

## **Additional SSF issues from April 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting – reported to LySEF by Lisa Baddeley, EISCAT**

- Barentsberg:
  - Restoration of buildings and infra-structure is taking place to allow better facilities for scientists / tourists
  - They will take delivery of a new ship in June. It will be 60ft long and contain basic marine equipment.
- NySMAC
  - New member: India
  - Italian scientists have installed a tower which will contain instruments to measure climate change. The instruments will be installed in August 2009. Other institutes are welcome to install their instruments, too.
  - A new information centre will open in the middle of June to provide information about Ny Ålesund for tourists and scientists. This will replace the old information centre.
- Hornsund
  - LIDAR (used for lower atmospheric research) is being installed over the summer
  - New antenna to study the upper atmosphere is also being installed with possible collaborations intended between EISCAT or UNIS.
  - They are planning on extending and renovating the facilities with a 2<sup>nd</sup> internet connection being established. However they are still waiting for funding approval for this.
- Norwegian Research Council
  - Polar research has been listed as high on the agenda for the council.
  - The IPY funding represented 80 million kr per year for 4 years (2006 – 2010) for polar research
  - Proposal in for 20 million kr for research on Svalbard but this is yet to be approved by the board.
  - Special funding is available for any Russian / Norwegian collaboration. 3 million kr is in the pot for this project. Details on the SSF page.
  - In 2009 the research on Svalbard database (linked to on the SSF webpage) will be upgraded. With funding from the council.
- Other Workshops
  - There was a successful workshop concerning atmospheric research in Ny-Alesund held in November 2008.
- White Paper on Svalbard
  - There is a large focus on science and education in the White Paper.
  - All members of SSF were pleased with the document.