
Antarctica



Friday 14 November 2014

\$9.4 million key to unlocking Tasmania's place as gateway to the Antarctic

A \$9.4 million Gateway Partnership grant from the Australian Government has paved the way for profound impacts intellectually and economically for the future of Tasmania.

Elements of the partnership will include:

- A multi-million dollar remotely-operated submersible that can cut through up to 1000 metres of thick Antarctic ice.
- Development of a sea ice charting service for polar mariners in East Antarctica.
- An increase in the number of Australian scientists working in Antarctica.
- The employment of nearly 40 young researchers and technicians.

The grant is part of the Australian Government's (AGPS) Gateway Partnership Initiatives scheme and includes the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Coastal Studies (IMAS) and the Australian Maritime College, the CSIRO's Oceans and Atmosphere Flagship, and the Australian Antarctic Division.

"This grant is a significant investment in our scientific leadership and is a key enabler of Tasmania's role as a gateway to the Antarctic," said Chancellor Professor Peter Bathurst.

"Our capacity to conduct world-class research here and to do so in partnership with other nations will be greatly enhanced by the investment in research and innovation that will drive growth and economic transformation which is needed."

Chief Investigator for the Gateway Partnership, IMAS's Prof Richard Coleman, said the grant will support research to understand the role of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in the global climate system.

"The Partnership will provide an important injection of funds and an exciting capacity-building development that will expand research programs in a climatically and ecologically significant region and reinforce recognition of Tasmania as a global leader in Antarctic and Southern Ocean science."

“Importantly, the Gateway funding is providing the opportunity to get more scientists to the ice. This summer alone, I’ll be leading a science team to the East Antarctic regions, and as head researcher in the nearby land.

“The Partnership will further strengthen our research capabilities with commercial education innovation, including the acquisition of an Arctic base as a US research and development of specialist polar marine technologies.” Prof Coleman said.

Establishing a sea

Among Gateway Partnership objectives are -
...gy hub to build next generation hybrid autonomous
...measurements within the polar environment.

Establishing a sea-

East Antarctic ocean-738

Advancing understanding of how the oceans influence melting of the East Antarctic...
...level and sea level rise.

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