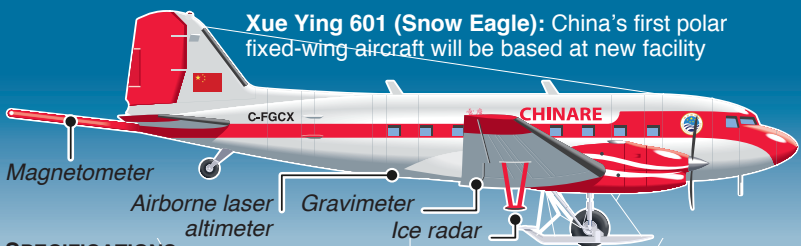


China builds first Antarctic airbase

China is building a permanent airfield in Antarctica as Beijing seeks to expand its influence over the polar region



Xue Ying 601 (Snow Eagle): China's first polar fixed-wing aircraft will be based at new facility

SPECIFICATIONS

Cruising speed: **380km/h**

Max. range: **3,440km**

Take-off load: **13 tonnes**

Capacity: **18 passengers**

New base will free aircraft from having to use other countries' airfields

Runway: 1,500m long, 80m wide, located on ice sheet 28km from Zhongshan. Will allow use of larger planes and provide logistical support for China's South Pole ambitions



Great Wall
Permanent

Antarctic Peninsula

Chinese research stations

15 countries have built over 50 permanent airfields in Antarctica – U.S., Russia, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Germany, Chile, Argentina, Norway, South Africa, Belgium, Japan and India

Zhongshan
Permanent

Taishan
Seasonal

Kunlun
Seasonal

EAST ANTARCTICA

WEST ANTARCTICA

South Pole

Transantarctic Mountains

Ross Sea

Prydz Bay

**1,000km
620 miles**

SOUTHERN OCEAN

Fifth station under construction at Terra Nova Bay, expected to open in 2023