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Another visit by scientists

Rooisand ...May 2008

Rooisand was again chosen as a site for scientific work: this time scientists from the Alfred-Wegener-Institut in Bremerhaven, Germany, spent several weeks testing and monitoring. Last year a DLR team was hosted for test readings (see News Archive September 2007).



This year the scientists again conducted astronomical observations, but in this case not for the purpose of astronomical research but rather for atmospheric research. As one of them put it:

"... within the framework of the international research project TAVERN (Tropospheric Aerosol and thin clouds Variability over the East Antarctic plateau including Radiation budget) a star photometer for measuring the optical thickness of aerosol in the polar night will be installed at the French-Italian Dome Concordia station on the Antarctic plateau by the Alfred-Wegener-Institut in January 2009. An overall idea of the measuring system can be obtained from the [website](#) of Dr Schulz und Partner. In preparation for the Antarctic mission, a first series of system tests as well as more substantial research on the southern stars which are favoured for the measurements were carried out at Rooisand. In addition, sun photometer readings of the optical thickness of aerosol were taken during the day.

The factors for choosing Rooisand were the favourable geographical location, reliable power supply, internet access, the very clean and consistent atmospheric conditions and the large number of clear nights. The transparency of the atmosphere was excellent. Even though our research coincided with the end of the rainy season we were able to make use of just about every night."



More information on the TAVERN project is available on the website of the [Alfred Wegener Institute](#) in Bremerhaven; for details on the measuring method click [here](#).



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