

China Developing More High Latitude Equipment

OE Watch Commentary: China continues to show interest and invest time, funding and research in the polar regions. China's first ice breaker, *Xuelong* [Snow Dragon] doubles as a polar research vessel and has spent most of her time in the Arctic and Antarctic including over 20 annual Chinese Antarctic expeditions. The vessel was built in Soviet Ukraine shipyards in 1993. As the accompanying passage from *Xinhuanet* discusses, *Xuelong 2*, built in China, will probably make the Antarctic voyage this year. China maintains the Taishan station in Antarctica. This development of an all-terrain amphibious polar vehicle will support the station and other polar research. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The vehicle Nanji 2 (Antarctica No. 2), painted in red and yellow, was manufactured by Guizhou Jonyang Kinetics Co., Ltd. It was delivered to the Polar Research Institute of China in Shanghai...”

Source: “China’s New All-Terrain Vehicle to Join 36th Antarctic Expedition,” *Xinhuanet.com*, 9 October 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c_138458038.htm

China’s New All-Terrain Vehicle to Join 36th Antarctic Expedition

China’s self-developed all-terrain vehicle will set off to the South Pole, contributing to the country’s upcoming 36th Antarctic expedition.

The vehicle Nanji 2 (Antarctica No. 2), painted in red and yellow, was manufactured by Guizhou Jonyang Kinetics Co., Ltd. It was delivered to the Polar Research Institute of China in Shanghai on Sunday.

Compared to previous generations, the new amphibious vehicle is equipped with an upgraded running system. It also applies new material and technologies to improve low-temperature performance and wear resistance, allowing it to work at minus 41 degrees Celsius. In addition, the vehicle has increased comfort for researchers with air conditioning and ventilation systems.

Its control system and other core components were all developed in China, said Lyu Qian, general manager of the manufacturer. The vehicle is multifunctional with strong transport capacity and good adaptability to complex terrain. It can undertake various missions, including personnel and materials transportation, sea, ice and land explorations, as well as search and rescue operations.



Chinese icebreaker *Xue Long*, departing from the inner harbour of the Port of Fremantle, Western Australia, on her way back to her port of registry, Shanghai, China after a visit to Antarctica.

Source: Bahnfreund via Wikimedia, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Xue_Long,_Fremantle,_2016_\(4\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Xue_Long,_Fremantle,_2016_(4).jpg), CC BY-SA 4.0