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Airborne measurements of NO₂ shipping emissions using imaging DOAS

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 NO_x (NO and NO_2) play a key role in tropospheric chemistry and affect human health and the environment. Shipping emissions contribute substantially to the global emissions of anthropogenic NO_x . Due to globalization and increased trade volume, the relative importance emissions from ships gain even more importance.

The Airborne imaging DOAS instrument for Measurements of Atmospheric Pollution (AirMAP), developed at IUP Bremen, has been used to perform measurements of NO₂ in the visible spectral range. The observations allow the determination of spatial distributions of column densities of NO₂ below the aircraft. Airborne measurements were performed over Northern Germany and adjacent coastal waters during the NOSE (NO₂ from Shipping Emissions) campaign in August 2013. The focus of the campaign activities was on shipping emissions, but NO₂ over cities and power plants has been measured as well. The measurements have a spatial resolution below the order of 100 × 30 m², and they reveal the large spatial variability of NO₂ and the evolution of NO₂ plumes behind point sources. Shipping lanes as well as plumes of individual ships are detected by the AirMAP instrument. In this study, first results from the NOSE campaign are presented for selected measurement areas.