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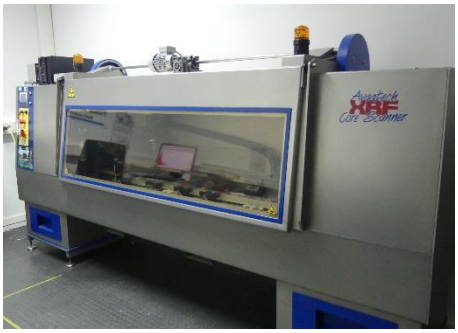

The BASE core (working half) was moved from temporary storage into the work hall and now sits in the racks visible in the background. There are 29 stacked pallets; ca. 550 core trays with ca. 2903 m of core.

Work on the core to generate a reference data set (no sampling for individual research) began Monday, Jan. 29, when a team of ten from Utrecht, Brest, Jena, Liege and Potsdam met to finalize procedures, test their workability, and take a first look at the core.

A slightly smaller team continues to work, apparently at breakneck speed (see here), for the remainder of the current week. (This is what happens when you let geochemists cut core samples: Progress happens twice as fast.) Our tasks are to generate XRF scans of representative sections of core, and to selectively sample core for fusion discs. This will generate a "public" geochemical reference data set which will guide sample selection during the core sampling workshop.

After discussion, we proceeded as follows: Not analysing the weathered and oxidized zones will reduce total length to 2523 m. Based on preliminary lithostratigraphic logs presently being drawn by Christoph, we subdivided the cores in intervals of high, moderate, and standard interest. They are being sampled approx. every 2.6, 6, and 14.5 m, respectively, for a total of 250 fusion disc samples. Each sample consists of a quarter core of ca. 10 cm length (left) of which the interior will be used for powdering, the remainder for thin sectioning. Powdering will be done in Brest, analyses in Utrecht. All samples are labelled and entered in mDIS.

From next week on, the group will strongly diminish in size. Amandine Migeon (Brest) will move core in and out of the XRF scanner, largely by herself, to be possibly relieved in mid-February. Scanning intervals (10 cm length each) were chosen using a similar scheme as above.

Our work in the core repository is supported by a grant from the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research.

Frohes Forschen !

Christoph Heubeck, Stefan Lalonde and Paul Mason