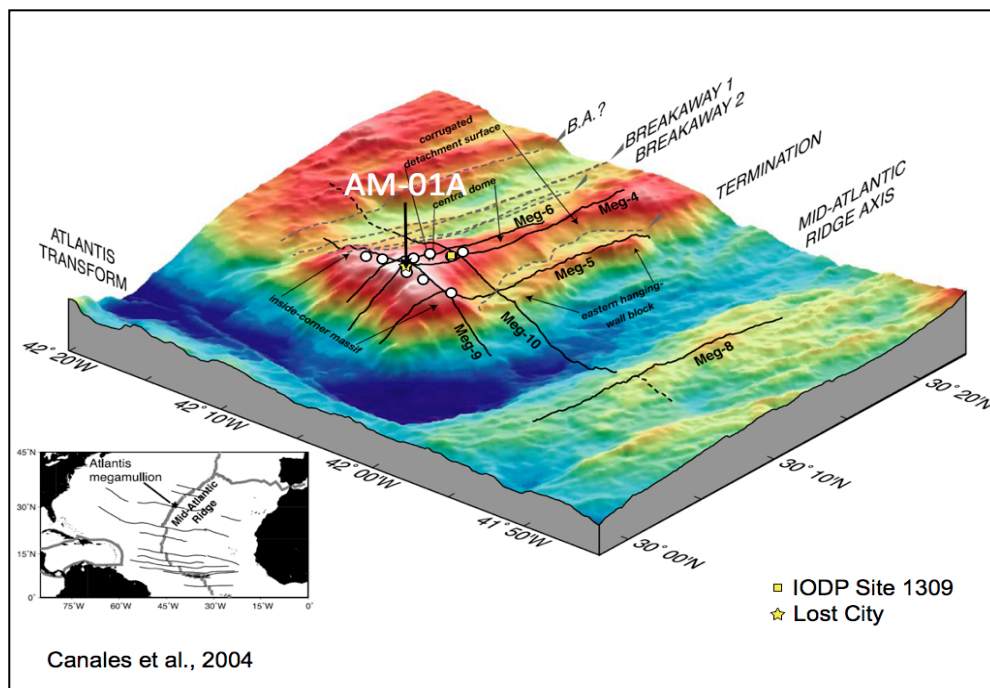




ECORD will drill the Atlantis Massif with a seabed drilling system in 2015 !

At its annual meeting on 5-6 March 2014 in Bremen, the ECORD Facility Board recommended the scheduling of an expedition to the Atlantis Massif of the central North Atlantic Ocean in the second half of 2015. The ECORD Council has approved this scheduling.

This expedition is aimed to drill targets to address objectives of IODP-MSP proposal 758 "*Serpentinization and life: Biogeochemical and tectono-magmatic processes in young mafic and ultramafic seafloor*" by G. Früh-Green and co-proponents. The Atlantis Massif is an oceanic core complex near the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Atlantis Fracture Zone in proximity of the serpentinite-hosted, so-called Lost City hydrothermal field. Exploring the subsurface biosphere and its link to serpentinization, deformation and alteration processes in lithosphere of different age and rock type will be the main goal of this expedition. Up to 10 holes with penetration up to 70 m are being planned, using the seabed drilling device MeBo, and possibly RockDrill 2, from a research vessel. ESO is currently in the process of implementing the drilling operation and will select the research vessel in the next weeks.



Bathymetric map of Atlantis Massif with planned drill sites.