Cruise Summary (23/10/2018 – 11/11/2018)

AX181018 – M/V Mercury Ace.

AX181018 was conducted aboard the M/V Mercury Ace. I boarded the ship at Zarate on the morning of the 23th of October 2018 and I did the installation and testing of the equipment. The vessel first called Santos, 27 October, before starting the transect to Durban, SA.

Twelve test drops was done when leaving Zarate until our birth on Port of Santos on 26th of October.

After leaving Santos the Xbt’s drops for the AX181018 commenced October 28th .

AL #1 operated without problems troughout the cruise.

On October 30th at midnight at the beginning of the medium density stage, the computer stopped recognizing the XBT Data Recorder program, missing Three releases. Before launching # 106 on October 31st 03:39 GMT the computer is again frozen, and must restart it, a situation that resumed on November 4th at 23:00 GMT. That issue seems to be solved by disabling windows© notifications.

In total 359 XBt’s were deployed . High density deployments commenced from a depth of 200m once leaving Santos on 28th October and continue until October 30Th when the intermediate density stage begins.

This stage continued to early November 4th when we reach the 0° and begins the last high density stage.

The deployments continued until November 7th when depths of less than 200M were reached before come up to Port Elizabeth.

Travelling at an average speed of 16 knots, XBTs were deployed every 23 minutes during high density and every 1hr. 06 minutes during the intermediate density mode.

Overall the voyage went well. We had fine weather for most of the trip.

The Captain and crew of the M/V Mercury Ace were most helpful with carrying of the equipment and showed great interest in equipment as in assistance in effective and comfortable cruise realization. Thank you for the hospitality.

Javier Pardiñas.

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