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Agenda Item: ATCM 13
Presented by: Russian Federation
Original: Russian
Submitted: 20 Apr 2024

Progress of work on the assembly of the new wintering building at Vostok station in the 2023/2024 season

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Background Paper submitted by the Russian Federation

The Russian Party has previously informed the other Parties about plans for the reconstruction of the Russian inland Vostok station and the progress of the project (Information Paper IP1 14 XLII ATCM *Construction of a new wintering building at Vostok station*, Background Paper BP15 XLIII ATCM *On the transfer of the first stage of work on the assembly of a new wintering building at Vostok station for the season 2021/2022*, Background Paper BP22 XLIV ATCM *On the progress of work on the assembly of the new wintering complex at Vostok station in the season 2021/2022*, Background Paper BP27 XLV ATCM *Continuation of work on the assembly of the new wintering complex at Vostok station in the season 2022/2023*).

The new building at Vostok station (Figure 1) includes five modules with a total area of about 2000 m². The length of the building being constructed is 140 m, the maximum height is 17.5 m. The modules are installed on 36 three-meter supports, which will allow the station to remain free of snow for many years.



Figure 1 - New wintering building at Vostok station

The building includes scientific laboratories, residential and public spaces for polar explorers, energy centers and technical units for a water treatment and storage system, as well as a garage. The station has a modern medical unit with an operating room, a pressure chamber, a dental and X-ray room, a wardroom with billiards and a cinema room, a gym and a sauna. New building will be able to provide a comfortable stay and research activities for 35 seasonal specialists and up to 15 people during the wintering period.

In the winter of 2023, the installation and interior finishing of three modules was completed. Since February 2023, work has been carried out inside the building. During wintering, the minimum temperature at Vostok station was -82.3 °C. At the end of 2023, work began on the installation of two more units.

In January 2024, the first three modules were put into trial operation, the building engineering systems were launched and a test wintering was organized, during which trial operation of engineering systems, operational adjustment and maintenance of the energy center, heating and

ventilation systems will be carried out, providing positive temperatures for full commissioning of the new building at the end of 2024.

In addition to 25 builders, 5 specialists from the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute” will be involved in the test wintering. Also, from February to December 2024, a group of winter workers consisting of 30 people plans to carry out work on the installation of internal engineering systems and finishing of the premises of the completed blocks. From January 2025, full commissioning of the Vostok new building is planned.