

25 July 2021

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN A POSSIBLE CIRCUMNAVIGATION EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

Dear Members of the SANAP Community

CONTEXT:

The NRF has been approached by the Switzerland-based Group, Polar Holdings AG, which has recently acquired both South African companies “Antarctic Logistics Centre International” and “The Antarctic Company” to assist in coordinating South African scientists on a **possible** circumnavigation expedition to Antarctica. There are approximately twenty (20) berths available on the Akademik Tryoshnikov (AT), which will be chartered for approximately sixty (60 days), departing from Cape Town in early December 2022. The AT will sail to the vicinity of the Neumeyer Station and end its expedition in the Ross Sea. The AT will then sail to Punta Arenas in Chile where participants will disembark. ***Polar Holdings AG need an indication of interest from the South African community before finalizing the charter.***

THE OFFER:

Polar Holdings AG will cover all costs of the participating South African scientists, including travel expenses back to South Africa, full accommodation, and board on the vessel as well as a grant to each approved proposal. Each proposal will undergo peer review to finalise the participant list. Please note that the grant will not include stipends/salaries.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES:

A scientific programme will be developed in conjunction with the other cruise participants and will be based on the demand. The AT is well equipped and will have on board two K-32 helicopters which could possibly be used for limited land-based research sampling. The AT has a wetlab, a CTD lab, a sediment lab (with a -20°C freezer with huge capacity), a meteorological lab, various side winches for various kinds of nets and a multi beam. The AT also has a small hospital with a doctor, a gym room, and a sauna room.

THE CHALLENGE:

We are operating with extremely tight deadlines and need a response from the community by close of business **Thursday 28 July 2022** to present to the senior management at Polar Holdings AG. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community. Depending on the response we will consider PhD student participation too.

PLEASE INDICATE INTEREST:

Please send me an email (tj.klarenbeek@risa.nrf.ac.za) by close of business of Thursday 28 July 2022. I need a very brief summary of the kind of work you would want to do, and any specialized equipment you may need. This need not exceed a page and will be subject to change depending on what is available.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Klarenbeek', written in a cursive style.

TRACY KLARENBEEK

DIRECTOR: KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT