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1-1-2008

Explanatory Notes for the ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica

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Florindo, F.; Harwood, D. M.; Levy, Richard; Acton, G.; Fielding, Christopher R.; Panter, K.; Paulsen, T.; Sangiorgi, F.; Talarico, F.; Taviani, M.; Willmott, V.; and ANDRILL-SMS Science Team, "Explanatory Notes for the ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project, Antarctica" (2008). *ANDRILL Research and Publications.* Paper 16.
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Terra Antartica
2008-2009, **15**(1), 21-39

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Abstract - This Explanatory Notes section complements and supports four other documents, which collectively describe the process and procedures of scientific investigations employed during the ANDRILL SMS Project: (1) ANDRILL Southern McMurdo Sound Project - Scientific Prospectus (ANDRILL contribution 5 - Harwood et al., 2005); (2) a Science Plan summary of SMS Project research compiled from research proposals of Science Team menbers (available on the SMS Project 'Science Drive' – Harwood et al., 2007); (3) SMS Project Science Logistics Implementation Plan (SLIP) - draft documents developed and distributed to SMS team members prior to deployment; (4) Operations overview – Falconer et al., this volume). These five documents, and information presented (also available on the SMS Project 'Science Drive') at McMurdo Station during the initial morning meetings by co-chief scientists, staff scientist, media coordinator, curator and discipline team leaders, represent the essential elements of the full Science Logistics Implementation Plan (SLIP) for the SMS Project. Please also refer to the McMurdo Ice Shelf Project SLIP available at www.andrill.org (ANDRILL contribution 7 – Naish et al., 2005) for additional background information related to SMS science logistics and operations. These explanatory notes provide important background information on the nature of data present on the SMS Project 'Science Drive', including the on-ice report, other core characterization data, and documents and data that record the activities of the SMS Project Science Team.

INTRODUCTION

As described in subsequent sections, the MIS and SMS projects included a core characterization phase, which included research conducted during drilling the drilling period and for ~6 months after drilling. Studies occurred at both on-ice and off-ice locations. A core workshop was held several months after the completion of drilling at the Antarctic Marine Geological Research Facility, at Florida State University, where scientists reviewed new results, examined the core and selected new sample intervals for future studies (Fig. 1). This provided an opportunity for the 'on-ice' and 'off-ice' science teams to integrate results and develop an expanded science plan, given new knowledge about the AND2-2A drillcore. This workshop defined the end of the core characterization phase and the start of the science documentation phase, which included additional off-ice sampling and analyses, data synthesis, and dissemination of results.

Fig. 1 – The SMS Science Team at the SMS Project Core Workshop May 2008, Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility, Florida State University. This workshop marked the end of the Core Characterization Phase of the SMS Project.

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