

FARO National Report United States of America

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Forum of Arctic Research Operators, Arctic Science Summit Week 2026, Saturday, March 28, 2026

Outline of USA National Report

1. Brief, general overview relevant to FARO

- **Alaska:** Toolik Field Station (Dalton Highway), BARC, BEO (Utqiagvik), Western AK
- **Greenland:** Kangerlussuaq, Summit Station, Pituffik Space Base
- **Logistics Information and Support:** <https://battellearcticgateway.org/>

2. Update on any national involvement in the International Polar Year (IPY) activities.

- Planned or ongoing national contributions – **Polar Research Board, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: Exploring Key Research and Monitoring Topics for U.S. Engagement in the Fifth International Polar Year: Proceedings of a Workshop (2026);** <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/29327>
- Description of relevant infrastructure in place or under development that support IPY and ICARP activities – **SuMR, USCGC Healy SLEP, U.S. Academic Research Fleet (R/V Sikuliaq), ICE-Pact MOU and 11 new Arctic Security Cutter (ASC) icebreakers:** <https://www.dhs.gov/ice-pact>

3. Overview of planned or available research vessels and/or icebreakers.

- Timeframe of availability, operational areas or routes, capacity – **TBD**
- Points of contact for coordination or further information – frack@nsf.gov

IARPC Vessel Movements: <https://www.iarpcollaborations.org/research-expeditions.html>



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Toolik Field Station (TFS) operated by UAF/IAB along the Dalton Highway north of Fairbanks, AK



2025 Marked the 50th Year of Operations for TFS!



URL: <https://www.uaf.edu/toolik/>

Barrow Arctic Science Center (BARC) and Barrow Environmental Observatory (BEO) in Utqiagvik/Barrow, AK



UIC Science LLC, a subsidiary of Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC), provides science support to researchers in Utqiagvik and the North Slope of Alaska. UIC Science arranges logistics, lodging, lab and office space, permits and equipment, provides bear guards, hires community observers on research vessels, and develops education and outreach efforts with the community. In 1992, UIC founded the 7,466-acre Charles Etok Edwardsen Barrow Environmental Observatory to conserve areas that have a scientific value.

URL: <https://uicalaska.com/our-companies/uic-science-llc/>

NSF in Greenland

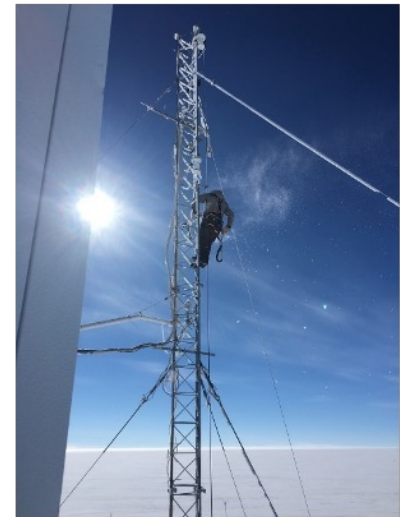
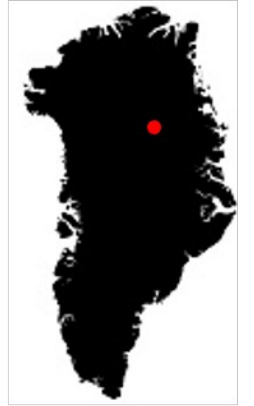
- NSF invests over \$20 million per year in research in Greenland to better understand the ice sheet, atmosphere, ecosystems, astrophysics and social sciences.
- 300-400 people deploy to Greenland annually including scientists, contractors, and military.
- Approximately \$2 million per year is directly contributed to Greenland's economy.
- ~15 research locations across Greenland annually.
- The research and logistics hub in Kangerlussuaq services Summit Station and Raven Camp as well as many local projects.



<https://battlearcticgateway.org/location-greenland/>

Greenland Operations Locations: Summit Station

- The only high altitude, high latitude, inland, year-round observing station in the Arctic; the atmosphere is well-mixed, making samples more representative of the northern hemisphere than other locations with local influences.
- Summit Station is based around the borehole from the Greenland Ice Sheet 2 (GISP2) project that completed a full-depth core in 1989 and is the center of the 7km area allotment permitted from the Government of Greenland.
- Summit Station supports a wide range of research on a year-round basis: meteorology, glaciology, atmospheric chemistry, and astrophysics.
- The summer population of ~25 may swell to 40+; in winter, a core staff of 5 maintains instrumentation and facilities.
- Measurements ongoing at Summit Station are vital to a broad swath of the scientific research and modeling communities studying the atmosphere and the Greenland Ice Sheet.



Summit Station Modernization and Recapitalization (SuMR): Proposed Facilities



Existing Infrastructure Limits Research Capabilities:

- Electrical power generating capacity limits instrumentation and heaters to prevent frost
- Lack of indoor space for researchers to assemble equipment or have workstations for analysis and testing
- Limited heated storage space for sensitive research equipment, supplies, specialized tools and other materials
- Balloon launch facility co-located in the garage
- Limited summer berthing for research campaigns in temporary mobile structures
- Aging facilities and constant issues with drifting snow

The SuMR Project Aims To:

- Provide efficient, reliable power with integrated renewable energy, and battery back-up
- Construct a dedicated science space with workstations, storage, instrument assembly, and provide a clean balloon launch facility
- Replace temporary, mobile berthing with dorm-style berthing
- Improve approaches to water treatment and reduce environmental impacts
- Elevate structures to alleviate snow drifting and snow management issues

USCGC Healy (WAGB-20)

Service Life Extension Program (SLEP)



Ship-based Science Technical Support in the Arctic (STARAC)

UC San Diego



Oregon State University



Primary Science Upgrades:

- EM304 MKII 30 kHz Multibeam system
- SBP29 4-9 kHz Subbottom Profiler system

Contracts to Build Six Arctic Security Cutters (ASC) Icebreakers Announced

12/29/25 - The U.S. Coast Guard announced the **award of two contracts to build up to six Arctic Security Cutter (ASC) icebreakers between the United States and Finland**. Contracts were awarded to Rauma Marine Constructions Oy of Rauma, Finland, and Bollinger Shipyards Lockport, L.L.C. of Lockport, Louisiana. The contract with Rauma Marine Constructions Oy includes **up to two ASCs to be built in Finland**, with delivery of the first vessel expected in 2028. The contract with Bollinger Shipyards Lockport, L.L.C. includes **up to four ASCs to be built in the United States**, with delivery of the first domestically built cutter expected in 2029. Bollinger will construct ASCs based on the **Multi-Purpose Icebreaker (MPI) design** by Seaspan Shipyards of Vancouver, Canada, developed with Aker Arctic Technology Inc of Helsinki, Finland.

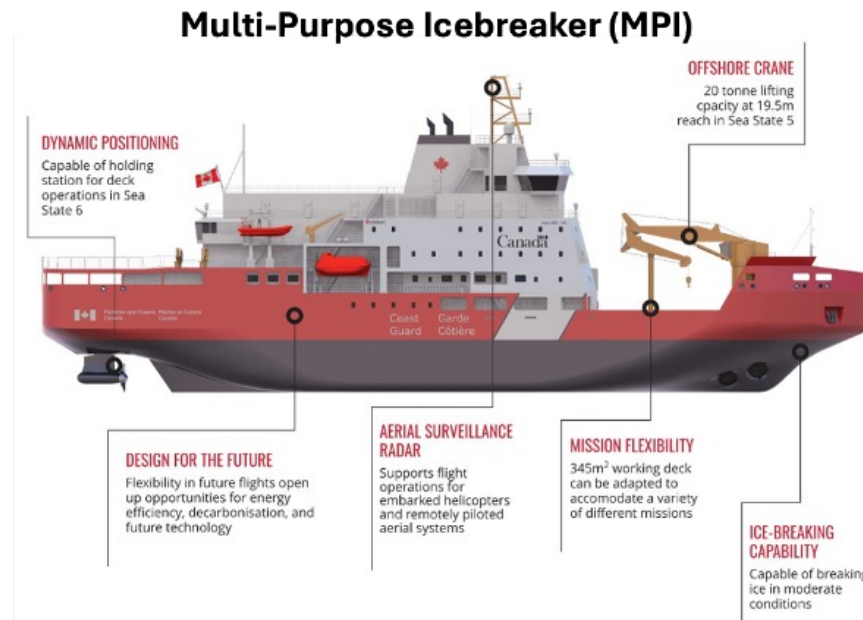
See: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/4368196>

See: <https://www.bollingershipyards.com/news/bollinger-shipyards-signs-contract-to-build-four-u-s-coast-guard-arctic-security-cutters/>

ICE-Pact MOU

<https://www.dhs.gov/ice-pact>

- United States of America
- Canada
- Finland



Contracts Announced on 12/29/25:
Bollinger Shipyards Lockport, L.L.C.
Rauma Marine Constructions Oy
Seaspan Shipyards
Aker Arctic Technology, Inc.

Contracts to Build Five Arctic Security Cutters (ASC) Icebreakers Announced

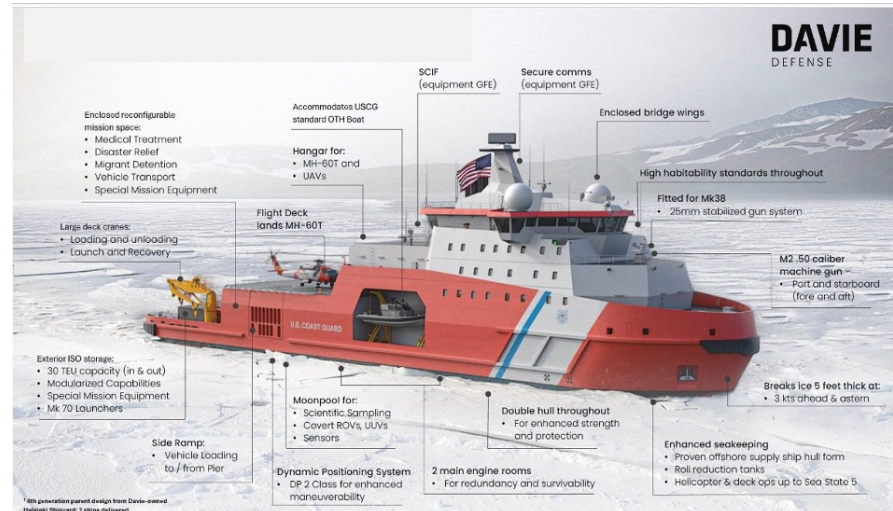
2/11/26 – The U.S. Coast Guard announced today it has completed the award of contracts for 11 ASCs. The **latest award is for construction of up to five ASCs**. The contract awarded today builds on previous awards announced Dec 29, 2025. **Davie Defense, Inc. will construct two ASCs at Helsinki Shipyard in Finland and three domestically**. American shipbuilders will work and learn alongside Helsinki’s world-leading icebreaker builders. This will support the efficient all-American **construction of three ASCs at Davie’s facilities in Galveston and Port Arthur, Texas**. Davie’s ASC (**Multi-Purpose Polar Support Ship, MPPS-100**) design is based on a proven platform with seven previous variants delivered from Helsinki Shipyard.

See: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/4403354/us-coast-guard-completes-the-presidents-contract-awards-for-11-arctic-security/>

See: <https://www.daviedefense.com/>

See: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2026/02/davie-defense-awarded-uscg-contract-to-build-five-arctic-security-cutters/>

Multi-Purpose Polar Support Ship (MPPS-100)



ICE-Pact MOU

<https://www.dhs.gov/ice-pact>

- United States of America
- Canada
- Finland

Contracts Announced on 2/11/26:

- Davie Defense, Inc.
- Helsinki Shipyard
- Davie (Gulf Copper) Shipyards in Galveston and Port Arthur, TX

NSF Supported Arctic Research Cruises in 2026

Allyson Tessin (PI, Kent State University, ANS-2442209): CAREER: Disentangling the controls and impacts of sedimentary iron cycling across Alaskan continental shelves; **R/V *Sikuliaq*** (Oct-Nov).

Bob Pickart (PI, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, AON-2135537): Monitoring the Western Arctic Boundary Current in a warming climate: Atmospheric forcing and oceanographic response; **USCGC *Healy*** (Oct-Nov).

Rebecca Woodgate (PI, Univ. of Washington, AON-2153942): Quantifying status and change in Pacific-to-Arctic physical/biogeochemical oceanic fluxes, a central part of the Arctic Observing Network; **R/V *Norseman II*** (Sept).

Jackie Grebmeier (PI, Univ. of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences, AON-2336478): The Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) - A Change Detection Array in the Pacific Arctic Region; **CCGS *Sir Wilfred Laurier*** (July); US-Canada.

Mary Louise Timmermans (PI, Yale Univ., AON-1950077) and Isabella Le Bras (PI, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, AON-1949881): Continuation of long-term Beaufort Gyre observations to enhance understanding of the Arctic's role in climate variability; **CCGS *Louis S. St-Laurent*** (Sept-Oct); US-Canada (JOIS-BGOS).

Craig Lee (PI, Univ. of Washington, AON-1902595): The Arctic Observing Network - Capturing and Understanding Arctic Change with Renewed Observations at the Davis Strait Gateway; **CCGS *Amundsen*** (Oct); US-Canada (KEBABB and Davis Strait Gateway Moorings).

NSF Award Search: <https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simple-search/>



NOAA 2026 Arctic Updates

NOAA Fisheries Vessel **Oscar Dyson** will support the EcoFOCI spring mooring cruise to the Bering Sea and Bering Strait. **Oscar Dyson** is scheduled for a required dry dock this fall.



The NOAA Fisheries Vessel **Bell M. Shimada** will support the EcoFOCI fall mooring cruise to the Bering Sea and Bering Strait.



QUESTIONS?

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