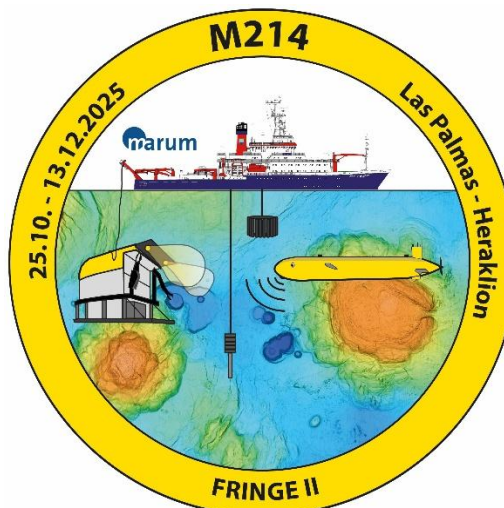


Research Vessel METEOR

M214: 25.10. – 13.12.2025

Las Palmas – Málaga - Iraklion - Iraklion

1st Weekly Report: 24 – 26 October 2025



On Saturday, 25 October, 2025, the METEOR left its berth at the Muelle Pesquero in the port of Las Palmas at 7 p.m. Prior to this, the research vessel spent two weeks in the port of Gran Canaria for repairs. In addition to numerous repairs, two of the four diesel generators were thoroughly overhauled to ensure the ship's seaworthiness for future research cruises (Fig. 2). During the time in Las Palmas, the logo of the responsible federal ministry on the METEOR's exterior façade was adapted (Fig. 1). Following this year's change of government in Berlin, the ministry's structure was changed, with the BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) becoming the BMFTR (Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space). We hope that this will also lead to a visit by the minister to the research vessel; perhaps at a celebratory farewell ceremony when the blue METEOR is decommissioned next year.

During its stay in port, the ship was visited by military attaché Colonel Marcus Bungert from Madrid. Mr. Bungert expressed great interest in the ship, its research, and especially in the challenges associated with official approval procedures in foreign waters and ports. The discussions with the ship's command and scientific cruise director demonstrated the importance and usefulness of the exchange between diplomatic authorities and German research vessels operating worldwide.



Figure 1: Update of the ministry name next to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development inscription on the starboard side of the METEOR (© G. Bohrmann).



Figure 2: Removed pistons of the diesel generator under repair, of which a total of 4 machines form the heart of the ship (© G. Bohrmann).

A small group of scientists (Fig. 3) from Germany, Morocco, and Greece embarked on Friday, 24 October, to be well prepared for the upcoming departure day. Some of the scientific participants had arrived earlier to enjoy the island's tourist highlights and, of course, the very pleasant climate of the warmer region. During an introductory event in the METEOR's conference room on Friday, the ship's management introduced themselves, and the small group of scientists was introduced to the ship's special features by the Chief Officer, using numerous pictures. Afterwards, the Safety Officer introduced all of the ship's safety systems and also conducted a tour of the ship with all newcomers. After the METEOR's departure that evening, a

safety drill, called a steering maneuver, was carried out for everyone on board when the general alarm was triggered (Fig. 4).



Figure 3: A small group of scientists embarked on board RV METEOR in Las Palmas. They will survey mud volcanoes on the seafloor during the cruise to Malaga (© Elmar Schreiber).



Figure 4: After RV METEOR departs the port of Las Palmas, a drill is conducted with the ship's general arm. Everyone on board gathers at the assembly point on the working deck wearing safety vests and appropriate equipment (© Gerhard Bohrmann).

The METEOR is currently steaming northeast, where, after crossing the Spanish EEZ boundary into Moroccan waters, we will use the ship's hydro-acoustic systems to survey some active mud volcanoes in the Gulf of Cadiz.

All participants are healthy!

Best regards also on behalf of the cruise participants,

Gerhard Bohrmann

R/V METEOR, Sunday 26 October 2025

We will be reporting on our expedition M214 at regular intervals in a weblog:

<https://www.marum.de/Fringell.html>