

R/V METEOR

Cruise M167 (GPF 18-2_040)

11.10.2020 - 05.11.2020

Emden – Emden



1. Weekly report, 11.10.2020

On this very same Sunday, Oct 11th, something that seemed unthinkable just few months ago, suddenly became real: We are on board RV Meteor on our way to the southern Iberian Peninsula where we are planning to investigate the nature of the contact between the Eurasian and the African plates in this region and test cutting edge underwater technology in the frame of the *EU Marine Robots H2020* project. Among the key goals of the cruise are the recovery of several long-term instruments that were deployed on the active faults and mud volcanoes in both the Alboran Sea (Mediterranean) and Gulf of Cadiz (Atlantic) during previous Meteor expedition M149 by using the ROV SQUID from MARUM.



Figure 1: Departure from Marum

The scientific crew is composed of 15 between Postdocs, Technicians, undergrads and postgrads students from MARUM, IPMA, MPI, GEOMAR and the University of Rabat,

representing an astonishing number of 8 nationalities. The current expedition (GPF 18-2_040) should have initially started in July but due to the ongoing COVID pandemic has been rescheduled as the current M167.

On Saturday the 10th we were allowed to embark the RV Meteor after four days of quarantine in a Bremerhaven Hotel, and being tested negative for COVID-19. A bus transfer from the hotel to the ship, berthed in Emden, delivered us safely to the vessel which we will call home for the next 4 weeks. We left port this morning, Oct 11th, passing through the lock gate that connects the Harbor of Emden with the Wadden Sea, after both the ROV SQUID and all the scientific equipment was safely unpacked and prepared for transit.



Figure 2: ROV SQUID on deck of RV Meteor

We send the best wishes from the tidal flats of the North Sea and take this opportunity to especially thank the German Science Foundation, the German Research Fleet Coordination Centre, the shipping company Briese Research, Captain Rainer Hammacher and the R/V METEOR crew for the tremendous support they have provided in preparing the cruise.

*On behalf of the entire M167 Team
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Walter Menapace