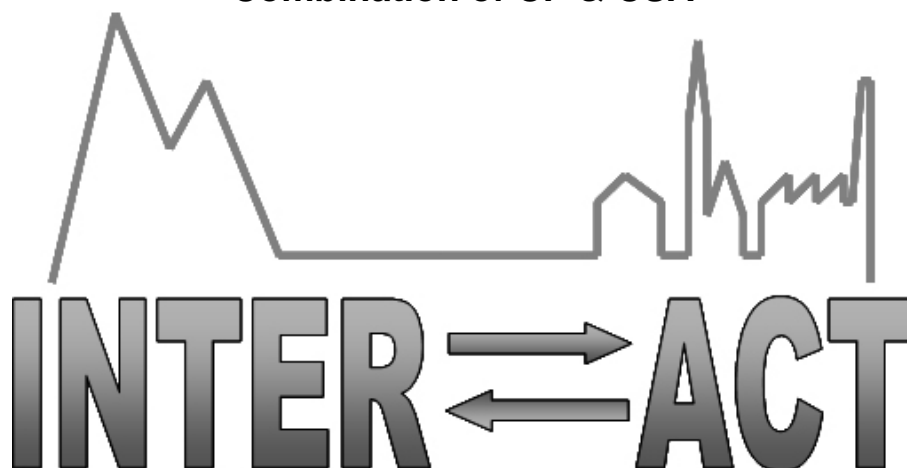


Combination of CP & CSA



D3.2 – Non EU-Infrastructure description

Project No.262693– INTERACT

FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Publishable Executive Summary

An important objective of WP 3 is to further integrate non-EU partners within INTERACT. These partners operate research stations in the Russian Federation, in the USA and in Canada. A major way of integrating these stations include collating their information on monitoring, research, station management etc. and publishing it on the INTERACT web site to create a one stop shop. In addition, participation and face to face dialogue at INTERACT meetings was ensured as another method of integration. The INTERACT non-EU partners are also encouraged to play an equal role in INTERACT as EU partners. Furthermore, the coordination team and Partner 2 (NERI) have been invited by non-EU partners to advise on issues regarding station management and operation at their meetings. The complete integration of the non-EU partners of INTERACT is visible already by their inclusion on the INTERACT web site, the Station Catalogue (see deliverable D2.3) and their attendance at INTERACT meetings (D2.1, D2.2, D3.1).

1. Non-EU Infrastructures description: Description of the Non-EU infrastructures and their activities on the INTERACT web site

An important objective of WP 3 is to further integrate non-EU partners within INTERACT. These partners operate research stations in the Russian Federation, in the USA and in Canada. The non-EU INTERACT stations include:

Canada

Boniface River
Bylot Island
Clearwater Lake
Kluane Lake
Radisson
Salluit
Umiujaq
Ward Hunt Island
Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik

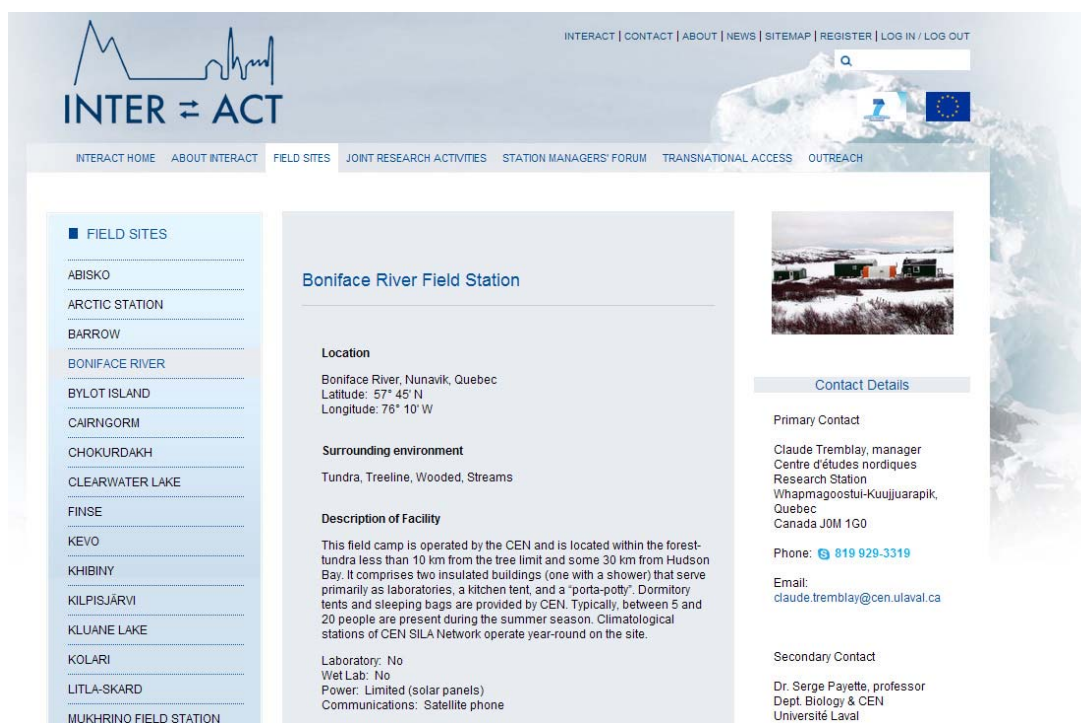
Russia

Chokurdakh
Khibiny
Mukhrino Field Station
Nymto Park Station
Samoylov
Spasskaya Pad

US

Barrow
Toolik

A major way of integrating these stations includes collating their information on monitoring, research, station management etc. and publishing it on the INTERACT web site to create a one stop shop.



The screenshot shows the INTERACT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: INTERACT | CONTACT | ABOUT | NEWS | SITEMAP | REGISTER | LOG IN / LOG OUT. Below this is a search bar and a header with the INTERACT logo and flags of Canada and the European Union. A secondary navigation bar includes: INTERACT HOME | ABOUT INTERACT | FIELD SITES | JOINT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES | STATION MANAGERS' FORUM | TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS | OUTREACH. The main content area is titled 'FIELD SITES' and features a list of stations on the left, with 'BONIFACE RIVER' selected. The main content area displays details for the Boniface River Field Station, including its location (Boniface River, Nunavik, Quebec), coordinates, surrounding environment (Tundra, Treeline, Wooded, Streams), and a description of the facility. A 'Contact Details' section provides contact information for Claude Tremblay, the primary contact, and Dr. Serge Payette, the secondary contact.

Information from Boniface River Field Station, Canada on INTERACT's web site.

Furthermore, the complete integration of the non-EU partners of INTERACT is visible also by their inclusion in the Station Catalogue (see deliverable D2.3).



TOOLIK

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
TFS is situated in the arctic foothills province of the North Slope, which is characterised by rolling hills and broad valleys underlain by continuous permafrost. The area is dotted with lakes, and the vegetation is dominated by dwarf-shrub and sedge-tundra. Caribou and Arctic ground squirrels are frequently observed at the field station, and moosa, musk-oxen and grizzly bears are encountered occasionally.

HISTORY AND FACILITIES
TFS was first established in 1975 to support an aquatic research program. The field station evolved from a 10-person tent camp into a premier arctic research laboratory and science support facility capable of supporting up to 150 researchers. The field station includes several laboratory trailers and tents, a lecture hall, various dormitory accommodation styles, a kitchen and dining hall, shower and laundry facilities, and a tool shop. TFS is open year-round and provides transportation to and from the station, basic science support, high-speed internet, GIS services, general-use laboratory and field equipment, hot/coldum, and baseline environmental and meteorological data.

STATION NAME AND OWNER
The Toolik Field Station (TFS) belongs to the Institute of Arctic Biology of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

LOCATION
TFS is located 210 km south of Deadhorse and 600 km north of Fairbanks in arctic Alaska. The field station is situated north of Gates of the Arctic National Park, and its location allows scientists to access the Brooks Range, the arctic foothills and the arctic coastal plain.

GENERAL RESEARCH AND DATABASES
Research themes at TFS are wide-ranging and dynamic and currently include the structure and function of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the arctic foothills and tundra, the effects of Climate Change in these regions and the feedbacks to global Climate Change through gas and hydrological fluxes. TFS-based research has also led to significant discoveries on the adaptations of plants and animals to the Arctic and to population-level changes in phenologies and distributions. Existing databases hosted at TFS include climate records and baseline environmental monitoring. A substantial body of research data collected by the arctic LTER program are also available from their website.

HUMAN DIMENSION
TFS is located in the North Slope Borough of northern Alaska close to the Dalton Highway. Anaktuvuk is the closest native village, which is situated in the Brooks Range about 150 km west of TFS by air.

ACCESS
TFS is accessible by road from Deadhorse and Fairbanks. The field station provides transportation to and from these towns, and snowmobiles, boats, trucks, and bicycles are available for local transportation. A helicopter scheduled through the National Science Foundation is based at TFS.

An example of the inclusion of non-EU partners in INTERACT's Station Catalogue from Toolik Lake, USA (http://www.eu-interact.org/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/Downloads/INTERACT_Station_Catalogue_A.pdf).

In addition, participation and face to face dialogue at INTERACT meetings was ensured as another method of integration. Non-EU partners attended the kick off meeting, the first annual meeting and the three Station Managers' Fora, all held within Europe. Furthermore, the coordination team and Partner 2 (NERI) have been invited by non-EU partners to advise on issues regarding station management and operation at their meetings

A potential barrier to full integration of non-EU partners within INTERACT is the possibility for circum-arctic Transnational Access. Although this barrier has to be overcome at a political and funding agency level, INTERACT has made significant progress. Transnational Access is offered to Russia within the EU grant, the CEN in Canada has offered initial Transnational Access funding for user groups from EU and Russian INTERACT partners and the Toolik Lake Field Station is exploring similar possibilities.