



DROMLAN

Dronning Maud Land Air Network

20+ years of successful logistic collaboration between 12 National Antarctic Programs to provide Air Transport to Antarctica

INTRODUCTION

Established as an international project at the XIV COMNAP in Shanghai in 2002, the purpose of the Dronning Maud Land Air Network (DROMLAN) is to provide an intercontinental air-link from Cape Town to destinations within Dronning Maud Land (DML) to any member country of COMNAP and SCAR for science related activities. Founding members are the national COMNAP organizations of Belgium, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Belarus joined the DROMLAN collaboration in 2020. DROMLAN member stations are spread from Halley VI Station (UK), at 24° West to Mountain Evening Station (Belarus), at 46° East. The administrative structure of DROMLAN consists of a Steering Committee, while the operations are coordinated by two co-chairs who rotate among the members.

Dronning Maud Land Air Network

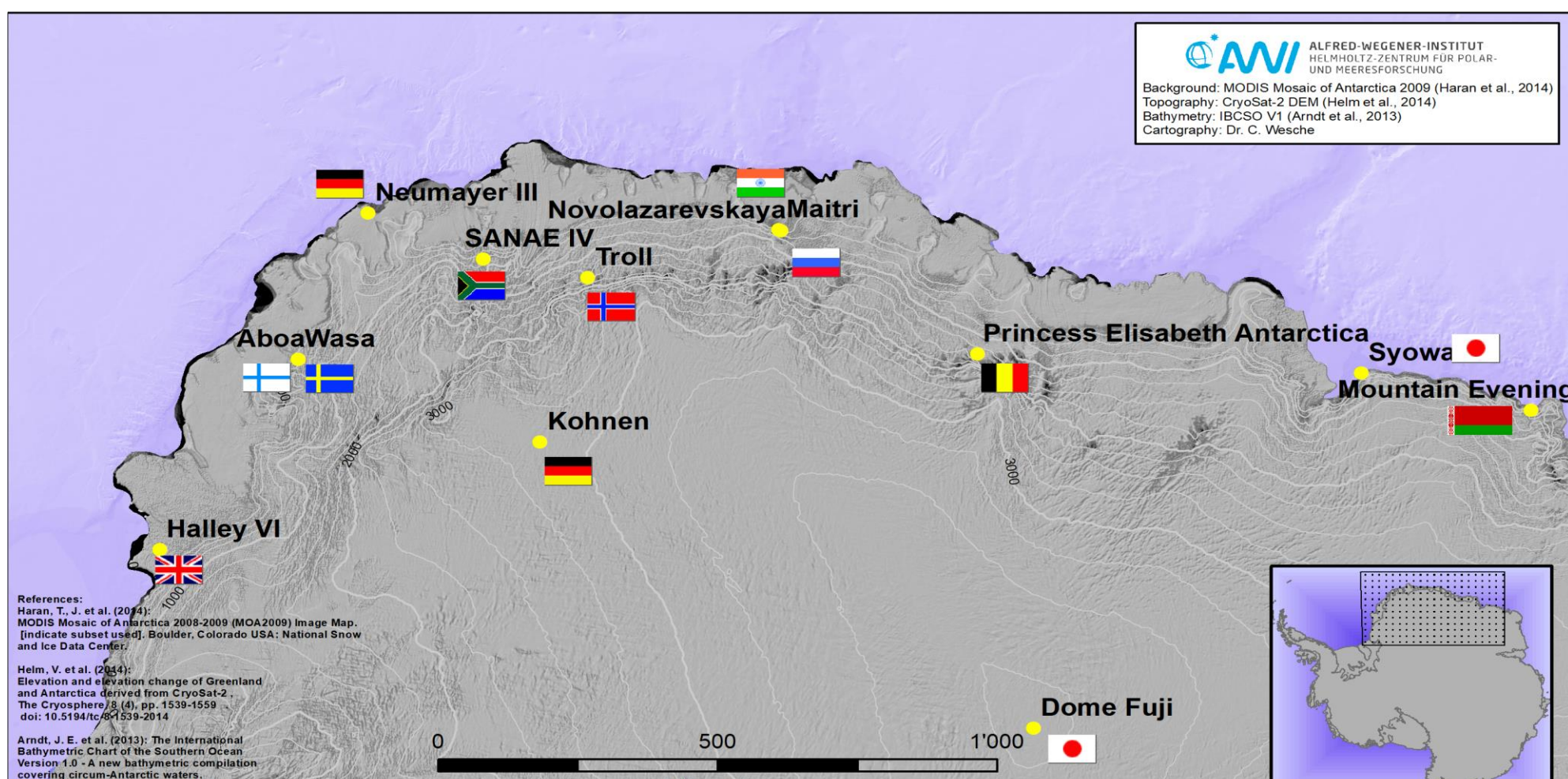


Figure 1: Map of DROMLAN member stations

AIRCRAFT

Since the beginning of DROMLAN, the aircraft used have undergone an evolution. In the beginning military cargo aircraft such as Ilyushin Il-76, C-130 Hercules, and Lockheed P-3 Orion, were used. Today the runway preparations and airfield infrastructure are of such high standard that they meet the requirements of modern passenger aircraft and private jets. Using commercial aircraft gives the collaboration better possibilities to meet the needs of its members.



Picture 1: Boeing 727 and Ilyushin Il-76 at Novolazarevskaya Airfield.



Figure 3: All Intercontinental Airfields and most DROMLAN stations have ADS-B receivers installed which makes real time flight tracking available for everyone.

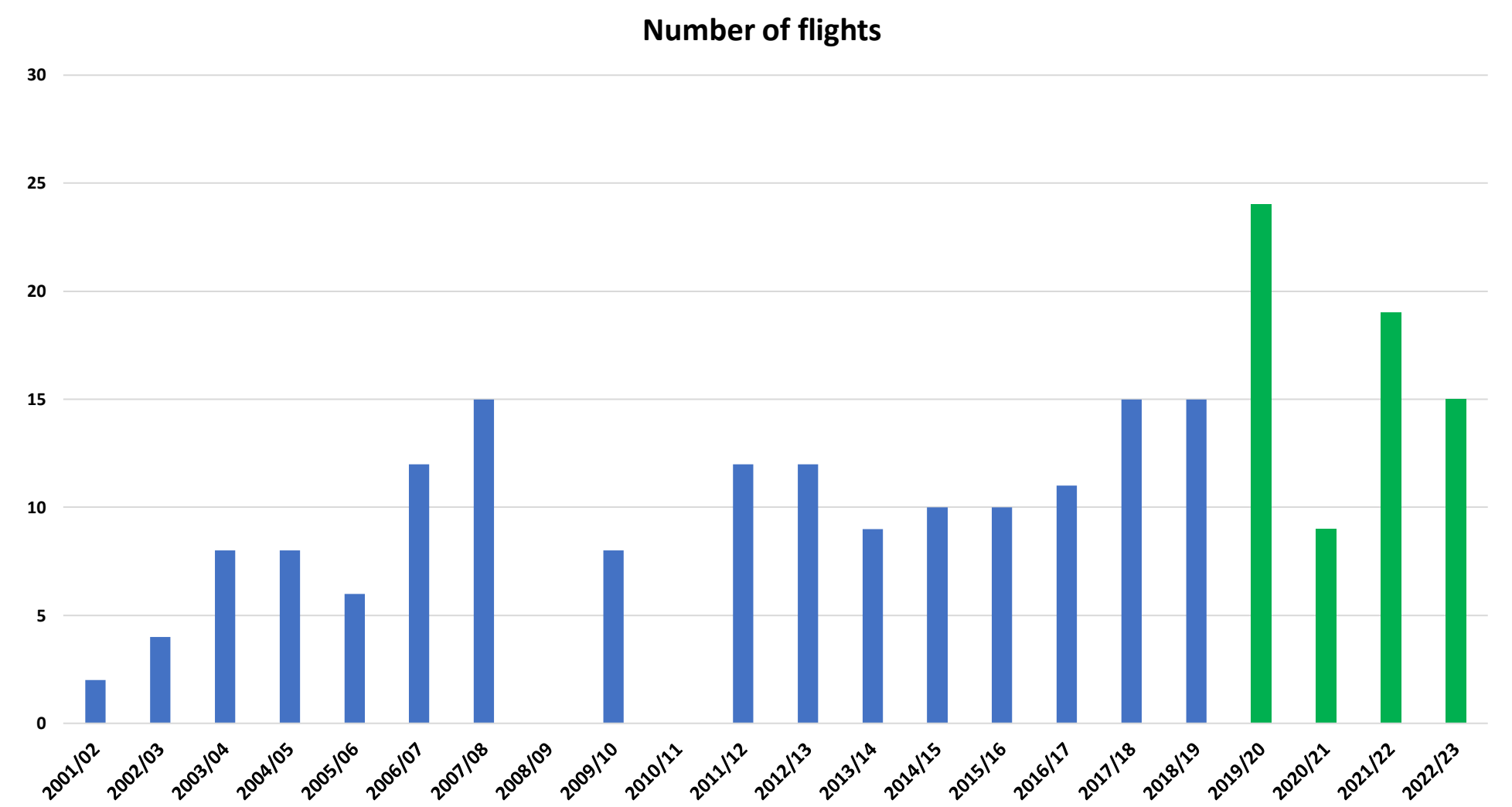


Figure 2: Number of flights performed each season since the establishment of DROMLAN. The green columns represent the start of a joint flight calendar.

RUNWAYS

The first DROMLAN flight was an initial reconnaissance flight to Blue One Runway, located near today's Wolf's Fang Runway, operated by White Desert. The first official DROMLAN Airfield, Novolazarevskaya Airfield, open in 2002 and is located on blue ice near the Russian station Novolazarevskaya. Troll Airfield, 6 km from Troll Station, Norway, is also located on blue ice and open in 2005. The latest addition, Perseus Airfield, open in 2019 and is located on blue ice 60 km north of the Belgian Princess Elisabeth Station. With 3 Intercontinental Airfields evenly distributed in Dronning Maud Land the collaboration can provide efficient transport to all its members.



Picture 2: Troll Airfield.

FLIGHT COORDINATION

In addition to the national programs there are two tourist companies operating in Dronning Maud Land. With so many different operators and with a large number of aircraft movements flight coordination and information is very important. To ensure the information flow, DROMLAN every season distributes a Communications List, DROMCOM, where contact information to all operators, including tourist, stations and camps are included. There are also various email lists to ensure efficient information sharing. For real time flight tracking ADS-B receivers have been installed at all the Intercontinental Airfields and larger stations.