

# AQUARIUS

## Aqua Research Infrastructure Services

for the health and protection of our unique ocean, seas and freshwater systems



### The 36th Annual International Research Ship Operators meeting – IRSO

Aodhán Fitzgerald, AQUARIUS Project Coordinator



AQUARIUS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement No 101130915. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

# About AQUARIUS

AQUARIUS will **provide access to a comprehensive and diverse suite of research infrastructures** to address challenges & explore opportunities for the sustainability of our marine & freshwater ecosystems.



### Research infrastructure (RI)

- ① Research Vessels ◆ 19u.
- ② Mobile Marine Observation Platforms (Gliders, AUVs, USVs, ROVs, Ferrybox systems) + 12u.
- ③ Fixed Marine Facilities (Data buoys, seafloor observatories) ○ 12u.
- ④ Experimental Research Facility ▲ 8u.
- ⑤ River and Basin Supersites ● 8u.
- ⑥ Aircrafts 3u.
- ⑦ Drones ★ 2u.
- ⑧ Satellite Services 1u.
- ⑨ Data Centers & Virtual Labs ▼ +10u.

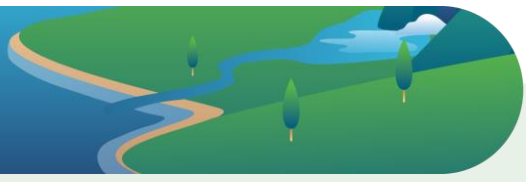
Some RIs are situated beyond the borders of the displayed map (Greenland, Iceland, Canary Islands)

### Participating RIs



- **4 years duration Mar 24 – Feb 28**
- **45 Partners (18 nations)**
- **€14.5 Million Budget**
- **Marine Institute Budget: €2.2mill**
- **Coordinated by MI (RV Ops)**

# 45 partners, 18 nations



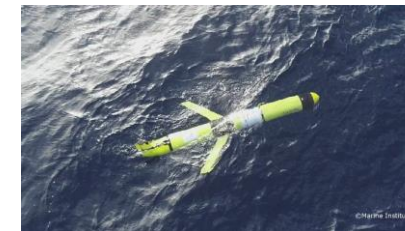
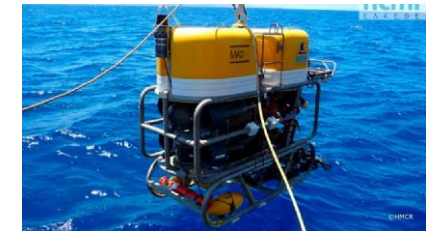


# Research Infrastructure Catalogue



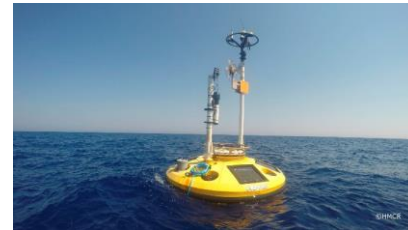
- ✓ **18 Research Vessels**
- ✓ **12 Mobile Marine Obs. Platforms**
- ✓ **11 Fixed Marine Facilities**
- ✓ **8 Experimental Research Facilities**
- ✓ **5 River & Basin Supersites**
- ✓ **3 Aircraft**
- ✓ **2 Drones**
- ✓ **1 Satellite Service**

# Research Infrastructure Catalogue



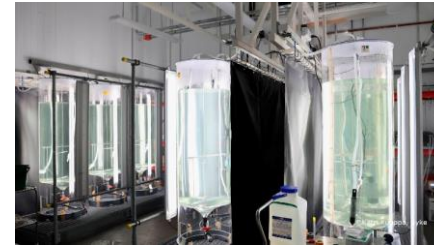
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# Research Infrastructure Catalogue



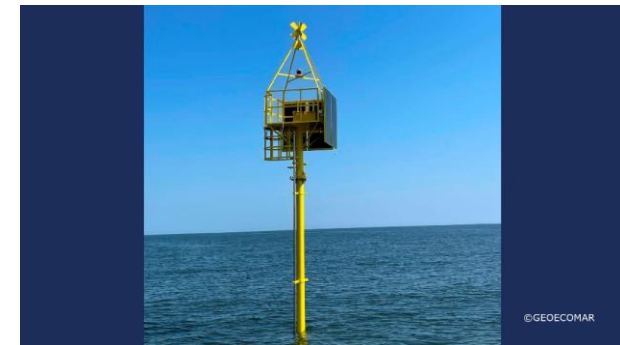
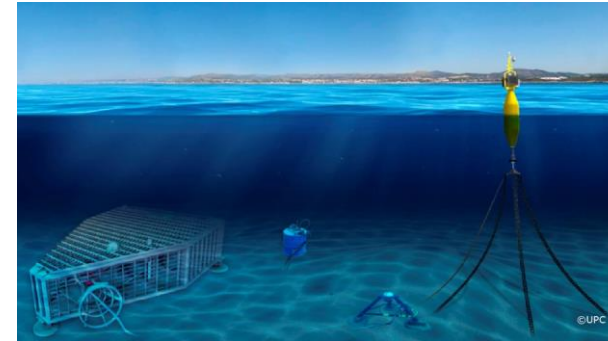
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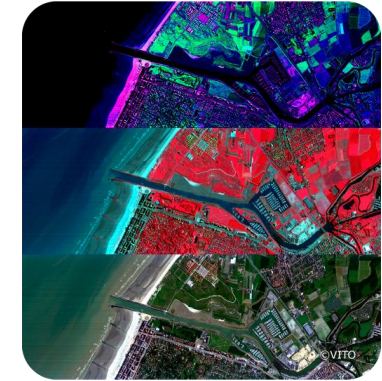
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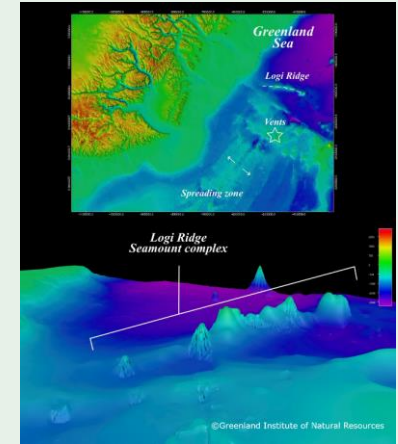
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# Call 1 Regional Lighthouse Call – Initial Results

- Call 1 closed on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- 18 applications received for the 1<sup>st</sup> AQUARIUS Call
- Good mix of infrastructures, all lighthouse regions covered, and a variety of scientific disciplines
- 25 unique infrastructures were selected as first priority from a catalogue of 65.
- After a logistical pre-check and scientific evaluation, **14 proposals** were been recommended for funding (**11 with 1<sup>st</sup> Priority, 3 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority**).

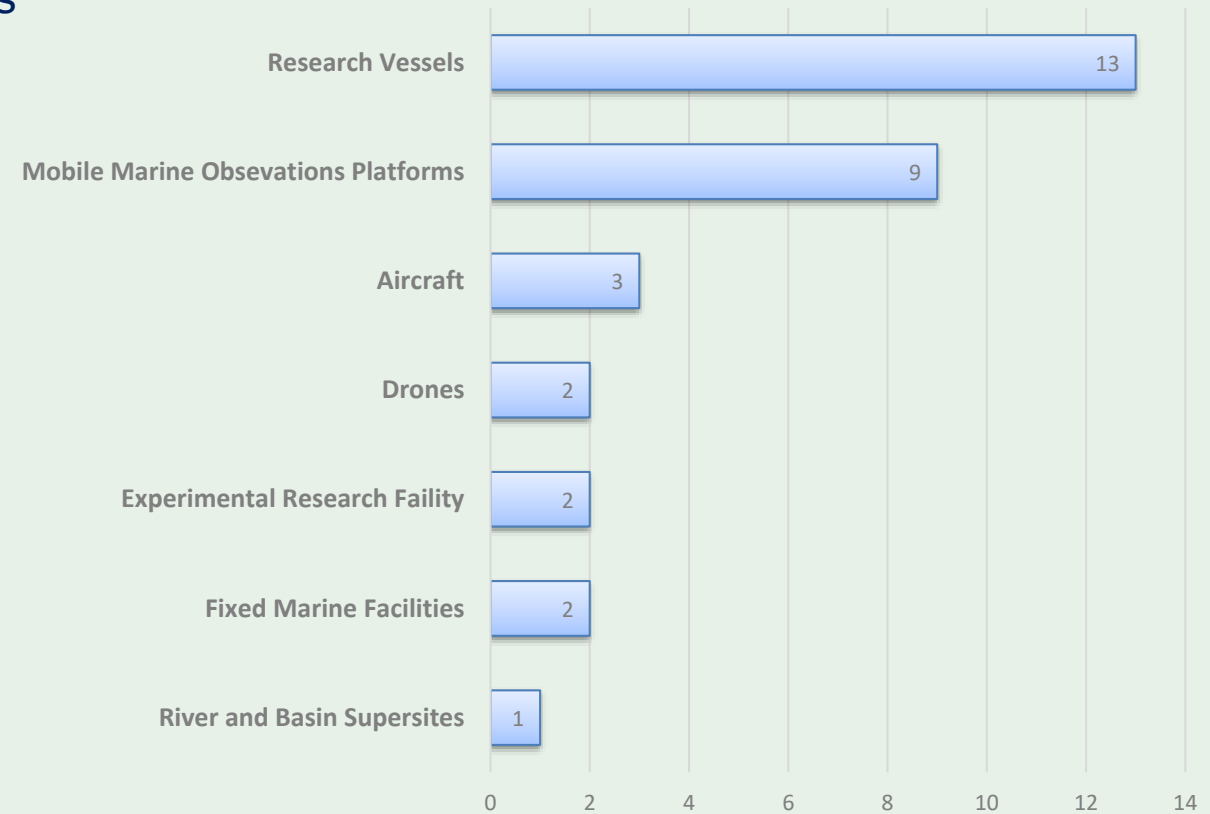


# Research Infrastructure applied for in Call 1

- Research Vessels and Marine Mobile Observation Platforms were the most requested RI types



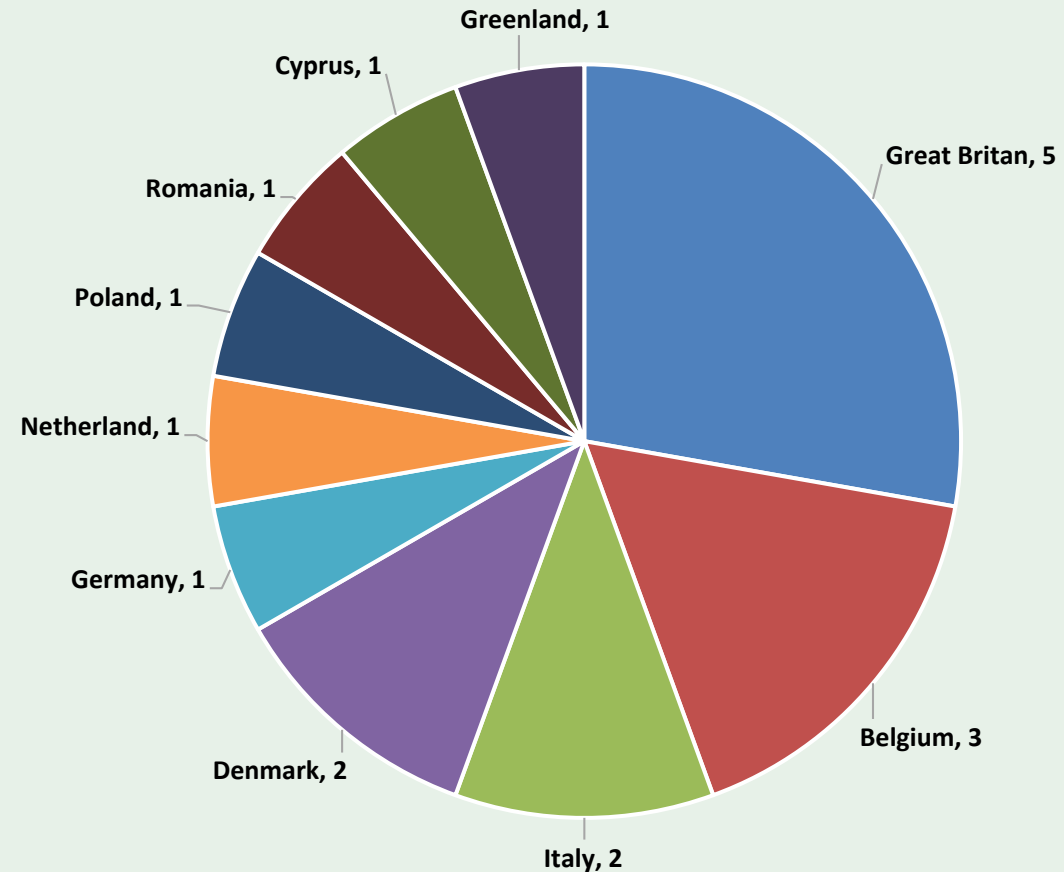
Count of RIs Requested



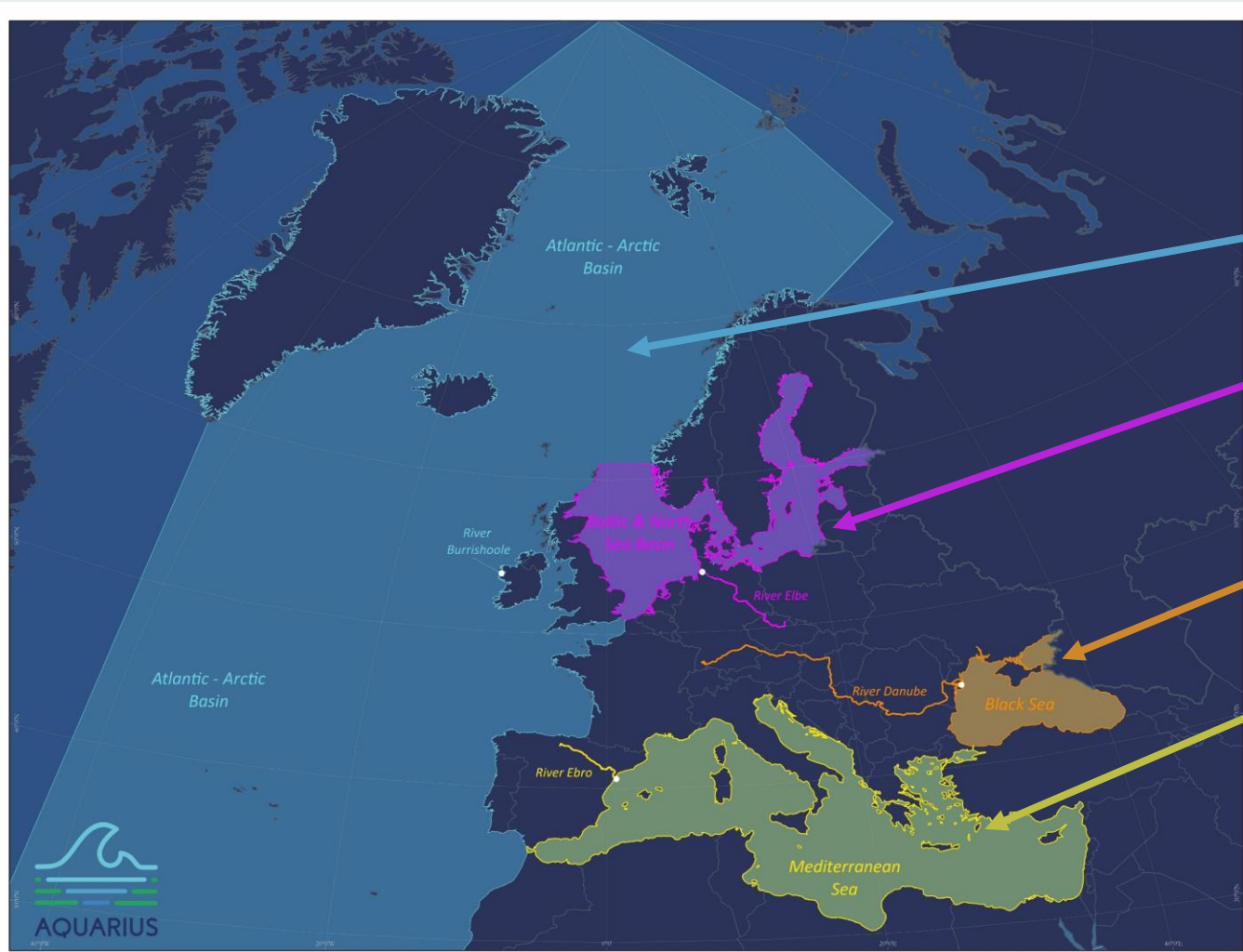
# Applicant & User Statistics

- **In total, 1099 units of access requested in Call 1**
- 220 users across 18 proposals.
- User group leaders from 10 different countries
- 3 Early Career group leaders

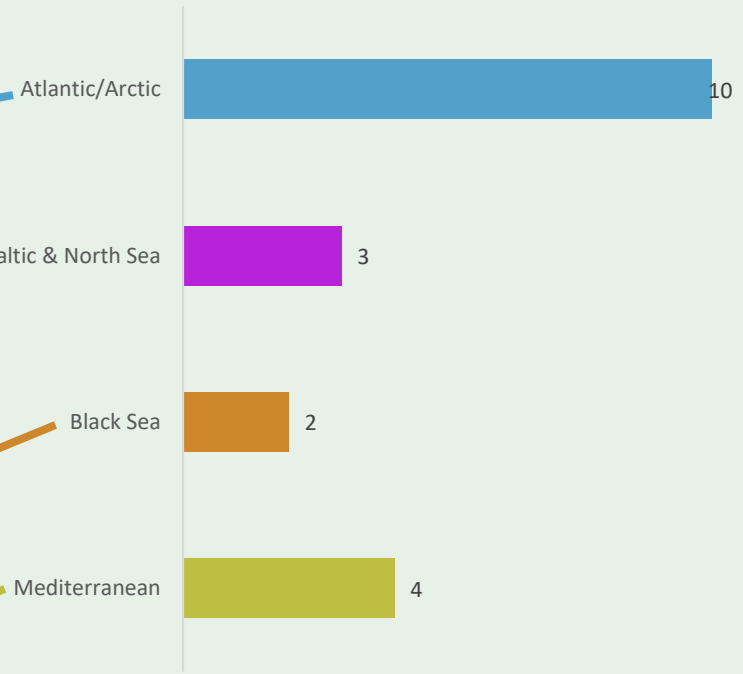
Breakdown of PI Organization Country



# Call 1 Preferred Regions



Number of proposals targeting each Lighthouse Region



One proposal overlaps with the Baltic & North Sea and the Mediterranean!

# Current Status of Call 1

- **9 Transnational Access Agreements Signed – see below**
  - 3 of these projects will be implemented in 2025!
- 2 Logistical Evaluations Ongoing
- 1 Proposal funding through POLARIN
- 2 B-ranked proposals remain on hold



16 unique RIs have been recommended for funding in Call 1!

PROJECT NAME	REQUESTED RI(s)	SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE	AREA	FUNDED ACCESS UNITS
ABACUS 2026	SOCIB Glider Facility	Oceanography	Mediterranean Sea	54 Days Granted
AR7E-2026	RV Celtic Explorer	Oceanography	Atlantic-Arctic	22 Days Granted
ASTRA	RV Tubitak Marmara	Oceanography	Black Sea	15 Days Granted
BASEVOC	Utö Marine and Atmospheric Research Station	Oceanography	Baltic Sea	100 Days Granted
Deep Impact	RV Aegaeo, Max Rover, South Adriatic Sea E2M3A EMSO Regional Facility, EMBRC-SBR, EMBRC-OOB	Marine science/Oceanography	Mediterranean Sea	61 Units Granted
DENGATE	RV G. O. Sars, AUV Barabas, Glider Yoko	Global change & Climate observation	Atlantic-Arctic	46 Days Granted
E(ddies)GC	RV Arni Fridriksson	Oceanography	Atlantic-Arctic	10 Days Granted
GREAT	UL_MRE-ROV, RV Celtic Explorer	Ecosystems and Biodiversity	Atlantic-Arctic	38 Days Granted
STREAM-DANUBE	RV Mare Nigrum	Oceanography	Danube River	13 Days Granted

# Agreed Access Periods

- Access Calendar available on the website: [www.aquarius-ri.eu/transnational-access-call-1](http://www.aquarius-ri.eu/transnational-access-call-1)



## AQUARIUS Funding Call 2: Opening 2<sup>nd</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2025



AQUARIUS

**Funding Call**

Marine and  
Freshwater Infrastructure Access

Open for applications from  
2 September 2025 – 28 October 2025



### What to do next?

1. Visit our website for all the Call information.

[aquarius-ri.eu/access](https://aquarius-ri.eu/access)

2. From 2 September 2025 register on the AQUARIUS Transnational Access Platform (TAP) and activate your account.
3. Check our Research Infrastructure Catalogue.
4. Contact the operators to find out whether your proposal can be implemented as planned.
5. Fill in the application form in the TAP.
6. Review and submit your application.



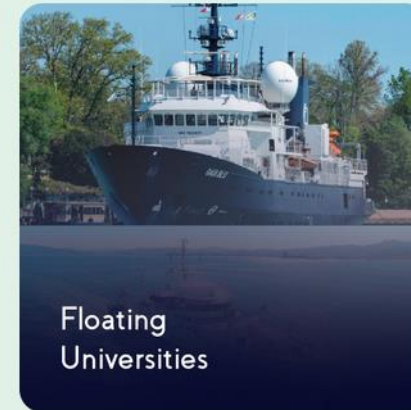
## Challenges facing Call 2 – Low RV availability in Atlantic/Arctic

- Logistical evaluations of Call 1 have highlighted risks with low availability for larger vessels for Call 2 in the Atlantic/Arctic.
- Obvious from Call 1 proposals that there's a strong interest to study North Atlantic, Arctic, & Greenland waters. Larger RVs are required to conduct these expeditions.
- RV Sarmiento de Gamboa's activities in the Arctic have been reduced in recent years, unlikely to be working in that region 2026/2027.
- Reaching out to partners to include additional polar class vessels in the catalogue via a project amendment.

Availability Grade	Availability Status	Vessel	No. Accesses in Call 1	Region of Operation			Comments
1	Available for Call 2	RV Svea	0	B&NS			
1	Available for Call 2	RV Sanna	0	A/A			
1	Available for Call 2	RV Wim Wolff	0	B&NS			
1	Available for Call 2	RV Simon Stevin	0	B&NS			
1	Available for Call 2	RV Sarmiento de Gamboa	0	A/A	Med		Potentially only available in Arctic in Summer 2027 (TBC)
1	Available for Call 2	RV Aranda	0	B&NS			
1	Available for Call 2	RV Aegaeo	0		Med	Black	
1	Available for Call 2	RV Socib	0		Med		
1	Available for Call 2	RV L'Europe	0		Med		
1	Available for Call 2	RV Gaia Blu	0		Med		
2	Available for c. 15 days 2026/2027	RV Tubitak Marmara	1		Med	Black	
3	Availability TBC	RV Mare Nigrum	1			Black	
3	Availability TBC	RV Arni Fridriksson	1	A/A			
4	Limited availability in 2027	RV Thalassa	0	A/A	Med		Potentially only available Summer 2027
4	Limited availability in 2027	RV Jákup Sverri	0	A/A	B&NS		Nov 2027 until Febr. 2028
5	Likely not available for Call 2	RV Belgica	0	A/A	B&NS		
5	Likely not available for Call 2	RV Celtic Explorer	3	A/A	B&NS		
6	Not available for Call 2	RV G. O. Sars	1	A/A	B&NS		

## AQUARIUS Training Opportunities

- **Internships:** open call for applications – AQUARIUS budget available to place Early Career Researchers or Technicians at/on AQUARIUS Infrastructures – apply via the website
- **PLOCAN Glider Summer School:** (2 AQUARIUS funded places available in 2025, 2026 and 2027)
- **2 x Floating Universities**
  - 1) **RV Gaia Blu**, Italy Aug 2026 - MED-SHIP transect focussing on long-term trend detection and variability in the Mediterranean
  - 2) **RV Svea**, Sweden (Baltic Sea) –June/July 2026 - Hydroacoustic survey, water quality and benthic
- **Seabed Mapping Training Programme:** Oct 3rd – 6th 2025 onboard the RV Tom Crean in conjunction with INFOMAR and HydroOctave. Focus on multi-beam data acquisition, processing and analysis. ***Applications closed, and participants have been selected.***



VISIT  
**AQUARIUS-RI.EU**



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TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS TO INTEGRATED RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE



Funded by  
the European Union

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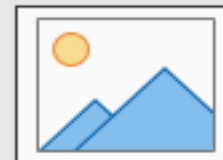
**POLARIN**

POLAR  
RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
NETWORK

**POLAR RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK  
- UPDATE FIRST CALL**

Verónica Willmott (AWI)  
Hannele Savela (UOULU)

[www.eu-polarin.eu](http://www.eu-polarin.eu)

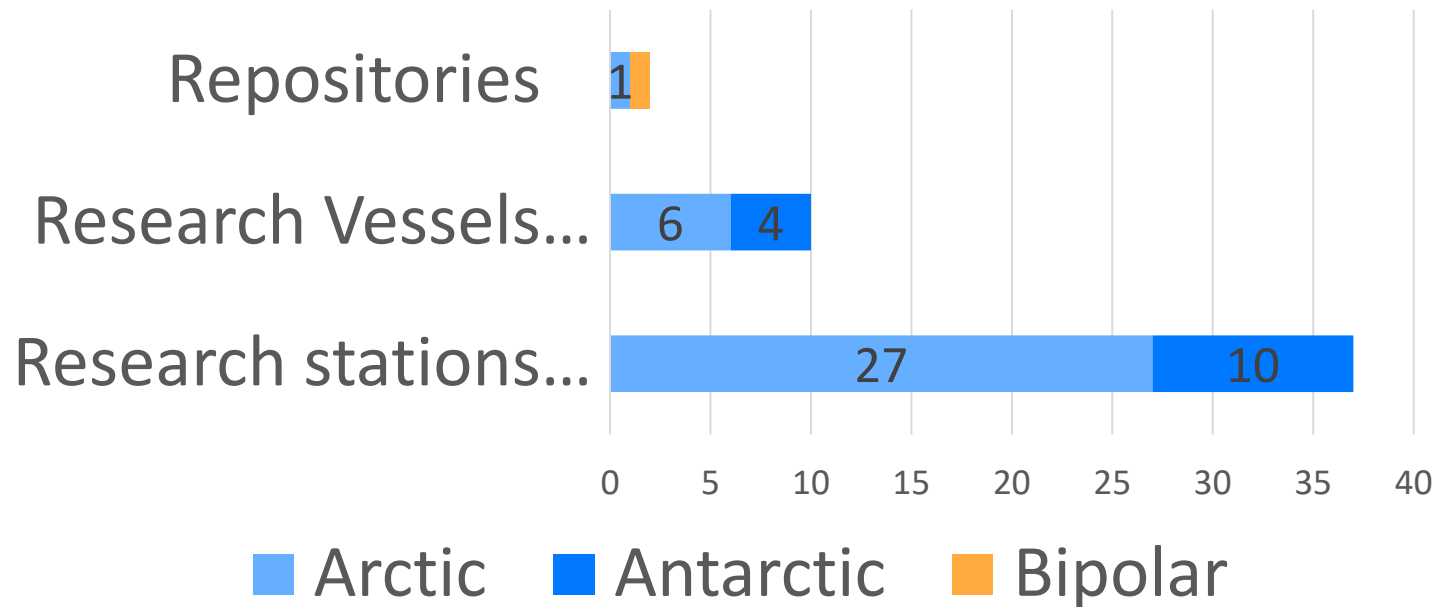


FUNDED BY THE  
EUROPEAN UNION

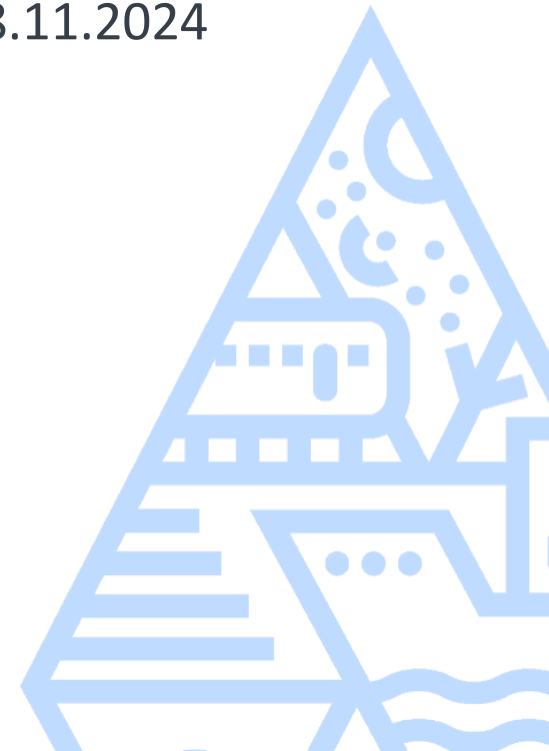
# POLARIN CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024



## POLARIN 1st TA call Offered RI



- 1 single portal
- Access offered to 49 RIs
- Call opening: 01.10.2024
- Call Closing: 28.11.2024

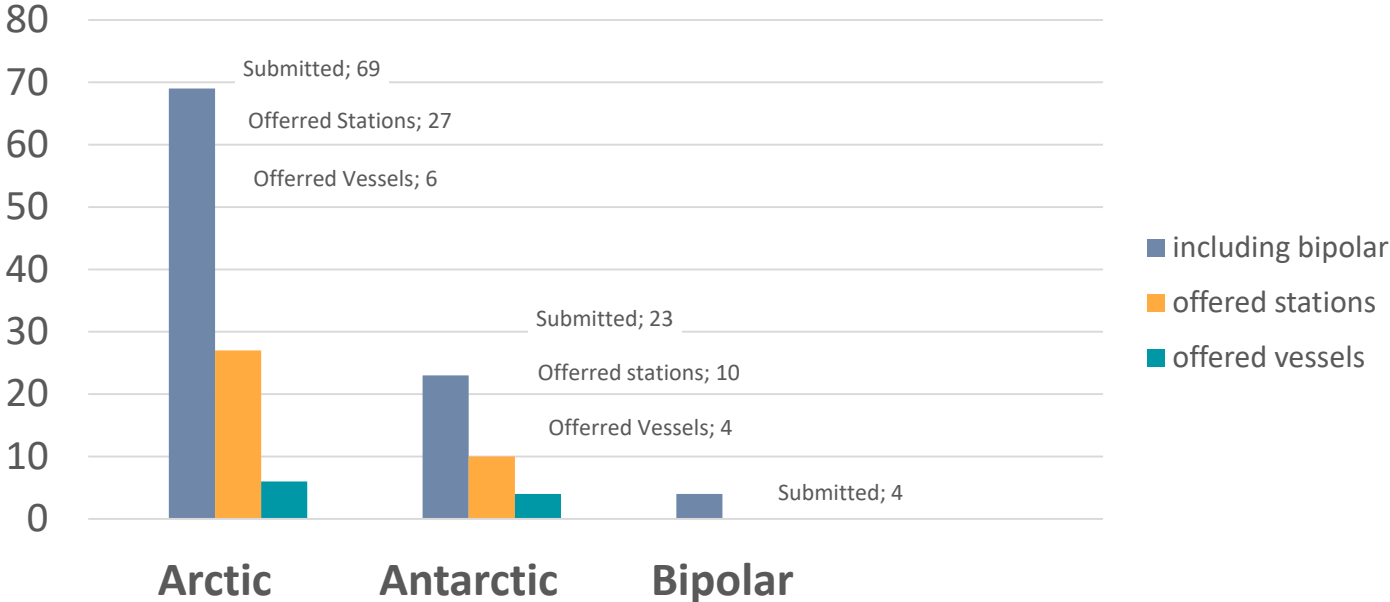


# POLARIN CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024

## FIRST INSIGHTS - PROPOSALS



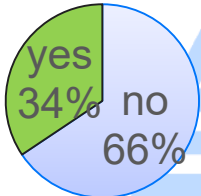
### Overview POLARIN Call for Proposals 2024



- 96 submitted proposals
- Request rate (submitted proposals/area)
- 86 eligible proposals

- Arctic: 2,2
- Antarctic: 1,9

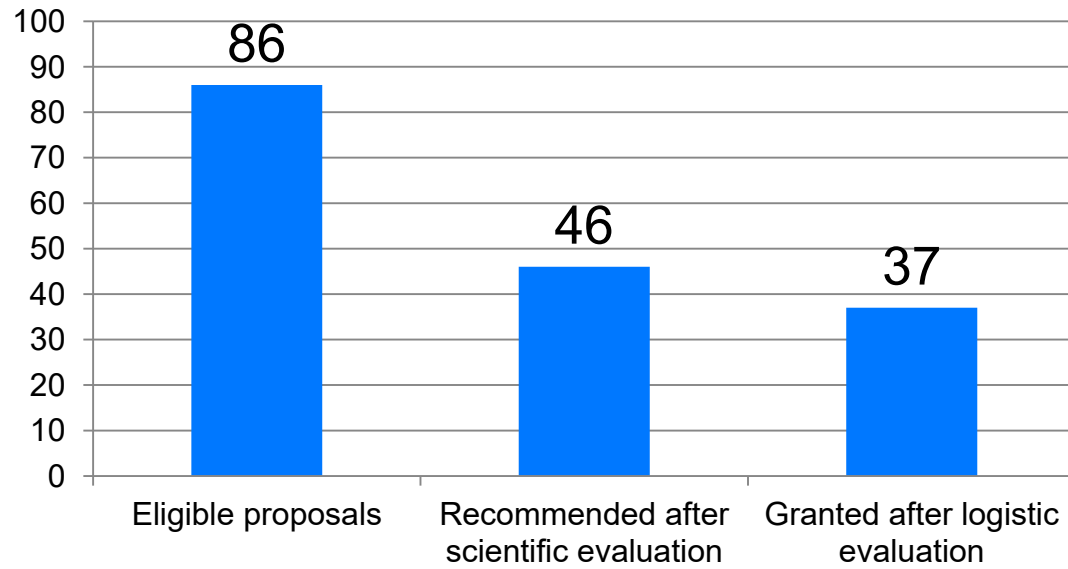
### User Group Leader is ECR



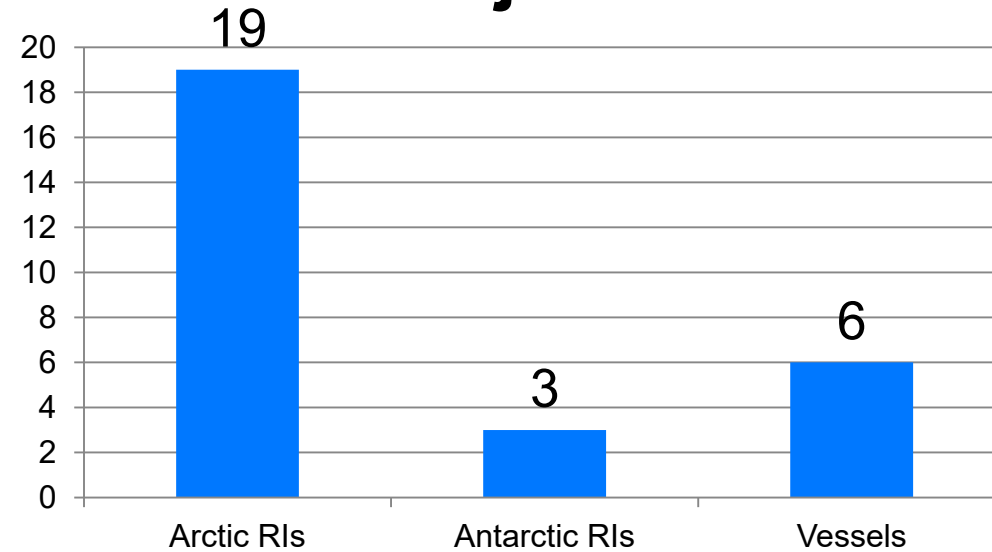
# Granted access



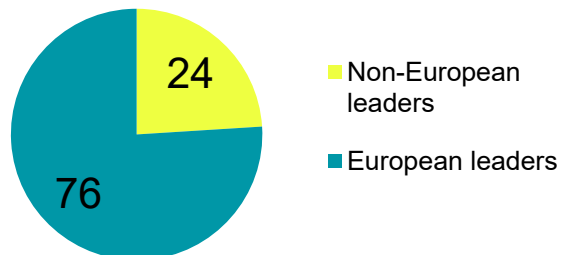
## Proposals



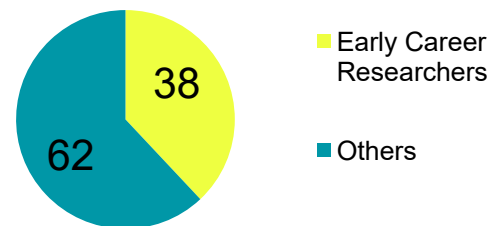
## Projects



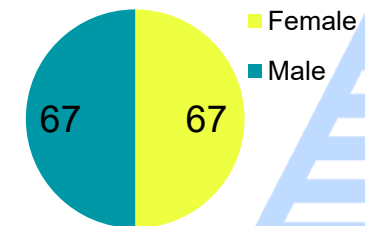
## User Groups



## Early Career



## GenderUsers



# RESEARCH CRUISES GRANTSD



Acronym	Group Leader Organization	Country	RIs	Implementation period (start–end)	Geographic location
<b>BlueCFjords</b>	Renard Centre of Marine Geology, Ghent University	BE	RV Celtic Explorer	06/02/2026 – 29/09/2027	Arctic
<b>Pro-Carbon</b>	Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences	PL	RV Kronprins Haakon	11/08/2025 – 27/08/2025	Arctic
<b>DENIIS</b>	Aarhus University	DK	Rif Field Station, RV Árni Friðriksson	08/10/2026 – 09/11/2026	Arctic
<b>FOCUS</b>	Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República	UY	MV Le Commandant Charcot	20/12/2025 – 03/01/2026	Antarctic
<b>IceVar</b>	Finnish Meteorological Institute	FI	MV Le Commandant Charcot	13/07/2026 – 10/09/2026	Arctic
<b>PODS</b>	Institute of Marine Research	NO	RV Hesperides	02/01/2027 – 24/03/2027	Antarctic
<b>FLAIR</b>	MBARI	US	RV Hesperides	06/01/2026 – 14/01/2026	Antarctic
<b>PIONER</b>	Imperial College London, Department of Earth Science and Engineering	UK	RVIB Laura Bassi	01/12/2026 – 31/03/2027	Antarctic
<b>ODISIMP</b>	U.S. Naval Research Laboratory	US	RV Kronprins Haakon	02/07/2025 – 31/08/2025	Arctic

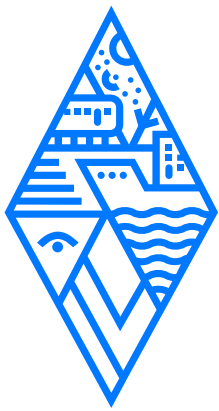
# 2nd TA Call opens on 1st September!



- **Call deadline:** 30th October
- **Brokering event:** 2nd Sept  
Information on RI facilities and services for TA  
Launch of POLARIN GIS system
- **Information webinar for TA applicants:** 18th Sept

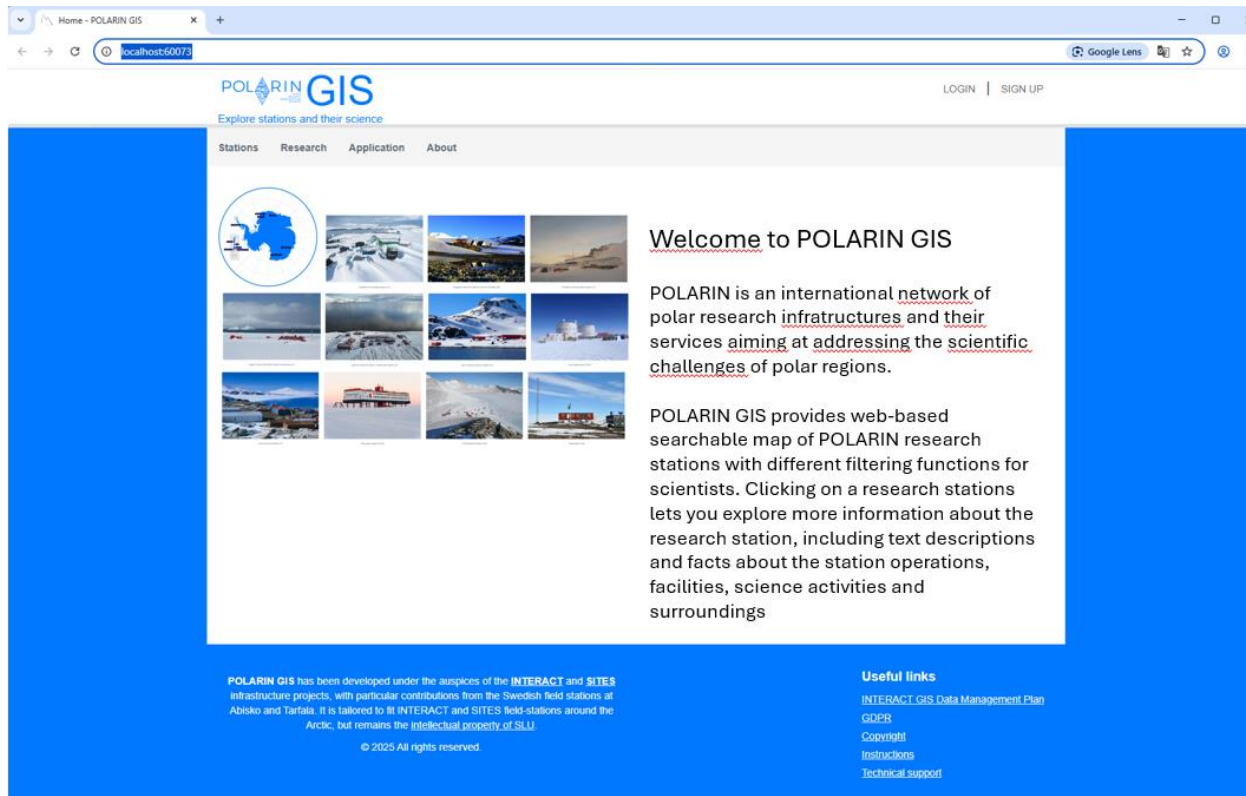
Learn more from [www.eu-polarin.eu](http://www.eu-polarin.eu) and apply!





# POLARIN GIS

POLAR  
RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
NETWORK



Developed by



Launched  
2nd September 2025!

## For RI Operators/Organisations

Online tool for sharing information about RI facilities and surroundings.

Managers and staff can access and edit information themselves.

The system can be modified to any organisation's needs.

## For scientists

Filtering functions and thematic maps allow scientists to identify RIs that suit their specific scientific needs.

**FILTERS** [Reset all filters](#)

**Organisation:**  
POLARIN only

**Stations:**  
Select stations

**CLIMATE AND ALTITUDE**

**Climate Zone:**  
Any Zone

**Mean annual temperature:**  
Any temperature

< -20 °C  
-20 - -10 °C  
-10 - 0 °C  
0 - 10 °C  
10 - 20 °C  
> 20 °C

Any precipitation

**Dominant wind direction:**  
Any direction

**Altitude of station:**  
Any altitude

**LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT** +

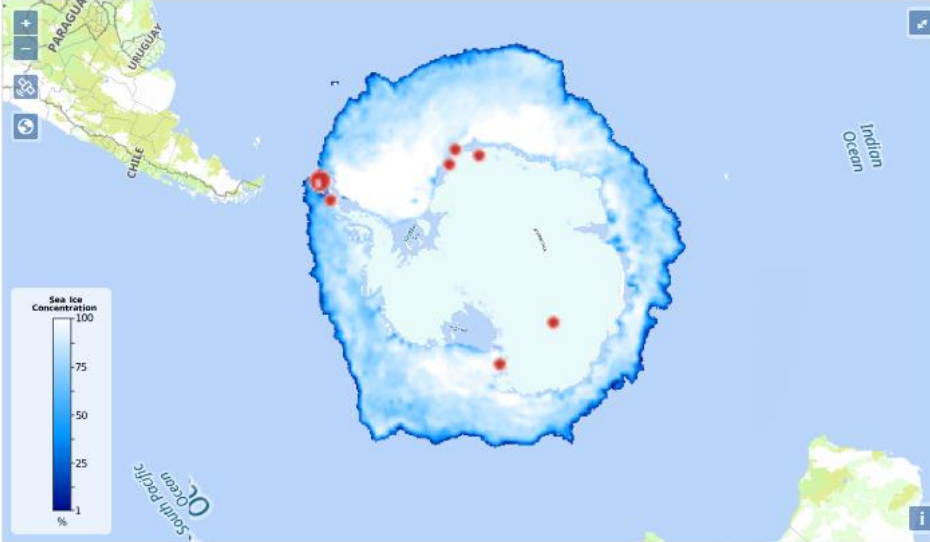
**FACILITIES AND SERVICES** +

**ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS** +

**ACCESS PROGRAMMES** +

Search Result: 11 sites

Map List



**Thematic maps**

Rock Outcrop  Ice Velocity  Sea Ice Concentration  Land And Ice Areas  Bioregions  ACBR

Currently, the system includes information from the 11 Antarctic RIs that are partners in the EU funded POLARIN project.


## For Scientists

RI display pages provide detailed information about RI facilities, climate, landscape, environment, etc.

Search Research Application About

**SWEDISH POLAR RESEARCH SECRETARIAT**

### WASA STATION



**ADDRESS** **STATION MANAGER** **CONTACT STATION**

**STATION FEATURE 8**  
Opening year: 1999  
Status: Open

**OPERATION** +  
**LOCATION** +  
**CLIMATE** +  
**LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT** +

**FACILITIES 8**  
**STAFF AND SERVICES** +  
**HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION** +  
**LOGISTICS** +  
**LABORATORY** +  
**COMMUNICATION AND IT** +  
**MEDICAL FACILITIES** +

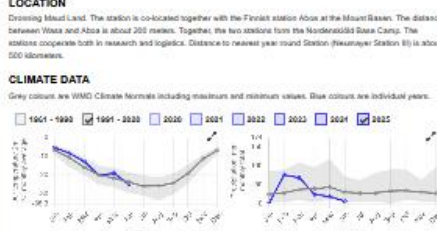
**SCIENCE**  
**PROJECTS** +  
**ACCESS PROGRAMMES** +

**STATION NAME AND OWNER**  
Wasa Research Station, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

**LOCATION**  
Crossing Moud Land. The station is co-located together with the Finnish station Abba at the Moud Basin. The distance between Wasa and Abba is about 200 meters. Together, the two stations form the Nordenstöld Base Camp. The stations cooperate both in research and logistics. Distance to nearest year round Station (Neweyear Station II) is about 200 kilometers.

**CLIMATE DATA**  
Grey colour are WMO Climate Normals including maximum and minimum values. Blue colour are individual years.

1961 - 1990  1991 - 2020  2020  2021  2022  2023  2024  2025



[Go back to EDC](#)

Climate data for the station when submitted as Copernicus Climate Data Store, from the global gridded reanalysis product ERA5 monthly averaged data on 5deg x 5deg for 1950 to present.

Description and access code: Rosen, J.K. 2025. [doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-1464444/v1](#)

Data Source: Hendrich et al. 2003, Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). [doi:10.24342/CDSDATA/10.10.10.10](#)

**BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**  
Moud Basin is a small Antarctic Maritime completely surrounded by ice.


**HISTORY AND FACILITIES**  
Both Wasa and Abba were built at the same time, no previous facilities at this location.

**GENERAL RESEARCH AND DATABASE 8**  
Wasa is a small facility without permanent staff. The station is staffed and open when there is Swedish expedition activity in this area. The fields of science vary to a high degree from expedition to expedition.

**STATION MONITORING**

**HUMAN DIMENSION**

**ACCESS 8**

Member of 

# POLARIN Consortium



# Contact Us

## Project Coordinator

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## Project Manager

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# POLARIN

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RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
NETWORK

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