lithospheric controls on continental breakup in the South Atlantic
Magdalena Scheck-Wenderoth (GFZ)	3D lithosphere-scale modelling of the South Atlantic passive continental margins with focus on the South African and Argentine segments

Stephan V. Sobolev (GFZ)	Three-dimensional thermomechanical modelling of continental break-up in South Atlantic
Gerd Steinle-Neumann (Bayreuth University)	Mineralogical and Dynamic Origin of the South African Superplume
Harald Stollhofen (RWTH Aachen)	Late Cretaceous to Recent post-breakup evolution of the African S-Atlantic margin: integrating onshore field studies, sequence development, offshore seismic data, numerical dating and modelling
Nicole A. Stroncik (GFZ)	The role of mantle plumes in the formation of Large Igneous Provinces: constraints from noble gases
Robert Trumbull (GFZ)	Composition and melting conditions of primary mantle magmas in the Etendeka igneous province, NW Namibia, from melt inclusion and phenocryst microanalysis
Rainer Zühlke (Heidelberg University)	Integrated basin analysis of the Brazilian Atlantic continental margin, sequence stratigraphy and numerical basin modelling.

4. SAMPLE Seasonal Greetings

We would like to wish you very pleasant Christmas Holidays and a good start in 2009.