

International Scientific and Business Conference POLAR 2026

20 may 2026, Saint-Petersburg

9:00–10:00

Registration of conference participants, welcome coffee break

10:00–12:00 Big Hall

STRATEGIC SESSION «CONTEMPORARY METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC»

The development of the Arctic today is an extremely complex logistical and engineering challenge, upon which the economic independence of the country in the 21st century depends. The Northern Sea Route (NSR) is becoming a year-round transport artery, and its smooth operation requires a modern new fleet, infrastructure, energy supply, communications and new construction technologies.

Experts will discuss the key challenges and opportunities for the development of Arctic territories and the implementation of large-scale projects in the context of complex logistics, rapidly changing climate, and growing demands for environmental responsibility from both businesses and the state. How to reconcile widespread infrastructure projects, the development of extractive industries, and the modernisation of energy and transport systems with the preservation of fragile Arctic ecosystems and the fulfilment of national and international commitments to sustainable development.

Discussion moderator:

Roman GERASIMOV, Head of Digital Projects RBC Saint-Petersburg.

Speakers:

Konstantin TSYGANOV, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (online).

Yaroslav MAMONOV, Deputy Governor, Head of the Department of Industrial Policy of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (online).

Alexander MAKAROV, Director of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Vladimir LUKIN, KEPT company.

Boris SHUMSKY, Director General of the VNIIOkeangeologia.

Maxim TKACHENKO, First Deputy Director General of the The All-Russian Geological Research Institute of A.P. Karpinsky.

Sergey SOLDATENKO, Head of the Polar Climate and Meteorology Department, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Dr. Phys.-Math. Sci.

Pavel MOLODNYAKOV, Project Manager at the Shokin Research and Production Enterprise "Istok" (Rostec State Corporation).

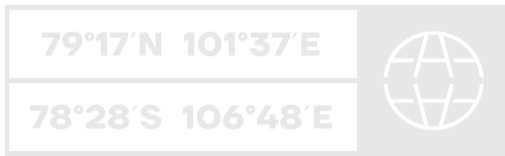
Alexander PONOMAREV, artist, navigator, Commissioner of the Antarctic Biennale.

Ilya DEMKO, Director of the Services Department of Geoscan Group of Companies.

Ivan Moskatinev, Deputy General Designer for General Design at JSC «NPO Lavochkin» (online).

12:00–12:30

Coffee break



12:30–14:30 Big Hall

PANEL SESSION «THE TRANS-ARCTIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR: CURRENT STATUS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT»

The Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor (TTC) is viewed as a national and international transport system that integrates cargo flows from maritime, rail, inland waterway, road, and pipeline transport, and ensures domestic and foreign trade shipments of the Russian Federation, as well as international transit. The designation of the TTC as an independent object of state administration reflects the understanding of the need for systemic management of cargo flows of interconnected transport modes in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation. During the session, participants plan to discuss which measures are critical to the successful operation of the TTC: the development of the cargo, support and technical fleets; the construction and modernisation of key ports and terminals; and the establishment of logistics hubs. Operations in the Arctic require a greater focus on navigational and hydro-meteorological support, the development of emergency rescue infrastructure, and mechanisms for preventing and responding to potential incidents.

An important part of the discussion is the economic model of the TTC: the development of a sustainable cargo base for cabotage, foreign trade, and transit flows; project profitability parameters; and a balance of interests between the state, infrastructure operators, and private investors. What regulatory measures and mechanisms are needed today to ensure that the TTC becomes a sustainable foundation for the long-term socio-economic development of the Arctic and the country as a whole?

Discussion moderator:

Mikhail GRIGORIEV, Director of the Gekon consulting company, Leading Research Fellow at IMEMO RAS, Member of the RAS Scientific Council for the Study of the Arctic and Antarctic.

Speakers:

Alexander LAZARENKO, First Deputy Director General for the Implementation of the Unified Maritime Operator (UMO) at Rosatom Arctic JSC.

Svyatoslav STEPCHENKOV, Deputy Director General of the Federal State Budgetary Institution Glavsevmorput (Rosatom State Corporation).

Alexey GAGARINOV, General Director of C-Shipping Company.

Anastasia ILYINA, Head of the Center for Ice and Hydrometeorological Information at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

PANG Chang Wei, Professor at China University of Petroleum (online).

Andrey KACHURA, Head of the Arctic Projects Department at Sovcomflot PJSC.

HONG Sangwon, Director of the Institute of Arctic Logistics, Youngsan University (online).

12:30–14:30 Middle Hall

PANEL SESSION «POLAR AVIATION: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS»

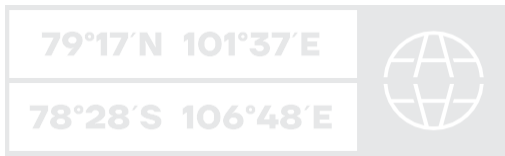
The development of projects in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, where vast distances, harsh climate, and weak ground infrastructure make air transport a key element of life support and connectivity with the mainland. For a country with an extensive Arctic coastline and a network of remote settlements, scientific stations, and industrial facilities, the revival and development of polar aviation is becoming one of the priority strategic tasks.

This involves not only the restoration of the Arctic air transport network, but also the development of a modern, technologically advanced and economically sustainable aviation model capable of providing regular cargo and passenger services, air ambulance services, search and rescue operations, ice reconnaissance, aerial photography and support for scientific expeditions.

Participants in the discussion will examine the infrastructural, technical and regulatory constraints currently hindering the development of polar aviation, and explore potential solutions to overcome them: modernising the network of aerodromes, renewing the aircraft fleet, and introducing state-of-the-art navigation and communication systems adapted to high-latitude conditions.

Discussion moderator:

Vadim BAZYKIN, test pilot, Deputy Chairman for Aviation of the regional branch of the Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation and Navy.



Speakers:

***Valery OKULOV**, member of the Board of Directors of the United Aircraft Corporation PJSC.

Alexander VATAGIN, Deputy Director General of United Engine Corporation JSC.

Pavel NENASTYEV, Director General of the Moscow Aircraft Repair Plant.

Leonid STARTSEV, Head of the Department for the Application of Unmanned Aviation Systems of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Polina KULIZHSKAYA, First Category Meteorologist of the Methodological Group at the Pulkovo Aviation Meteorological Center.

Timofey SULIMA, Deputy Director of the Department of Educational and Scientific-Technical Activities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russian Federation (online).

Grigory ORLOV, Deputy Head of the Research Institute for Advanced Studies and Innovative Technologies in the Field of Life Safety, is affiliated with the Saint Petersburg University of the State Fire Service of EMERCOM of Russia.

12:30–14:30 Small Hall

PANEL SESSION: «INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2032–2033: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION»

Today's environmental challenges require national governments to join forces in order to protect the fragile ecosystems of the Arctic and Antarctic. The Fifth International Polar Year 2032-2033 (IPY-5) is intended to serve as a platform for international coordination based on the principles of mutual respect, strengthening partners' technological capabilities, and maintaining an open scientific agenda to facilitate constructive international dialogue.

Participants in the session will present papers on the involvement of various countries in the preparation and conduct of the IPY-5. Particular attention will be paid to the measures taken and national priorities for scientific research in the polar regions. During the discussion, experts will explore ways of integrating national initiatives into the overall work plan for IPY-5; discuss how to organise mutual support during its preparation and implementation; develop proposals for coordinating participants and identify promising areas for joint research.

Discussion moderator:

Максим Евгеньевич ТАТАРКИН, заместитель директора по международному сотрудничеству Арктического и антарктического научно-исследовательского института

Speakers:

Vladislav MASLENNIKOV, Director of the Department of European Problems of the Russian Foreign Ministry Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation in Arctic Council (online).

Mr. ZHAO Wei, Consul for Science and Technology of Consulate General of People's Republic of China in St.Petersburg.

Aleksander MAKAROV, Director of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Yulia ZAIKA, Head International of the FRC KSC RAS, Senior Researcher at the IES KSC RAS, secretariat member of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

Dr. Ruibo LEI, Director of the Key Laboratory of MNR, Polar Research Institute of China (online).

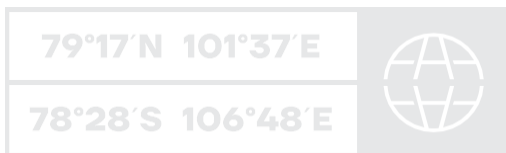
Dr. Manish TIWARI, Group Director (Arctic Operations), National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, India (online).

Prof. Simoes JEFFERSON, Director of Polar and Climatic Centre, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (online).

South African Polar Research Infrastructure (online).

14:30–15:00

Coffee break



15:00–17:00 Big Hall

PANEL SESSION: «NEXT-GENERATION STATIONS: INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR ORGANIZING LONG-TERM MISSIONS IN REMOTE REGIONS»

Modern technologies offer a fresh perspective on organising operations in remote regions with extreme climatic conditions. Today, the challenge is to develop sustainable, energy-efficient and largely autonomous complexes capable of operating year-round under conditions of extremely low temperatures, limited logistics and communications, and complex geocryology. During the discussion, progressive technological solutions tested in the Arctic and Antarctic will be presented. Their implementation can significantly improve the reliability, energy efficiency, safety and comfort of operations in the harsh conditions at the Earth's poles. Experts will discuss which innovative solutions have already proven effective at existing stations and in pilot projects, as well as which barriers still hinder their widespread adoption – ranging from costs and logistics complexity to regulatory constraints and the lack of serial solutions adapted to extreme climates. Using examples of modern polar stations and new projects, it will be examined how modular solutions, digital control systems, intelligent energy platforms and modern communication tools are transforming the approach to organising long-term missions in the Arctic, Antarctic and other remote regions.

Discussion moderator:

Роман Михайлович ГЕРАСИМОВ, руководитель информационных проектов РБК Петербург

Speakers:

Vitaly DERKACH, Director of the Sales Department GLONASS JSC.

Leonid STARTSEV, Head of the Department for the Application of Unmanned Aerial Systems, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Elena CHETVERTKOVA, Chief Architect of PJSC «Zapsibgazprom».

Alexander LINOVSKY, Project Lead of the «Kontakt» Modular Mini-Plant.

Sergey DOBREGO, General Director of the LLC «Greenside». — New construction technologies for extreme conditions.

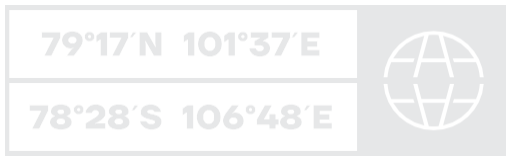
Gayane PANOVA, Head of Department of Plant Lighphysiology and Agroecosystem Bioproductivity, Agrophysical Research Institute.

Vadim VASILIEV, Honored Traveler of the Russian Federation, CEO of the ÄSWERY company.

15:00–17:00 Middle Hall

PANEL SESSION: «ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE TRANS-ARCTIC TRANSPORT CORRIDOR (TTC): MONITORING, IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT»

The current climate warming and the reduction of ice cover in the Arctic seas open up new prospects for the economic development of the region. The Northern Sea Route (NSR) has been identified as one of Russia's strategic development priorities. In recent years, the concept of NSR development has evolved from a route within the boundaries defined by the Merchant Shipping Code of the Russian Federation to the "Greater NSR" and further to the Trans-Arctic Transport Corridor (TTC). This is a global logistics route from Saint Petersburg, via the country's Arctic seas, to Vladivostok – with the NSR remaining its key segment. The ambitious goals set by the state for the TTC development do not come without serious challenges. Overcoming them requires strategic planning and management, including a systematic analysis of diverse risks at the earliest planning stages. The TTC development parameters currently under discussion reflect not only economic growth but are also significant factors of environmental risks. A distinctive feature of the region's modern industrial development is that the increase in anthropogenic pressure occurs under conditions of climate warming – which is happening four times faster in the Arctic than the global average – and amid growing connectivity of the Arctic with other regions. A large-scale expansion of economic activity, even under non-accident conditions, leads to an increase in environmental risks for the population and the economy, while non-zero risks of accident events threaten environmental safety. The inevitable contradiction between economic benefits (resource extraction, development of the Northern Sea Route and TTC, geopolitical influence) and possible catastrophic environmental and social consequences is particularly pronounced in the Arctic, with its fragile ecosystem and the presence of indigenous peoples of the North. To meet the current societal needs without creating risks for future generations, it is necessary to achieve a balance between the environment, society and the economy.



Discussion moderator:

Maria GAVRILO, Ph.D. in biological science and Leading Researcher, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Speakers:

Alexander BUYANOV, Deputy Director General of the Central Research and Design Institute of the Merchant Marine.

Alexander ALEJNIKOV, PhD in Geography, Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Climate Change Adaptation, (online).

Maria GAVRILO, Ph.D. in Biological and Leading Researcher, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

Svetlana SHEYNFELD, Director of the Operational Risk and Sustainable Development Department, KEPT Company (онлайн).

Alexander SHESTAKOV, Chief Expert of the Ecology Department, Lomonosov Moscow State University Marine Research Center.

Ilya CHERNOOK, Director of Development at ANO «Ecological Centre "Ecofactor"».

***Timofey SULIMA**, Deputy Director of the Department of Educational and Scientific-Technical Activities of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russian Federation (online).

Grigory ORLOV, Deputy Head of the Research Institute for Advanced Studies and Innovative Technologies in the Field of Life Safety, a structural unit of Saint-Petersburg University of the State Fire Service of Emercom of Russia.

Anna SUBBOTINA, Deputy General Director, Environmental Foundation «Clean Seas» (online).

17:00–18:00 Big Hall

MOVIE

DOCUMENTARY FILM «WOMEN'S RIGHT TO THE SEA»: ON THE FIRST WOMEN WHO CONQUERED THE ARCTIC AND THOSE WHO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY TODAY

The film by Anastasia Lomakina is dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Georgy Sedov expedition. The project was inspired by a brochure written by Georgy Sedov himself, in which, as early as 1910, he advocated for women's right to serve in the navy. At the time, this seemed like science fiction – today, it has become a reality. But the sea, just as it was a hundred years ago, accepts only those who are strong in spirit. The film's vignettes tell the stories of pioneering women, along with voices of contemporary navigators, polar explorers and scientists. Among the heroines: Irina Rusinova – the first female polar meteorologist and a participant in the first voyage along the Northern Sea Route (NSR); Ekaterina Zotova – a young climate scientist at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI); Mariya Klenova – a marine geologist and the first woman to take part in an Antarctic expedition; Anna Vesman – an oceanographer at the AARI; Nina Demme – the first woman to lead a wintering station, a polar ornithologist; Anastasiya Pervukhina – an aspiring polar explorer and entomologist.