

OPS-0116 (16 Jan 2020)

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1. Short facility updates

- **Local logistics.** We had an OPS meeting today. The conference room is downstairs at civil aviation, but presently not furnished or internet ready, but this will change. Heike Konow is arranging for furniture and there are reports that a team came to provide internet. Hopefully by Monday things will be ready to go.
- **ATC**, progress on flight schedules, with a tentative plan for next week (Wednesday, Friday, Sunday). Plan for daily ATC calls at 9am, which conflicts with weather briefing, but can involve different people. We will see how this works out.
- **ATR-42** has crossed the Atlantic and is in Brazil. They will arrive on Saturday, near sundown. First research flight is planned for Friday, 24 Jan. Still struggling to get some critical equipment through customs.
- **Twin Otter** is here, waiting on some pieces, but could be flying by Monday, certainly ready for a research flight on Wednesday 22, January.
- **WP-3D** Research flight planned for tomorrow, 17 Jan departing at 9:30. See below for plans. AXBTs still not located.
- **BOREAL and Skywalkers.** Preparations are under way. It could be ready to starting flying by Monday. The skywalkers will fly very close to the coast (less than 10km), and that Boreal will fly only on days with (big) aircraft operations. Boreal will focus on an area between the BCO and the NOTAM area, with flights mostly confined to sub-cloud layer in patterns that are still being evaluated.
- **HALO** is certified and packing for a Saturday departure. Certification for using radar over land is missing, but this is pending and not mission critical. Will overnight at Santiago de Compostela, departing Sunday 19, Jan for a research flight.
- **L'Atalante** is closing in on Guadeloupe, presently only 8 deg away. No updates, but seems on course for an arrival early on the 18th and departure on the 20th.
- **Meteor** spent the day upwind of the BCO testing and installing equipment but not measuring. It will return to the harbor this morning (17 Jan) for a crew exchange and return to sea in the evening, or early on the 18th.
- **Maria S Merian** is a hub of activity, finishing last loading and will head to sea on the morning of 17 Jan, and start measuring on the 18th, in coordination with Meteor, then possibly with the L'Atalante (see Plans)
- **Ron Brown** recovered the old NTAS and is moving back to the Swift buoys, is thinking of spending a few days near 14.5°N and 53°W
- **Autonaut** launched gliders this morning at 10:00. Working on coordinated rendezvous with ships.

2. Plans

P3 will fly to the Ron Brown and the NTAS on 17 Jan. Flight will have mixed objectives, but likely plenty of cloud sampling. Open question as to whether they have the AXBTs to drop as these have not been located. Also unclear if they will fly a circle or just a line, but most of the coordination will be with the Ron Brown.

HALO's inbound research flight will take it to the NTAS on Sunday around 17 UTC, (13 Barbados time) then it intends to follow a line to Circle Center where it will fly a circle with dropsondes. Default altitude is 9 km but this could change. Hope is to coordinate this with ships, both the Brown (to overpass on this line at 53W) but also the Merian and Meteor at the Circle Center, and the gliders and other ocean going measurements. Might pose attractive opportunity for synergy with the WP-3D

The Meteor and Maria S Merian intend to rendez vous at the BCO for calibration on 18 Jan, then head to Circle Center to intercept HALO at around 18 UTC, then both ships would transit to UEA glider site.

Barring coordination with HALO incoming and P3 on 19 January we anticipate the first coordinated research flights on 22 Jan (HALO, Twin-Otter, BORÉAL) departing at 11 am; then Friday at 5am and Sunday at 8am with four aircraft (HALO, Twin-Otter, ATR, Boréal) P3 may join as a fifth on Sunday, and/or as a fourth on Wednesday.

- National press releases went out.
- School kids visited the Maria S. Merian
- Local press conference postponed, likely will take place on Monday morning at CIMH
- Still hope to try first weather briefings beginning on weekend.
- Next OPS meeting Sunday at 9am at the Ops center (Civil Aviation). Hopefully furniture has arrived by then.

3. Issues

- Need to work backwards to see how to fit in 12 flight days given the late start of some of the aircraft.
- Still many missing containers, pieces, and struggles with customs.