Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus

Centre for altitude and environmental research in Bavaria

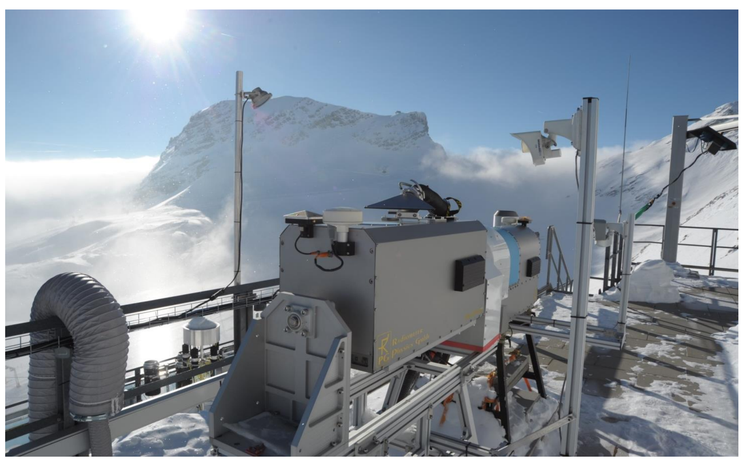
Umwelt Forschungsstation Schneefernerhaus

The Station

The Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus, located 2650m above sea level on the south slope of the Zugspitz mountain, is Bavaria´s centre for altitude and environmental research.

Scientists from different disciplines and organizations find excellent conditions here to study the atmosphere. They measure pollutants, aerosols and greenhouse gases, observe weather phenomena and physical properties of clouds and precipitation and they explore the effects of climate change on the alpine environment including the increasing danger of geo hazards.

The data acquired is essential for the detection of changes, monitoring of reduction goals of pollutants and for modelling future developments. Results are reported to international programs and data centres.



Infrastructure

The UFS offers 750 m² of laboratory and office space plus 480 m² of outdoor platforms for observations, measurements and experiments on a long or short term basis.
In addition there is a modern conference area and overnight facilities for up to 51 people.

Chemical and physical laboratories are equipped with lab-specific furniture, air conditioning, a separate instrument exhaust system, wall ducts for instrument cables and sampling lines, compressed air, uninterruptable power supply and high-speed internet connections.

Due to it‘s own cable car and in-house connection to the rack railway the station is accessible year round in all weather conditions.

The use of the Schneefernerhaus is not restricted to the named partners, but is also open to anyone planning scientific experiments or seminars and meetings.

International Programs

Key Scientific Activities

The Schneefernerhaus is far more than just a station that houses different research institutes.

All groups working at the Schneefernerhaus have the opportunity to cooperate in quality control, data storage, data exchange, interdisciplinary evaluation and analysis. Collaborations in setting up instruments and large campaigns are commonplace.

The interdisciplinary research goals are organised in eight Key Scientific Activities each bringing together several research institutes:

- **Regional climate and atmosphere**
- **Satellite-based observations and early detection**
- **Cosmic radiation and radioactivity**
- **Hydrology**
- **Environmental and high-altitude medicine**
- **GAW (Global Atmosphere Watch)**
- **Biosphere and geosphere**
- **Cloud dynamics**

Partners

Ten leading German research institutes have come together at the Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus to establish a “Virtual Institute” for altitude, environmental and climate research.

German Aerospace Center

Germany's National Meteorological Service

Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Center for Environmental Health

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Max Planck Society

Technical University of Munich

German Environment Agency

Augsburg University

State of Bavaria

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