

SEISMIC IMAGING OF A TRANSFORM SEGMENT OF THE MARANHÃO-BARREIRINHAS-CEARÁ MARGIN, NW BRAZIL

*P. Schnürle¹, F. Gallais^{1,6}, A. Afilhado^{2,3}, M. Moulin¹, N. A. Dias^{2,3}, J. Soares⁴, R. Fuck⁴, J.A. Cupertino⁵, A. Viana⁵, D. Aslanian¹ & Magic Team**

¹Ifremer, Geosciences Marines, Technopôle Brest-Iroise, CS 10070, 29280 Plouzane, France

²Instituto Dom Luis (IDL), Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal

³Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa (ISEL), Rue Conselheiro Emidio Navarro, 1959-007 Lisboa, Portugal,

⁴Lablithos, Instituto de Geociências (IG), Universidade de Brasília, Campus Darcy Ribeiro, 70910-900 Brasília, Brazil,

⁵PETROBRAS/CENPES-PROFEX, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

⁶PETROBRAS/CENPES-PROFEX, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

* The MAGIC Project was led by D. Aslanian and M. Moulin, from Ifremer, and A. Viana, from Petrobras. Modelling of the MAGIC profiles was done by A. Afilhado, F. Gallais, M. Moulin, P. Schnürle with help of M. Evain. Processing of the deep sounding reflection seismic data was done by P. Schnürle. 3D Wide-angle modelling by Nuno Dias. On-land operation was conducted by J. Soares, R. Fuck, M. Vinicius de Lima, L. Matias, A. Loureiro, C. Corela, J.L. Duarte. Processing of the high resolution seismic data by M. Benabdellouahed, A. Baltzer, and M. Rabineau. Core analysis by Z. Mokeddem, M. Benabdellouahed & M. Rabineau.

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RESUMO: The structure of the North-East equatorial Brazilian margin was investigated during the MAGIC (Margins of Brazil, Ghana and Ivory Coast) seismic experiment, a project conducted by IFREMER (Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploration de la Mer), UnB (University of Brasília), FCUL (Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa) and Petrobras. The survey consists of 5 deep seismic profiles totaling 1900 km of marine multi-channel seismic reflection and wide-angle acquisition with 143 deployments of short-period OBS's from the IFREMER pool. Three of the profiles were extended into land using land stations from the Brazilian pool at a total of 50 points. This study focuses on the MC5 wide-angle profile, that spans NNW-SSE 720 km in length, from the São Paulo Double Fracture Zone to the Borborema-Ceará margin. Its main objective is to understand the fundamental processes which lead to the thinning and finally to the breakup of the continental crust in a specific context of a pull-apart system with two strike-slip borders.

The experiment was devised to obtain the 2D structure along the profiles from joint pre-stack depth migration of the reflection data and tomography and forward modeling of the OBS records. Along the MC5 wide-angle transect, 4 major sectors are identified:

- the São Paulo Double Fracture Zone and the volcanic line associated to the southern São Paulo strike-slip zone presenting a 4.5 km thick volcano-sedimentary Basin on top of a 5.5 km thick basement;
- the intermediate domain, formed by the 4.5 km thick Basin III, the 7.5 km thick Basin II (interleaved by a 0.5-1 km thick volcanic layer), and the 5.5 km thick Basin I composing the continental slope; While the crust remains about 6 km thick, acoustic velocity evolves from two-layer typical (4.8-6 km/s and 6.1-6.8 km/s) beneath Basin III to two-layer high velocity (6.1-6.8 km/s and 7.2-7.4 km/s) beneath Basin II and I, interpreted as exhumed lower continental crust;
- the 50 km wide necking zone, forming the Paraniba Platform and associated Piaui-

Comocim and Ceará Basins, where the upper and lower crust thin abruptly;
- the Medio Coreau and Ceará Central thrust belt, where the unthinned continental crust thickness reaches 32 km.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: NORTH-EAST EQUATORIAL BRAZIL, TRANSFORM MARGIN, DEEP SEISMIC STRUCTURE