

Assessment of standard ASAP costs as given by ASAPP-XII September 2000

The ASAP Panel (ASAPP) revised the ASAP cost estimates at its 12th session 27 to 29 September 2000. The ASAPP notes that several solutions may be chosen both for the initial investment and also for the way to run the system, thereby leading to differences in both capital costs and running costs. The ASAPP finds, however, that for ease of reference there should be drawn up standard costs for ASAP.

The standard capital cost for a complete ASAP system, i.e. including both the launching system and the sounding equipment, is on the average **150,000 USD**.

The following assumptions are made concerning the price of consumables:

- **130 USD per GPS-sonde**
- **15 USD per balloon**
- **20 USD for helium per sounding**
- **10 USD for communication and miscellaneous items per sounding**

This gives a total of **175 USD per ASAP sounding for consumables**. The operator cost per sounding varies from nothing on research vessels to around 190 USD on ships with professional sounding operators and some 20 to 40 USD on merchant ships paying a fee to the officers for taking the sounding.

In order to calculate a total cost the following assumptions are made for ASAPs:

- **The total capital investment is 150,000 USD per unit**
- **The investment is depreciated linearly with 10% annually of initial value**
- **Maintenance, transfer of equipment etc. is 15,000 USD annually**
- **The ASAP unit carries out 350 soundings annually**
- **Each sounding costs 175 USD in consumables (using GPS-sondes)**

This gives the following figures:

Annual ASAP costs			
Depreciation and maintenance	Consumables	Operator cost ¹	Total cost per unit
30,000 USD	62,000 USD	67,000/14,000 USD	159,000/106,000 USD

¹ The first number is with professional sounding staff aboard the ship, the second is using the ships officers being payed a minor fee.