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13/09/17

INTERACT FOUNDATION **creating an international non-profit organization**

What is INTERACT?

INTERACT is a highly successful network of more than 80 terrestrial research stations in the Arctic and far north that annually hosts around 5000 researchers from around the World. It provides coordination and infrastructure for research and monitoring and is providing access to the Arctic for hundreds of scientists from the global community. It is the major research infrastructure network on land in the North and has global recognition!

Why create an INTERACT Foundation?

INTERACT operates in an area of the World which is experiencing the most rapid environmental and sociological changes that have far-reaching implications of global concern. INTERACT is a time limited project mainly funded by the EU but with contributions from Canada and US. INTERACT has operated since 2001 but each four years a re-submission to continue the project is required and long-term funding is uncertain. The long-term function of the infrastructure is critical as the processes underpinning environmental change in the North need to be interpreted in a long-term context and future observations are essential because of the rapid rate of unpredictable change. We therefore seek a way in which INTERACT can continue to play a major global role based on new funding sources.

What do we want to do?

It is important to many sectors of society, including the research community, northern populations, industry, decision makers and the general public that INTERACT's work continues without interruptions and without major uncertainties. We therefore seek to create a funding model based on a foundation that allows INTERACT to seek funding internationally and to continue its major roles of:

- Supporting and facilitating research groups to access the Arctic and northern areas in general
- Supporting and facilitating the networking of northern research stations to improve sharing of data, experience, standardized observations and human capital
- Providing a one stop shop for the Arctic to the global science community including researchers, scientific programmes, networks and organisations
- To make decision makers, local peoples and the global community aware of climate change and environmental issues in the Arctic



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- Supporting education at all levels from primary schools to PhD courses both at the home institutions and in the field

How do we make INTERACT Sustainable?

INTERACT will continue to apply through the normal research and infrastructure channels for short term funding. In addition, by creating a foundation, INTERACT will be able to seek funding from external sources in various countries. The earnings of the INTERACT Foundation will mainly come from:

- (i) membership fees from organizations and/or individuals
- (ii) grants from public funding agencies in Europe, North America, Russia and elsewhere
- (iii) donations raised from private foundations
- (iv) contributions from individual donors
- (v) commissions from agencies, business and government departments

The basic operation of INTERACT will be financed by an annual membership fee of 500 EURO per research station. INTERACT also aims to raise c. 2,000,000 € by external funding for its activities during the first five years of its existence and to continue raising funding to support arctic science indefinitely (see budget).

How will INTERACT Foundation operate?

The INTERACT Foundation will have a very simple organizational structure of a part time Director and a Board. A secretary will take care of administrative issues. Administrative costs will be kept at a minimum to maximize funding for projects and networking activities. The foundation will also support necessary travel and subsistence costs for the Director, the board members and other members representing the INTERACT foundation.