

## ***Interactive comment on “High-Resolution Observations in the Western Mediterranean Sea: The REP14-MED Experiment” by Reiner Onken et al.***

**Reiner Onken et al.**

reiner.onken@hzg.de

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letter

**(1) The paper submitted here is, I guess, ..., REP14-MED ...**  
That is true.

**(2) Very few results about the calibration ...**

The backbones of the REP14-MED survey were the ship based CTD casts and the glider data. Originally, it was planned to have an intercalibration station of the ship based CTD at the very beginning of the experiment in deep water, but because of a medical emergency situation on one of the research vessels the intercalibration had

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to be postponed towards the end of the survey. Unfortunately, the water depth there was not sufficient for a meaningful comparison. An intercomparison of the gliders was never planned: eleven gliders were in use for the oceanographic experiment (plus 5 backup gliders), and they were from three different manufacturers (Teledyne, Kongsberg, ACSA) and owned by five different institutions (CMRE, UEA, ACSA, WTD71, PSU). A real intercomparison would have been too complex in terms of organisational issues; therefore, we relied on the calibration of the manufacturers.

**(3) The paper is well written ... the aims are really limited**

It was the intention of the authors, not to anticipate any results which might be subject of the other papers in the special issue.

**(4) ... it is more a decision of the editor ... to publish or not that paper**

I agree. Originally, the authors intended to include the description of the REP14-MED experiment in the Editorial of the special issue but that would have inflated the Editorial too much (11 pages text + 9 figures + 5 tables). Hence, it was decided to make the description of the experiment an independent paper which can be cited by other authors contributing to the special issue.

**(5) I would like to see ... indications on the other papers ... main results**

An overview of the other papers and their main results will be given in the Editorial of the special issue which will be written not before all papers have been accepted. Alternatively, I would suggest to hold up the present manuscript until the end of the submission window (actual deadline is 31 May 2017), and then include an overview of the other (accepted) papers and their main results. However, this would make the Editorial partly redundant or lead to overlapping of the Editorial and the present paper.

**(6) Temperature and salinity observations not publicly shared ...**

REP14-MED was an experiment under the lead of CMRE which is a NATO institution. Regrettably, the NATO data policy does not permit that any data are Open Access from the outset. However, this concerns only those data whereof NATO is the originator

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(here, the data collected by CMRE). The other partners of the experiment are free to decide whether they want to make their data publicly available. Please note that Reiner Onken (the first author and Chief Scientist of the experiment) was affiliated with CMRE until 30 September 2016.