Renewal of the Norwegian Troll Research Station, Dronning Maud Land

Renewal of the Norwegian Troll Research Station, Dronning Maud Land

Summary

This information paper updates Parties on the future development of the Norwegian Troll Research Station, which in its current state is running toward the end of its lifetime. In April 2023, the Norwegian Government decided to plan for a complete renewal of the station. The detailed planning of this renewal process is now being initiated, and it is expected that the new Troll Research Station will be operational around 2030 at the earliest.

Renewal of Troll Research Station

In Information Paper 61 submitted to ATCM XLIII Norway informed the Parties that it was in the process of completing a concept study for Troll Research Station to identify future upgrade needs.

The concept study was completed in June 2022. It described and assessed four different concepts for a future version of Troll Research Station, reflecting four different ambition and investment levels. The concept study concluded that a total renewal of the station buildings, either building for a future capacity of 65 or 100 people would be the best solution from a long-term benefit and feasibility perspective. After its release, the concept study went through a quality assurance control, which confirmed the robustness of the assessment and conclusions contained in the concept study. It should be noted that all the concepts considered in the study include a substantial upgrade of the energy system at Troll – increasing use of renewable energy sources substantially.

In January 2023 a government delegation, led by the Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment visited Troll for an on-site understanding of current status of Troll Research Station, thus contextualizing the concept study’s assessment and conclusions for the decision makers. Four key ministries participated in this site visit.

In April 2023, the Norwegian Government decided to go ahead with the planning phase based on a concept entailing a total renewal of the Troll Research Station, in line with the conclusions of the concept study. Key aspects of chosen concept are:

* A new station building complex covering approx. 6 500 m2 situated in the same area as the current station;
* A station dimensioned for up to 65 people during summer, providing robust research facilities and support for at least 20 scientists;
* A station dimensioned for an overwintering staff of 10;
* A station that includes standard facilities for operation, accommodation, social interaction, contingency facilities, etc.;
* A station that includes functional research and laboratory facilities, including field deployment areas;
* A total renewal of the energy system – upgrading to green energy solutions; and
* A separate emergency unit

Although the planning and construction phase will be detailed in the next phase of the project, it is assumed that construction will be ongoing for several seasons, and that the new Troll Research Station will be operational from 2030 at the earliest.

Norway will provide further information and details on the plans at future ATCMs.

Norway will prepare a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for the renewal of the Troll Research Station, currently expected to be submitted for consideration by the Parties through the given consultation provisions of the Environmental Protocol at CEP 28 / ATCM 58 in 2026.