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## COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

# It's Up... It's Running... It's C-C-Cold!!!

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**Seattle, WA:** Coastal Environmental Systems' has completed installation of their aviation and general-purpose weather station, now up and running at *THE* South Pole. We say "*THE*" because often people call the entire Antarctic continent "the South Pole"... however; this weather station is truly at *THE* Pole. (You know, the place with the candy-striped pole with the clear ball on top, sticking out of the ice?) This is the place where temperatures can reach -90 degrees and colder; where night lasts for 6 months and there is no chance of coming, or going, during this frozen winter darkness.



Front, left of center stands the Geographic South Pole marker. Coastal's Clean Air Site Weather Station rises out of the ice behind it.

The weather station is a modified FMQ-19 system (the station we are building and installing at Air Force Bases worldwide). Installed by Scott Newell, a Coastal Engineer, along with plenty of help from others at the Pole, the station is part of an upgrade of the entire South Pole facility that you may have seen in National Geographic or on the Discovery Channel. During installation, the temperature averaged around -25 ° C. Scott reported "if there was no wind, it was ok, but any wind at all would find a way to penetrate any and all of your cold weather gear". He also remarked (two weeks later), "I'm still trying to get my hands warm, because no matter what you do, when you are handling aluminum and other metal parts at that temperature, the cold makes it through any type of glove in about 2 seconds!"

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## South Pole Weather... Continued

The weather station has many sensors never before tried at the Pole because of the extreme temperatures. But with increased activity around the new facility, more flights were needed, and better weather measurements were required to increase flight safety. In the winter months (when no flights are possible) the station will dutifully measure, report and record weather data for real-time use and archival.



Coastal's Aviation / General Purpose Weather Station, located on the ice runway at the South Pole.

"The" weather station actually encompasses two sites: one on the runway, which is just very thick ice, and the other upwind from the entire facility, aptly named "The Clean Air Site".

The station on the runway measures Wind Speed and Direction, Visibility, and Cloud Height. The Clean Air Site consists of Wind Speed and Direction, three Barometric Pressure sensors, two Aspirated Air Temperature and Humidity sensors, and a Solar Radiation sensor.

The station was commissioned in the middle of February, just in time for their winter – which is opposite ours.