

and the ice-breaker - almost as much again. Delivering everything to the ice-floe costs 86,000. Food supplies amount to 66,000. 1,160,00 are set aside for transportation of equipment and personnel from Leningrad to Pevek. The search for the ice-floe costs 160,000. There is also an item called "Delivery to base of delayed equipment and personnel", that is, the cost of slipshod organization. There is a provision of 100,000 roubles, but we will not need it. The total comes to just over 4,000,000, but that only covers the organization of the station. Next year's maintenance costs are estimated to be in the range of 2.757 million roubles.

- Will this investment pay for itself?

- Definitely. The main return is successful navigation of the Arctic Ocean. The geologists paid our department more than a million roubles for the use of the base. In addition, there are many secondary sources of revenue. For example, in the spring we will be hosting producers and cameramen from NHK, the Japanese television and radio network. At SP-31 they will be filming one part of the documentary series "the Polar Circle". They are even planning to shoot underwater. The Japanese have already paid several tens of thousands of dollars for this.

Sidorov is a living legend. Inspired by the example of Papanin's team, he has crisscrossed the snowy routes of both the northern and southern polar caps. The "Vostok", "Molodezhnaya" and "Mirnyi" stations, and the base on Shackleton Ice Shelf are all the work of Sidorov in the Antarctic. He spent five winters at "Vostok" alone, the most severe spot