German Polar Research

Germany operates an extensive polar research program. German polar research is based on a modern high-tech infrastructure, including permanent research stations in the Arctic and Antarctic as well as several research vessels. Germany commands one of the most advanced research fleets in the world. Numerous German research institutions, universities and companies conduct polar research, in particular the Alfred Wegener Institute / Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI).

International cooperation is of particular importance to Germany, as the example of the forthcoming MOSAiC project ("Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate") shows. MOSAiC - the biggest Arctic expedition of all times – will involve scientists from 17 nations. The German research vessel "Polarstern" will be at the centre of the mission which will start in September 2019.

In addition, the “Year of Polar Prediction” (YOPP) research initiative will be studying climate changes at both Poles until mid-2019. Its findings are to be used as a basis for improving weather forecasts. This would minimize dangers – for example, to shipping.