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The North Greenland Eemian Ice Core Drilling Project (NEEM)

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During the International Polar Year 2007-2008 a new deep ice core drilling project has been initiated. After site selection in 2007, the ice core drilling camp was setup in the summer of 2008. In 2009-2011 the project aims at retreiving a 2510 m long ice core and perform detailed analysis of the core at the site. NEEM is a Danish led international project with contributions from Danish Ministry of Research, U.S. National Science Foundation and 12 other nations. The scientific objective is to perform the most detailed ice core analysis of the development of climate and greenhouse gases during our present interglacial, the Holocene and the previous interglacial, the Eemian period. So far no reliable ice core record from Greenland covering the Eemian has been recovered, but radar soundings at the NEEM site indicate that an undisturbed record from the Holocene, and as the Eemian was several degrees warmer than now, some information might be gained on possible development of future climate with global warming. The field work and the scientific objectives of NEEM will be presented.