

**ICESTAR: SOLAR-TERRESTRIAL AND AERONOMY RESEARCH DURING THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR**

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The fourth International Polar Year (IPY) will take place during the two-year period from March 2007 to March 2009. During these years numerous international measurement campaigns and research projects will be arranged in a wide variety of scientific disciplines. As outcome of the previous polar year (known also as International Geophysical Year, 1957-58) several breakthrough findings were made in solar-terrestrial physics. To mark the 50th anniversary of IGY several groups world-wide are making plans for multidisciplinary and multinational campaigns, both as part of IPY and as a parallel sister campaign called International Heliophysical Year (IHY).

ICESTAR (Interhemispheric Conjugacy Effects in Solar Terrestrial and Aeronomy Research) is a research programme which emphasizes the utilization of combined Arctic and Antarctic observations in geospace research. ICESTAR and IHY together form an umbrella programme for 29 consortia and will serve as one of the core projects during IPY. In addition to far-reaching interdisciplinary scientific work IPY is looking forward to exciting new education and outreach activities and efficient utilization of the latest advancements in computer and communications technology. Preparatory work to meet these ambitious objectives has already started within the ICESTAR/IHY community. In the presentation we will review the most important scientific goals of the programme, discuss the main points of its implementation plan and describe some on-going activities to facilitate cooperative research.