**Title**

The Netherlands' new deliverables for the second Arctic Science Ministerial meeting, 26 October 2018, Berlin

**Funding Program**

The Netherlands Polar Program (NPP)

**Coordinating Organisation**

The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), main contact person: Dick van der Kroef, NPP director (alwnpp@nwo.nl)

**Website**

https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/Netherlands+Polar+Programme

**Deliverable description**

- During 2018, a call for proposals for policy-related polar research projects will open to accommodate research projects linking to 'The Netherlands Polar Strategy 2016-2020'. Funded projects will support excellent scientific research that will provide knowledge for an evidence-based policy regarding the polar regions. This call for proposals aims to advance the exchange of knowledge between government ministries and researcher and use this knowledge for Dutch policy to support negotiations on polar issues. The total funded amount will amount to appr. 5 M€.
- The Netherlands will extend their hosting of the European Polar Board (http://www.europeanpolarboard.org/secretariat) at the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in The Hague until 2025. The first hosting period runs for a period of five years from 1 January 2015 until 1 January 2020.
- The Netherlands has committed to take part in the Svalbard Integrated Arctic Observation Observation System (SIOS), 'an international observing system for long-term measurements in and around the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard addressing Earth System Science questions' (https://sios-svalbard.org/).
- The Netherlands will take part in the German-led Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) project (http://mosaicobservatory.org/), which will be 'the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system'. The Netherlands Polar Program will contribute 1M€ to MOSAiC and will participate on-board the Polarstern icebreaker with two Dutch scientists during several legs of the expedition.
- The Netherlands Polar Program supports the development of the Multifunctional Arctic Research Vessel (MARVEL) project to study the mating habits of the bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) for the Ice Whale Project, the only whale species to spend its entire life in the arctic region. Little is yet known about the reproduction of this arctic whale species which is presumed to take place during the polar night in the Arctic Ocean. The MARVEL project will be further developed using crowd-funding and private investments. Outreach activities are planned, e.g. exhibits at National Musea.

- The Netherlands will contribute 400k€ in the Arctic call of the Belmont Forum (http://www.belmontforum.org/) as Collaborative Research Action 'Understanding sustainability and resilience in rapidly changing Arctic climate-socio-ecological systems (CRA Arctic II).

**Relation deliverables with ASM1 and ASM2 themes**

- The above-described activities of The Netherlands Polar Program are tightly connected to the themes outlined in the First Arctic Science Ministerial. Dutch scientists are heavily involved in addressing the regional and global impacts of changes in the Arctic as outlined in the 'Arctic Science Challenges and Their Regional and Global Consequences' in Theme I, for example the monitoring of the Greenland ice sheet and the impacts of changes in the ice sheet mass balance on sea-level rise. These activities also address Theme 2 of ASM2, 'Understanding Regional and Global Dynamics of Arctic Change'.
- By hosting the European Polar Board, active partnership in EU-PolarNet, and SIOS membership, the Netherlands aims to strengthen and integrate Arctic observations and data-sharing, as outlined by Theme II in the ASM1 and summary report. Theme 1 of ASM2 further feeds in to The Netherlands' ambition to 'Strengthen, Integrate and Sustain Arctic Observations and Facilitate Access to Arctic Data, and Sharing Arctic Research Infrastructure'.