

Word from Alain Hubert

"I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the construction of the base, the International Polar Foundation, the Belgian Science Policy, the engineers, the companies, and everyone who has worked on the project. The Princess Elisabeth Station represents Belgium's most emblematic contribution to the International Polar Year. The purpose of this initiative is to sensitise both the public at large to the importance of scientific research in the poles and the federal government to the need to seriously raise the budget devoted to Antarctic research. We have come to a point in time where it has become obvious that we need to take responsibility for our actions and show that we are able to take on the challenge of climate change. The objective of this initiative is thus to show that we are capable of envisioning the world of tomorrow and of tackling the energy problem, a key issue in reaching sustainable development. However the particular nature of this challenge is also the support to science that technology has come to provide. Therefore, if we can reach such objectives as having a "zero emission" station in the extreme meteorological conditions of Antarctica, we can do the same anywhere else in the world. Overall, what is characteristic of this project is that behind the strength and will of all those who have made the Princess Elisabeth Station possible, we find a common drive, the drive to achieve. And a more dynamic society is what we need if we want to guarantee the future of generations to come."

