Early on Wednesday’s calm and sunny morning, the barge was moved from Obexer’s Marina to Tahoe City Marina (TCM) for more efficient operations and ease of access.

Once at the marina dock, instrumental testing and operational preparations continued as the prime foci of the day. Thus this report is a documentation of continued developments in preparation for initial testing in the water tomorrow.

On the operations side the stantion for the sheave and shoe for handling the IPSIE and percussion corer were welded onto the barge after it arrived at TCM.

On the science side the main focus was on getting the IPSIE instruments housed in their racks that hold them within their casings of steel tubing. They then were all wired, the water distribution systems (WADS) were hooked-up and the chemical instruments were outfitted with their sampling and chemical reagent bags. Standards were prepped for tomorrow’s tests. Initial power tests to the IPSIE camera were performed.

Refinements continued on the topside data collection computers. Also, the hydraulic motor drive of the percussion corer was connected to the multipurpose winch umbilical and had a test run with its hydraulics.

Later in the afternoon our UC Santa Cruz contingent arrived. Their winch and cable for operating the modified Caltech piston corer was loaded aboard the barge. UCSC engineers also brought up a private boat that they will use to provide logistical support for us in land-to-barge operations once we get offshore. Their boat was launched from TCM’s boat ramp and will be readied for operations tomorrow.
Barge arriving at Tahoe City Marina

IPSIE instruments being placed in their racks
Working on the pump of the water distribution system (WADS) for the IPSIES

One of the EnviroTech instruments for the IPSIEs being placed in its rack
The hydraulic motor of the percussion corer being tested

The surface data observation, management and storage system being prepared
The SCRIPPS ROV getting a wetting during its testing