

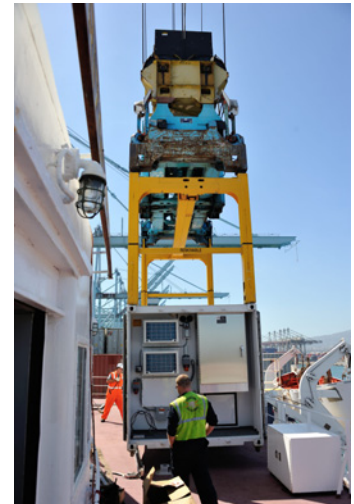
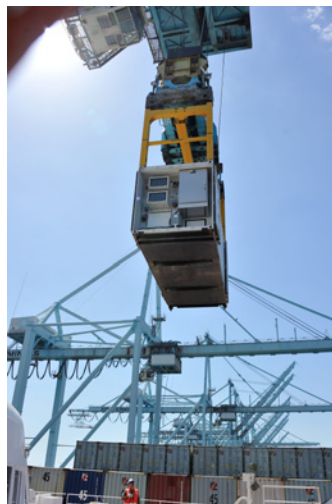


2012-09-25

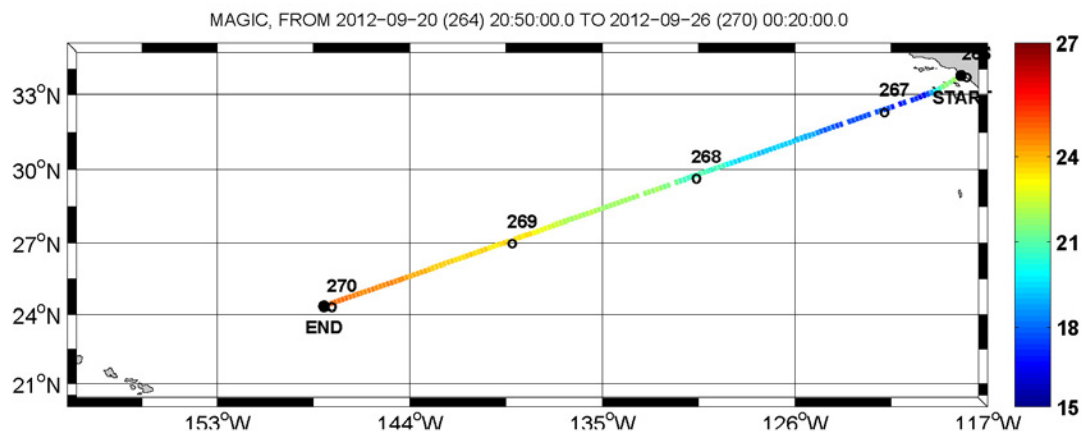
A newsletter for non-scientists (and scientists) interested in MAGIC

I was in Los Angeles again last week to see the successful installation of the MAGIC instruments aboard the *Horizon Spirit*! It was great to watch. Everything went like clockwork. I'll try to minimize the clichés, but “well-oiled machine” immediately comes to mind. The installation went so smoothly you would think that Mike (Ritsche) and Nicki and the techs had done this hundreds of times before, and that this was just one more time. I didn't hear a single “oops” all day. The good luck we had this last week more than makes up for the previous attempt two weeks before.

The *Spirit* arrived last Thursday morning and I arrived at the ship early, but discovered Mike and Nicki had already been there for some time (those guys never sleep!). The contractors that we hired also started early, welding supports around the deck for the instruments, reinforcing the deck, etc. After lunch our three containers were loaded on the ship (it is impressive to watch a crane nearly 300 feet tall pick up our containers and gingerly place them on the deck within inches of where we want them), and the techs, Tom, Mark, and Brett, immediately began pulling railings out and installing them on the roofs of the vans, and then mounting other instruments on these. They really know what they are doing. By dusk it looked as if we had moved on to stay. Friday after lunch two of the radars and many of the other modules were loaded, and that evening Kevin, our radar guru, saw a cloud on the radar screen. We're up and running!



The *Spirit* is nearly to Hawaii now, as can be seen by the graph below showing sea surface temperature (SST) in degree Celcius along with the position of the ship. This graph was based on measurements taken by one of the instruments on MAGIC called the ISAR, the Infrared SST Autonomous Radiometer, and was prepared for me by Mike Reynolds (thanks Mike!), who was the first MAGIC rider and got off in Los Angeles last week after riding the *Spirit* back from Hawaii. Mike Ritsche, who is in charge of the deployment, Rich and Tim, who are working on the motion detection system, the stable table for one of the radars, and on other instruments, Kevin, and Tom are riding the ship over. Mike, Rich, and Tim are from Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago, Kevin is from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington State, and Tom is from Alabama. In Hawaii Tom will switch out with Pat (another tech), and Kevin will get off and Gunnar (who has the office next to me) will get on.



I fly to Los Angeles next Wednesday to board the *Spirit* and ride it to Honolulu and back. Needless to say, I'm quite looking forward to this. Nearly all the instruments should be set up and taking measurements, and the techs Pat and Mark will be doing their routine maintenance and upkeep. I can get some work done (free of pesky email) and watch the clouds. I'll see if I can get an update out from Hawaii.

Ernie Lewis
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Please address any questions or comments to elewis@bnl.gov.

All updates and other MAGIC information are at <http://www.bnl.gov/envsci/ARM/MAGIC/>.