



Tasmanian Polar Network

**Media release
14 November 2014**

Network says funding will inject new confidence into Antarctic sector

The injection of \$24 million into Antarctic and Southern Ocean science will re-invigorate a research program badly in need of funds and confidence, according to the Tasmanian Polar Network.

The Australian Research Council today detailed the science program behind the \$24 million funding agreement announced last year by the Federal Government. The University of Tasmania, its specialist research agency the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies and the Australian Maritime College, CSIRO and the Australian Antarctic Division will receive funds from the Program.

The Network is a voice for industry and government with research and business interests in East Antarctica and has been actively campaigning for increased science investment.

Its Chair, Mr John Brennan, said the prospect of an additional 40 jobs for young researchers, funding for marine science voyages, and the development of world-leading technologies for under-ice exploration will be a significant stimulus for the sector.

“This funding is the sort of demonstration of faith the sector has been calling for and comes at a time when our potential to expand international relationships, especially with China, has never been stronger.

“We argued the time to invest is now because science is underpinning Australia’s Treaty profile, and the bulk of its public good research funding can only come from Government.

“While this funding commitment is a positive for the sector more funding is needed if Tasmania is to achieve the global status as a hub of excellence for cold climate science, research and commercial activities,” Mr Brennan said.

With resourcing for planning to replace Australia’s icebreaker, and to extend the Hobart Airport runway, and now a \$24 million funding boost, Mr Brennan said Australia’s presence in the sector can again be viewed as an international drawcard for science, research innovation and commercial activity.

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More information:

Australian Research Council - http://www.arc.gov.au/media/releases/Minister_14Nov2014.htm

University of Tasmania - [http://www.utas.edu.au/latest-news/utas-homepage-news/\\$24-million-a-key-to-unlocking-tasmanias-place-as-gateway-to-the-antarctic](http://www.utas.edu.au/latest-news/utas-homepage-news/$24-million-a-key-to-unlocking-tasmanias-place-as-gateway-to-the-antarctic)

The Federal Minister for the Environment - <http://www.greghunt.com.au/>