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Submarine slope failure offshore Uruguay – First Results

Daniel Winkelmann (1), Julia Langenbacher (1), Andrea Anasetti (1), Michael Strasser (2), Benedict Preu (2), Tilmann Schwenck (2), and Sebastian Krastel (1)

(1) Leibniz Institute for Marine Science (IFM-GEOMAR), Kiel, Germany , (2) Center for Marine Science (MARUM) at the University of Bremen

New geophysical acquired during cruise M78 with RV "Meteor" in 2009 reveal a large-scale slope failure complex. Positioned between 1800 and 3300 m water depth, the slope failure affected an area of at least 1200 km^2. The failure is hosted in contouritic deposits. The morphology of the up 70 m high headwalls is underlain by a deeper reflector which we interpret as detachment. Listric faults positioned upslope these headwalls root in this detachment and are precursor of future failure at this location. The detachment correlates with a regional BSR mapped by Uruguayan colleagues. Cores recovered from 3 transects across the failure complex confirm that the acoustic transparent units are debrites. Sedimentological evidence in accordance with hydro-acoustic data indicate that debrites deposited downslope this failure complex are recent features on the slope.