

Princess Elisabeth Antarctica - Introduction



The finished building on the Utsteinen ridge

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In 2004, the Belgian government commissioned the IPF to design and construct [a new research station in Antarctica](#), to become operational during the International Polar Year at the end of 2007.

Belgium has a long history of scientific activity in Antarctica, dating back to the first over-wintering in 1897, from which the Belgian Antarctic Expedition returned with an important scientific harvest: bathymetrical and hydrological soundings, numerous botanical and zoological samples, a large amount of oceanographical, meteorological, geomagnetic, glaciological and geological observation data.

Belgium next returned to the Antarctic sixty years later to build the Baudoin Station which operated until 1967. This was part of Belgium's celebrating the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year (IGY) , a key event for international scientific collaboration which led to the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. [A dedicated website is now available for this project, please consult it for more information.](#)