

Planned Activities of the Russian Antarctic Expedition in the Larsemann Hills area for 2020/2021

Russia operates the Progress Station (69°21'57"S, 76°20'59"E), a compacted snow runway and associated facilities located in the Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica.

Personnel:

- wintering personnel, January 2020 – 25;
- seasonal personnel - 37, includes cargo traverse staff and 2 geophysicists .

Planned Activities

1. Scientific studies

In connection with the reduction in the participation of scientists in the season, scientific programs will be revised and partially implemented at the expense of the wintering scientific personnel.

2 geophysicists will be delivered by ship only and work during the summer season.

2. Logistical activity

Transport operations:

The transport plan has not yet been determined. It depends on the development of the situation on the spreading and fighting against COVID 19 pandemic, the ability to prevent it from entering the Antarctic.

In case of a positive situation development, it is planned to deliver the cargo of structures for the new wintering complex of Vostok station, equipment at the area of the Tala Fjord area to store and transport it to the Vostok station.

Otherwise, the RAE activity will develop according to the minimum parameters:

1. Provision of Progress and Vostok stations with fuel, food products and necessary equipment only with the help of the RAE scientific vessels from November 2020 to March 2021.
2. Flights of BT-67 aircraft will not be used. Or just for SAR or Medevac needs only.
3. Inland traverses to Vostok station in November 2020 and January 2021 to deliver fuel, food and necessary equipment according to a standard scheme without performing scientific programs.

Work for modernizing the station infrastructure:

Current routine work.

3. Environmental protection

- routine waste management (collection, sorting and storage of wastes, incineration of combustible wastes in the high temperature incinerator, fuel drums compacting) and waste removal from the Antarctic Treaty Area);

4. Meetings of Station Personnel

To visit NAP stations by expeditioners for co-operation and joint social events by invitation in accordance to COMNAP COVID 19 protocol.