1. Weekly Report

MSM137

May 7-11, 2025

In the morning of May 7th 2025 RV Maria S. Merian had reached the port of Reykjavik. Already in the afternoon, the two seismic winches had been successfully installed to the vessel. During changeable weather, four containers had been unloaded on May 8th and 9th, and several instruments had been installed in the labs. The shipping company Briese had delivered the first generation of airgun winches from RV Sonne directly to Reykjavik. The crew of RV Maria S. Merian installed these winches successfully behind the airgun rails. These winches will significantly facilitate the deployment and recovery of both airgun arrays during the cruise.

Loading of both seismic winches with more than 6 km of hydrophone cable.

On May 10th at 8 am RV Maria S. Merian left the port of Reykjavik. On board are 17 scientists and technicians from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover, from Kiel University and from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. In addition to that, two professional marine mammal observers are joining this cruise for optical and acoustic mammal observation. Currently we are on a five-day transit to the Norwegian Barents Sea.

Airgun winch on the starboard side of RV Maria S. Merian.

The aim of the project MIBAS is to investigate the formation history as well as the internal structure of magmatic intrusions. Further on, we aim to understand the interplay of these intrusions with the surrounding sediments – this includes the release of methane. To reach these goals, we will apply a broad spectrum of geophysical methods to selected instrusion structures within the northern Barents Sea. These methods include reflexion and refraction seismics, hydroacoustics, magnetics and gravity.

All participants are doing well and send their greetings home.

Michael Schnabel

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