

USA Update to FARO 2020

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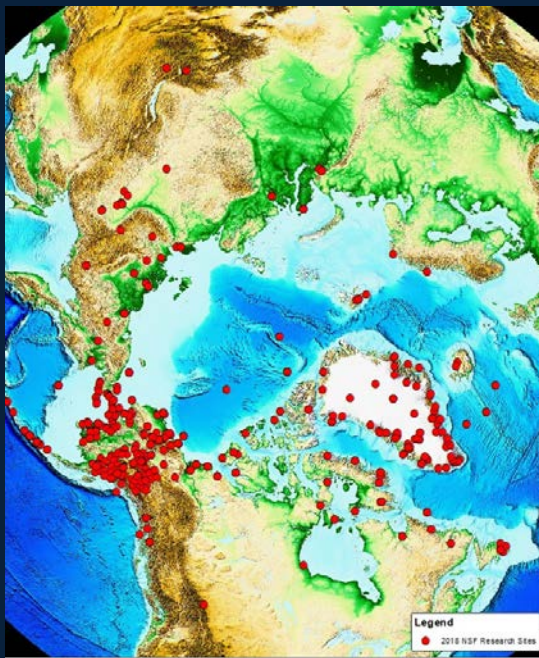


U.S. National Science Foundation
Geosciences Directorate (GEO)
Office of Polar Programs (OPP)



Existing Infrastructure

- Stations (field hubs) in Alaska and Greenland
- Aircraft
- Vessels
- Satellites
- Observational instruments & networks
- Looking ahead...
 - Upgrade and replace existing facilities
 - New heavy icebreaker(s)
 - Replacement of older LC-130 aircraft



International Visitors and Access

- Numbers vary, but we regularly accommodate international researchers
- Planning Info
 - Access can be affected by national security concerns (e.g. Thule Air Base)
 - Schedules are made ~1 year in advance, so plan ahead and make contact early to request access
 - Priority is given to US researchers, but we try to accommodate as many requests as possible, particularly at Summit Station where we are merely stewards of the GrIS

Financial Scheme for International Access

- Majority of support is arranged as cost reimbursable
- Sometimes support is through agreements where each country contributes part of the needed logistics

Primary operational challenges

⦿ Ageing Infrastructure

- Buildings, vessels, aircraft
 - Limited construction season
 - Lack of dedicated funds

⦿ Advancing New Technologies

- Bringing state-of-the-art to the Arctic
- Automation
- Environmental limitations (temperature, daylight)
- Scientific funding does not accommodate experimentation with new technology