THE EUROPEAN PROJECT FOR ICE CORING IN ANTARCTICA - AN OVERVIEW

H. Miller
Alfred-Wegener-Institut fuer Polar- und Meeresforschung, Bremerhaven, Germany

The European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA), which is a joint project between 10 European nations, currently is drilling two icecores at different locations in Antarctica with the major aims of retrieving the oldest continuous ice core record and a high resolution one covering at least the last climate cycle. Both drilling projects are well on their way. The record of Dome C according to preliminary data extends back substantially further than 500,000 years and the drilling in Dronning Maud Land, which was started in the 2001/2002 season will have recovered ice from well within the last glacial by the end of the ongoing field season. As introduction to the following talks in this session an overview will be given on the overall scientific rationale of the project and its implementation as well as its major milestones in logistic and scientific development.