Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station

Celebrating 50 Years of Science at the South Pole.

for more information visit http://us-ipy.gov and http://nsf.gov
AMUNDSEN'S TENT
First human presence at the Pole
Erected by Amundsen
(Norwegian) in December 1911
Materials hauled by dogs
Scott (British) reached this site in January 1912
Scott and his men carried their gear without dogs
First structure at the Pole for scientific purposes

NAVY STATION
Built by U.S. Navy in 1956 for International Geophysical Year
First structure at the Pole for scientific purposes
Capacity: 20 people
Materials flown in by DC-3 plane

AMUNDSEN-SCOTT S. POLE STATION
Built by NSF in 1975
Iconic geodesic dome building
In the mid-90's, e-mail communication began at the station
Capacity: 65 people; 80 more in huts

NEW AMUNDSEN-SCOTT S. POLE STATION
Elevated station
Completed by NSF thesis in 1997
To be dedicated in 2008 in time for 4th International Polar Year
Capacity: 150 people; 65K square feet
Materials flown in by DC-3 plane

Earth’s polar regions, located some 12,000 miles apart, are vast, icy and inhospitable landscapes. Yet, they offer unique opportunities to answer some of life’s most perplexing questions. International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 follows in the footsteps of historic past campaigns that led to discoveries that fundamentally changed how we view the polar regions and their global linkages. Research and education projects carried out during IPY 2007-2008 will explore new frontiers in polar science; discover details about the amazing adaptation strategies polar life forms use to survive in “unearthly” environments; better define the critical role the polar regions play in global environmental and ecological processes; and educate students, teachers and the public about the importance of the polar regions to life on the entire planet.

All U.S. federal agencies engaged in research and education will participate actively in IPY. The National Science Foundation is the lead agency for coordinating U.S. IPY activities. Dozens of foreign countries will also take part.

This poster is one in a series that depict NSF’s science themes and observatories that are key to fulfilling NSF’s role as the designated lead federal agency for the International Polar Year 2007-2008.