The Heidelberg Basin Drilling Project
– Characteristics of an outstanding archive of Quaternary sediments –

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**Preliminary Conclusions**
- The Quaternary sediment succession in the Heidelberg Basin is complete with respect to climate stratigraphy. This is a unique situation in western Europe.
- Lithostratigraphic changes do not correlate with biostratigraphy. Hence, sedimentation is controlled by tectonics and climate.
- The transition Pliocene / Pleistocene is imaged in all boreholes differently. The use of the heavy mineral signal as single proxy must be questioned.
- The lithostratigraphic terms used for this paper were established on the new cored boreholes. They can replace the actual, but regionally varying nomenclature, that is still in use for the Quaternary of the northern Upper Rhine Graben.
- To derive a well-founded reference profile of Quaternary additional data is necessary!

**References**
