***Cruise Summary (24/04/2018 – 16/05/2018)***

***AX080418 – Maersk Vilnius***

***Technical rider: Michael Funke***

The NOAA equipment was set up on board the Maersk Vilnius while in Durban Harbour, South Africa, 24 April, with the help of Gus McKay. The vessel first called Cape Town, 28 April, before starting the transect to Newark, US. The CAT5 cable was reterminated at the AL end, however the AL only operated on 6 Tubes as Tube 3 and 7 didn’t read intermittently, with various probes tested. On the 2 May 0200 GMT the system froze, with only a complete cold restart, shutting down and unplugging everything, leaving it for 5 min, and replugging before starting up sorted the problem. One probe was launched but didn’t read.

XBT drops commenced once the 200m contour was crossed on the morning of 30 April 2018.

Only one density mode was used for this transect namely High density (1 drop every 25km). The density mode was completed between 35.5°S – 39.5°N.

Travelling at an average speed of 18 knots, XBTs were deployed every 45 minutes during high density.

Deployments ended on 15 May at 39.5°N after reaching the 200m.

A total of 511 XBTs were deployed. All in all a good voyage, with not many bad profiles, 4 dud probes, 7 redrops to confirm interesting features and early wire breaks

***General Comments***

The Maersk Vilnius is an ideal ship for XBT deployments since it maintains a very steady speed and the point of release is close to the water resulting in very few faulty drops due to launching position. The distance from the cabin to the launcher and antenna isn’t far making installation a lot simpler. The Captain and crew of the Maersk Vilnius were most helpful with carrying of the equipment and showed great interest in equipment. Thank you for the hospitality.