

Arctic Council Secretariat
Magnús Jóhannesson
Director
Fram Centre, Postboks 6606 Langnes
9296 Tromsø
Norway

February 3, 2016

Inquiry of Interest: Arctic 100 Expedition in spring / summer 2017

Dear Sir,

Research in the Arctic is essential for the study of climate change and increasingly important in finding clarity to many other challenges facing us today. Yet many institutes and whole branches of science around the world with research interests in the Arctic do not have reasonable logistical means to access the Arctic Ocean.

Icebreakers provide a sound platform for various research activities in harsh Arctic conditions. Deck space can be used for research containers and equipment. Lifting appliances provide an opportunity for various equipment to be operated both on and off the vessel. Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) units can also be used. Research infrastructure like mobile labs can be set up in cabins and elsewhere inside an icebreaker. Icebreakers also have the capabilities needed to escort and assist ice-strengthened research vessels in Arctic waters.

Our company Arctia Ltd. is the owner and operator of eight icebreakers, of which three have both the necessary classifications and the experience in operating in Arctic waters. We offer your organization the possibility to plan and participate in a unique Arctic expedition conducted in the spring and summer of 2017. The planned expedition is based on the research interests and needs of parties interested, and we are willing to mold the concept according to the wishes of each investing participant.

We have dubbed the project "Arctic 100 Expedition", because the year 2017 marks the centenary of Finland's independence, and Finland will take over as Chair of the Arctic Council in 2017. However, this is only a working title until investing participants have decided on a final name.

We have tentatively outlined the following schedule, which will be finalized based on the needs and interests of potential participants

Tentative expedition schedule

15 June 2017	Departure from Helsinki, Finland
June 2017	Potential equipment mobilization stop in Denmark and/or Norway
1 July 2017	Arrival to Longyearbyen, Svalbard
15 July 2017	Departure for expedition tour 1
July 2017	Arrival to research area 1
Aug 2017	Departure for expedition tour 2
Aug 2017	Arrival to research area 2

About costs

The investment required will depend on the types of research conducted and the final amount of participants. The commercial terms and conditions will be discussed with the parties showing interest and investment capabilities by answering this inquiry. The final terms and conditions will be agreed upon with each investing participant.

About Arctia Ltd. and its icebreakers

Arctia Ltd. is a limited company owned by the state of Finland. The company's lines of business are the provision of icebreaking services, ice management, oil spill response and other polar maritime services.

Arctia continues the 125-year-old Finnish icebreaking tradition by deploying one of the strongest icebreaker fleets in the world. The fleet includes three conventional icebreakers called Voima (built in 1954), Urho (1975) and Sisu (1976), a converted polar icebreaker Otso (1986), an oil recovery icebreaker Kontio (1987), two multipurpose icebreakers called Fennica (1993) and Nordica (1994), and a state-of-the-art harbor icebreaker Ahto (2014). The world's first LNG-powered icebreaker Polaris will join Arctia's fleet in 2016.

Our icebreakers and staff have a solid track record in demanding Arctic operations with international partners. We have transited both the Northern Sea Route and the Northwest Passage. Since 2010 icebreaker Kontio has been in continuous state of readiness for oil spill response operations in northern Baltic Sea as mandated by EMSA (*European Maritime Safety Agency*). Last summer our multipurpose icebreakers Nordica and Fennica provided ice management and other polar services in the Chukchi Sea off the Alaskan coast. Last fall our icebreaker Otso assisted operations in mapping the seafloor off the coast of Greenland.

Statement of Interest and next steps

I trust that this preliminary inquiry is of interest to your organization, and hope that it will be distributed and properly discussed among your colleagues.

Should you wish to be part of the planned expedition, please fill the Statement of Interest attached and deliver it to us no later than **March 1st, 2016**. Please use the following address:

Arctic 100 Expedition / Eero Hokkanen
Arctia Ltd.
Laivastokatu 9
FI-00160 Helsinki
FINLAND

We will evaluate all statements of interest and revert to all parties by March 22nd, 2016. Once we are confident that there is a sound base for continuing cooperation with each party involved, we will organize a planning meeting in April.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our team, Senior Vice President Mr. Hannu Ylärinne (tel. +358 46 876 7107, hannu.ylarinne@arctia.fi) and Communications Manager Mr. Eero Hokkanen (tel. +358 46 876 7140, eero.hokkanen@arctia.fi).

Helsinki, Finland, February 2nd 2016,

Sincerely,



Mr. Tero Vauraste
President & CEO
Arctia Ltd.

Please fill out, scan and deliver by March 1st 2016 to:

Arctic 100 Expedition / Eero Hokkanen
Arctia Ltd.
Laivastokatu 9
FI-00160 Helsinki
FINLAND

You can also send the
scanned document by e-mail
or request an electronic form:

eero.hokkanen@arctia.fi

Statement of Interest: Arctic 100 Expedition in spring / summer 2017

Name of the organization:

Contact person (name, title, telephone number, e-mail):

Short description of your organization and its research interests in the Arctic:

Please fill out, scan and deliver by March 1st 2016 to:

Arctic 100 Expedition / Eero Hokkanen
Arctia Ltd.
Laivastokatu 9
FI-00160 Helsinki
FINLAND

You can also send the scanned document by e-mail or request an electronic form:

eero.hokkanen@arctia.fi

Preliminary list of personnel and equipment you are interested in having on board Arctia's icebreaker during the planned expedition:

Short description of financial capabilities and schedule for your participation:

Our organization is interested in planning an Arctic research expedition with Arctia Ltd. in the spring / summer of 2017.

Date: _____

Signature: _____