

First Use of Starlink for Telemedicine in Antarctica:

A Groundbreaking Research Project



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A team of researchers, led by Kai Müller, has achieved a significant milestone in the field of telemedicine by successfully conducting the first-ever use of Starlink as a platform for telemedicine in Antarctica. The project, titled "Connecting the Unreachable: Evaluating the Feasibility and Effectiveness of Starlink for Telemedicine in Antarctica," aims to revolutionize the quality of data exchange in extremely remote locations. The research project, supported by the Institute for Remote Area Risk And Medicine (IRARAM), is a collaborative effort involving experts in various roles. Tim Befall, a technical advisor, is responsible for the Starlink hardware, while Hannah Evans serves as the medical research coordinator and Katharine Ganly as the medical project coordinator. Key aspects of the project include evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of using Starlink for telemedicine in the harsh conditions of Antarctica, demonstrating its potential in the most remote locations. The setup is designed to be power independent, utilizing Powerfilm solar panels and a Shine wind turbine to ensure continuous communication even in the absence of a traditional power source. The project also focuses on transferring ICU-level relevant data to an external "medical overwatch" to optimize the use of medical resources with the expertise of professionals in secure locations. This groundbreaking research project represents a significant advancement in the use of Starlink for telemedicine in extreme environments. The findings from this project will provide valuable insights into the potential of Starlink for enhancing healthcare access and outcomes in remote and challenging locations. For more information about the project, please contact expedition leader Kai Müller at email.

About the Researchers:

- Kai Müller: Expedition Leader, Expedition Medic, and former Paramedic with extensive experience in polar operations and remote medicine.
- Hannah Evans: Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, MSc, MBChB, MRCP, Expedition Medic, MSc, DipROM, DTMH, FRGS, FAWM, PGCert Clinical Education, Medical Research Coordinator.
- Katharine Ganly: NHS Doctor, Expedition Medic, Extreme Endurance, Antarctica, BA, BMBS, MSc, MRCEM, DipIMC, FRGS, FAWM, Medical Project Coordinator.
- Tim Befall: Technical Advisor responsible for Starlink hardware. The team will continue their research in Antarctica until 04.03.24, conducting a second stage of the expedition to further enhance the quality of treatment for hypothermia patients.

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