

# **AIRLAFONIA ANT2018/19 Weekly Report**

*Report 1: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

## *Summary*

The AIRLAFONIA project started late in 2017 with the task of gathering magnetic, gravity, and other data for interpretation of the geodynamic history of Antarctica's separation from the supercontinent Gondwana. During the last week, Polar 6 and its crew reassembled at Mount Pleasant airport (MPA) to configure the aircraft for the continuation and conclusion of AIRLAFONIA. Three of the science and science technical team arrived from Europe on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and were followed a day later by Polar 6, its two pilots and engineer, via Punta Arenas. As last year, support from MPA has been excellent. Work to configure Polar 6 started on November 4<sup>th</sup> and was completed on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The final member of the science technical team arrived on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Unsuitable weather has restricted flying activities to a single flight on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## *Equipment*

The gravity and magnetic systems were both installed and configured according to expectations in the period between November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>.

## *Flight operations*

A single flight was completed on November 8<sup>th</sup> for configuration of the magnetic compensation system.

## *Outlook*

Polar 6 and its team are ready to continue the AIRLAFONIA campaign in earnest after a problem-free installation period at MPA. We are grateful to the team at MPA for their ongoing support. The AIRLAFONIA team is strongly motivated, and sends their greetings to loved ones and friends at home.

With our best regards,

The POLAR 6 Team

Mount Pleasant Airport, 9.11.2018

## **AIRLAFONIA ANT2018/19 Weekly Report**

*Report 2: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

### *Summary*

During the last week, Polar 6 and its crew started work on airborne data acquisition for the AIRLAFONIA project. From a possible total of six, weather permitted flying on three days, allowing us to complete three survey flights.

### *Equipment*

All equipment has been working according to expectations with only minor problems and maintenance issues to deal with.

### *Flight operations*

The risk of aeroplane icing at survey altitude kept Polar 6 on the ground on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Ground-level turbulence and string crosswinds at Mount Pleasant Airport (MPA) prohibited flying on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. MPA does not support flying on Sundays, leaving Polar 6 grounded on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Survey flight 1811120401 was completed on November 12<sup>th</sup>, survey flight 1811130501 on November 13<sup>th</sup>, and survey flight 1811140601 on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### *Outlook*

Polar 6 and its team are hoping for a period of more stable weather conditions in order to push ahead with further acquisition to finalise AIRLAFONIA over the remaining time with a maximum of seven flying days on the Falkland Islands.

With our best regards,

The POLAR 6 Team

Mount Pleasant Airport, 16.11.2018

## **AIRLAFONIA ANT2018/19 Weekly Report**

*Report 3: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

### *Summary*

During the last week, Polar 6 and its crew continued airborne data acquisition for the AIRLAFONIA project. From a possible total of six, weather permitted flying on four days, allowing us to complete four survey flights.

### *Equipment*

A problem with the integration of GPS data into the gravity meter's internal data acquisition system, which had affected parts of the earlier flights, was successfully resolved. All other systems worked satisfactorily.

### *Flight operations*

MPA does not support flying on Sundays, leaving Polar 6 grounded on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Ground-level turbulence and strong crosswinds at Mount Pleasant Airport prohibited flying on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Survey flights 1811170701, 1811200901, 1811211001, and 1811221101 were completed on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### *Outlook*

AIRLAFONIA is rapidly approaching its conclusion, with just one more flying day in prospect on Monday 26<sup>th</sup>. After that day, Polar 6 and its flight crew will turn their attention to the Antarctic-based parts of the 2018/19 season.

With our best regards,

The POLAR 6 Team

Mount Pleasant Airport, 24.11.2018

## **AIRLAFONIA ANT2018/19 Weekly Report**

*Report 4: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018*

### *Summary*

Over this report period, Polar 6 and its crew concluded airborne data acquisition for the AIRLAFONIA project. From a possible total of one, weather permitted flying on one day, allowing us to complete one survey flight. Science equipment was deinstalled. All freight was prepared. Polar 6 was equipped with skis, ready for the Antarctic season.

### *Equipment*

All systems functioned satisfactorily for the final survey flight.

### *Flight operations*

MPA does not support flying on Sundays, leaving Polar 6 on the ground on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Survey flight 1811261201 was completed on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### *Outlook*

AIRLAFONIA concluded with the flight on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Polar 6 has been equipped with skis ready for its onward journey and to Antarctica and its work there.

With our best regards,

The POLAR 6 Team

Mount Pleasant Airport, 29.11.2018