

ASAP Report for 2012

EIG EUMETNET

a. Catalogue of ASAP vessels in 2012 (see Appendix 3):

b. Major challenges and difficulties:

Major technical problems are damages of the electronic/mechanic equipment due to permanent vibrations of the ship as well as unfavorable launching conditions when sailing at ca. 20 knots (turbulences etc.).

Most ships in the E-ASAP fleet are merchant container ships. The ASAP stations are operated by the nautical staff beside their routine tasks. Experience and knowledge differ widely from operator to operator, particularly at crew changes. Thus, operating errors are difficult to avoid.

Two stations (ASEU03 and ASEU04) were moved to other ships due to change in trade pattern. The station names remained unchanged.

Due to general shortages on the helium market several stations had to reduce sounding activities.

Meteo France faced some problems with the Iridium transmission of ASFR1 in November. There were also some difficulties with the operator training of stations ASFR2 and ASFR3 in August and December. In May, the performance of ASFR4 was low due to GPS failures.

b. Other comments:

Most stations transmit TEMP and HiRes Bufr reports from the ships via Iridium. Meteo France will have to renew the call for tender with the shipping company and with the provider of helium in 2013.

d. ASAP Performance						
Callsign	Total number of sondes launched	Number of TEMP SHIP transmitted	Number of relaunches	Average terminal sounding height (km)	Balloon size (gm)	Percentage on GTS (see note)
ASEU01	175			24	350	99
ASEU02	223			24	350	88
ASEU03	180			24	350	69
ASEU04	120			24	350	82
ASEU05	212			24	350	99
ASEU06	300			24	350	94
ASDE01	404			23	200	99
ASDE02	371			23	200	98
ASDE03	319			23	200	91
ASDE04	299			23	200	92
ASFR1	313	308		23	300	88
ASFR2	262	243		22	300	85
ASFR3	295	292		22	300	94
ASFR4	260	258		23	300	97
ASDK01	367			24	300	76
ASDK02	138			24	300	90
ASDK3	425			24	300	75
ASES01	254			24	350	97

The 'Percentage on GTS' is based on the number of launches on board versus the number of soundings on the GTS. This ratio includes failed launches and failed satcom transmissions.

Appendix 3. Catalogue of ships participating in ASAP in 2012.

(EUMETNET)

18 ASAP units operated during the year on 18 ships

Type of ship (1)	Ship name	Callsign	Comms method (2)	Windfind method / sonde type (3)	Launch method (4)	Launch height (5)	Area of operation (6)	ASAP unit ID No.
Research	Maria S. Merian	DBBT	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 15 m	Worldwide	ASEU01
Merchant	Liverpool Express	DDSD2	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 22 m	North Atlantic	ASEU02
Merchant	Mississauga Express	ZCBE7	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 22 m	North Atlantic/ Western Med.	ASEU03
Merchant	Ottawa Express	ZCBF3	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 22 m	North Atlantic	ASEU04
Merchant	Atlantic Companion	SKPE	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 29 m	North Atlantic	ASEU05
Merchant	Atlantic Conveyor	SCKM	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 29 m	North Atlantic	ASEU06
Merchant	Atlantic Compass	SKUN	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 25 m	North Atlantic	ASDE01
Research	Meteor	DBBH	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	ca. 6 m	Worldwide	ASDE02
Merchant	Atlantic Concert	SKOZ	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	deck launcher (portable)	ca. 25 m	North Atlantic	ASDE03
Merchant	Dublin Express	DDSB2	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	deck launcher (fixed)	ca. 22 m	North Atlantic	ASDE04
Merchant	Fort Saint Louis	FQFL	Iridium	GPS 3D Modem M10	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	Atlantic	ASFR1
Merchant	Fort Saint Pierre	FQFM	Iridium	GPS 3D Modem M10	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	Atlantic	ASFR2
Merchant	Fort Saint Georges	FQWZ	Iridium	GPS 3D Modem M10	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	Atlantic	ASFR3
Merchant	Fort Ste Marie	FQXJ	Iridium	GPS 3D Modem M10	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	Atlantic	ASFR4
Merchant	Naja Arctica	OXVH2	Iridium	Loran/Vaisala RS92-KL GPS/VaisalaRS92-SGPW	Container (semi automatic)	Ca. 18 meter	North Atlantic	ASDK01

Merchant	Mary Arctica	OXGN2	Iridium	Loran/Vaisala RS92-KL GPS/VaisalaRS92-SGPW	Built-in launcher (semi automatic)	Ca. 15 meter	North Atlantic	ASDK02
Merchant	Nuka Arctica	OXYH2	Iridium	GPS/GRAW DFM-06	Container (semi automatic)	Ca. 18 meter	North Atlantic	ASDK3
Supply	Esperanza del Mar	EBUQ	Iridium	GPS/Vaisala RS92	container (semi automatic)	12	Canary Islands, off Mauritania	ASES01

- (1) **Type of ship:** Merchant, research, supply
(2) **Comms method:** Inmarsat C or others
(3) **Windfind method / sonde type:** eg. GPS/Vaisala RS80-G, Loran/Vaisala RS80-L, VIZ GPS Mark II Microsonde, etc
(4) **Launch method:** deck launcher (portable), deck launcher (fixed), container (manual), container (semi automatic), other
(5) **Launch height:** height above sea level from where the sonde is released
(6) **Ocean area:** North Pacific, North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, variable