



Media Release

International Polar Foundation, Brussels, 14 December 2007

EMBARGO 10 pm, 14 December 2007

BELARE 2007-2008: Ivan Papanin Approaches Breid Bay

Today, December 14th, the Ivan Papanin ice-class cargo ship will arrive in Breid Bay **sometime in the evening**. After 38 days of traverse from Belgium to Antarctica, the Princess Elisabeth Station is slowly approaching its final destination.

For reminder, the **120 containers** carrying the Princess Elisabeth Station were loaded in Antwerp and left aboard the Russian Ivan Papanin ship on November 6th. The ship stopped over in Cape Town at the end of November in order to refuel the ship and load the last containers of food. After a first stop near the Norwegian Troll Station for equipment drop off, the Ivan Papanin is now due in Breid Bay.

So far, the traverse has gone very smoothly. However, the ship still needs to pass through difficult ice conditions and find a suitable place to accost the ice shelf. Alain Hubert made his way towards the coast a few days ago, to start identifying potential unloading sites. For the time being, Point Delta within Breid Bay looks to be the most favourable spot (see map).

The Princess Elisabeth Project is being deployed according to plan thanks to a solid collaboration between the IPF, the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo) and the Belgian Army. Eighteen people in total are on the ship. Amongst the ship's crew, eight military officers are coming in to replace their colleagues in **Utsteinen** who have prepared the site for the arrival of the Princess Elisabeth Station.

Interview with Alain Hubert

Alain Hubert will be available for interviews by the media at the following telephone number 00 881 631 51 35 84

- Friday December 14th, from 10 pm to 11 pm
- Saturday December 15th, between 9 am and 10 am

Images

High resolution images/videos of unloading will not be available before January as satellite communication does not permit heavy e-mails. Pictures from last year's unloading (same ship) are available from www.press.polarfoundation.org, login "anonymous", password "poles".

Princess Elisabeth project

www.antarcticstation.org



Background information

www.polarfoundation.org

IPF Media Contacts

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International Polar Foundation (IPF)

The **International Polar Foundation** is a public utility foundation, which aims to promote polar research as a tool for raising public awareness and fostering understanding of the fundamental mechanics of our climate. The IPF also encourages the adoption of innovative solutions that will enable us to respond in a sustainable manner to the challenges associated with climate change.