

Vision for the Arctic Research Support and Logistics Program

The RSL program exists to enable Arctic Sciences Section grantees to access the Arctic for research and education activities. On a reimbursable basis or through other arrangements, researchers funded elsewhere at NSF and by other federal agencies may also access the services provided by the RSL program.

Two NSF program managers provide leadership and oversight of the RSL program. Using a team approach involving contractors, other government service providers, and subject matter experts from academia and the private sector, these managers use the guiding principles below to support and provide facilities for arctic research.

The guiding principles of the RSL program are to:

- Improve safe access to field sites in the Arctic by providing equipment, services, infrastructure, communications, and training to arctic researchers
- Meet the requirements of cutting edge research to collect data from the field in new locations and using new technologies and approaches
- Increase efficiency and reduce costs by using a contractor with expertise in arctic field research to provide services to grantees including project planning, project management, risk assessment, environmental compliance, and specific field skills from mountaineering to remote power systems
- Provide infrastructure and facilities that are cost-effective and efficient using best practices in project management and utilizing the most appropriate current and cutting edge technologies that balance research requirements, cost, life-time performance, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship
- Develop agreements and funding arrangements with service providers to support arctic research including satellite imagery, pooled GPS and seismometer services, ship-based science technical services, arctic research community coordination, ice core repository, aviation services, and research facility access
- Develop interagency and international agreements to efficiently use available resources and reduce costs
- Improve communication and collaboration between arctic peoples and arctic researchers