

Research Vessel METEOR

M142:

Varna – Varna

1st Weekly Report: 04 – 05 November 2017



On Saturday, 4 November 2017 at 4:50 p.m. local time, RV METEOR left her berth in the flooded dry-dock of Odessos Shipyard in Varna, Bulgaria. The past 17 days in the dock were characterized by maintenance and repair work, as well as by preparations for forthcoming cruises. Works around the outer hull were quite substantial. Incrustation, color and rust that had developed after the last paint coating, were removed by sandblasting, and after three layers of grounding (Fig. 1), the new bright blue color of METEOR was coated again (Fig. 2). Several instruments of the vessel needed repair, and software updates were done. Mainly this referred to the electronic ocean map, the sediment echo-sounder system PARASOUND and the submarine navigation POSIDONIA. Furthermore, some technical changeover on the core handling frame and works for the MeBo subbase were acquired. The installation of the new MARUM MeBo200 turned out quite intense, as it will be deployed aboard RV METEOR for the first time. In total nine containers and one truck with tarpaulin top stuffed with scientific equipment from Germany had to be unloaded, and everything had to be stowed on the ship.



Figure 1: Research vessel METEOR in dry-dock at shipyard in Varna. After cleaning the ship's hull by sandblasting down to the pure steel, the new bronze grounding was applied.
(© Heike Dugge).



Figure 2: RV METEOR with her new color in the flooded dock of Odessos Shipyard. After installation of MeBo200 on the working deck, the MeBo functions were tested in the dock, among others the drill rig was launched in the water.

In the evening, with an exquisite light show of the sundown, many cruise participants watched the interesting undocking procedure of METEOR. After opening of the flood-gate several tug boats accompanied the sailing vessel. It took more than half an hour until METEOR left the port, and at about 12 miles outside Varna port some calibration work on the METEOR navigation system could take place. For this purpose, technicians from a company and from BRIESE ship owners were still aboard, and they left for Varna by pilot boat at 11 p.m. After a transit across the Bulgarian shelf in the Black Sea, we arrived in the Romanian sector on Sunday morning, 5 November where we compiled the planned tests on the PARASOUND system MK2. The weather conditions are quite good, with a moderate breeze of 4-5 and only slight swell below 1m; everyone on board is fine.

Best regards on behalf of all cruise participants,
Gerhard Bohrmann

RV METEOR, Sunday, 5 November 2017