

Job Title: Director of Polar Operations, Engineering, and Infrastructure

Location: British Antarctic Survey (BAS), Cambridge, UK, with travel to Polar Regions

Salary: Competitive + Benefits

Contract Type: Permanent, Full-time

About Us

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a world-leading organisation dedicated to delivering cutting-edge polar science and supporting the UK's presence in Antarctica through exceptional logistics. As part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), BAS operates under a clear mission to undertake world-class science and to maintain the UK's strategic presence in Antarctica, in collaboration with key government departments including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).

The Role

We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our senior management team as the Director of Polar Operations, Engineering, and Infrastructure. Reporting directly to the Director of BAS, Professor Dame Jane Francis, you will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our operations and ensuring our polar infrastructure and logistics meet the highest standards. This role manages a significant budget of approximately £47M per year. It encompasses strategic leadership and development, operational oversight, and a focus on safety and risk management in one of the most challenging environments on Earth.

Key Responsibilities

- **Strategic Leadership:** Lead and develop the strategy for polar operations across all BAS facilities, including ship and aircraft operations, estates in Cambridge and the Polar Regions. Collaborate across BAS and with international partners to ensure safe, sustainable, and high-quality support for our polar activities. Ensure successful integration of the Antarctic Infrastructure Modernisation Programme (AIMP)
- **Financial/Budget Management:** Oversee and manage the budget (working closely with NERC), with responsibility for resource and capital allocations critical to the delivery of UK polar science and maintaining the UK presence in Antarctica.
- **Health & Safety, Risk Assurance:** Ensure health and safety across BAS operations, ensuring all activities, particularly in extreme environments, adhere to stringent safety protocols and risk management practices.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Act as a key interface with NERC/UKRI and government stakeholders, including the FCDO, MoD, and international bodies such as the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and the Council of Operators of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP). Ensure that BAS plays a leading role in global polar logistics discussions and operations.
- **Change Management:** Contribute to BAS's Change Project, leading change initiatives within polar operations and promoting innovation and sustainability in line with the Net Zero programme.
- **Leadership & Outreach:** Manage and motivate senior staff across polar operations, estates, and engineering, while championing BAS's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives. Represent BAS externally in high-profile forums, government meetings, and international collaborations.

Who are we looking for?

We want an innovative and inspirational leader with a track record in managing large-scale, complex operations, ideally with Antarctic experience. You will bring strategic vision, financial acumen, and an ability to navigate important international and government relations. Experience in the fields of logistics, infrastructure, or engineering is highly desirable, as is a passion for supporting world-class science in the Polar Regions.

Qualifications & Experience

- Senior leadership experience in a complex, multi-disciplinary organisation.
- Strong financial management and strategic planning skills.
- Experience in leading operations in Antarctica.
- Proven ability to engage and influence a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including government and international bodies.
- A commitment to health and safety excellence and risk management.
- A track record of delivering organisational transformation and change management.

Why Join Us?

This is a unique opportunity to lead operations in some of the most fascinating and challenging environments on Earth. You will play a critical role in advancing polar science, maintaining the UK's strategic interests in Antarctica, and making sure BAS remains at the forefront of international polar logistics.

How to Apply:

Please submit your application by [closing date] including a CV and covering letter detailing how you meet the criteria above.

For further information, please contact Jane