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Prototype Ice Well

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The U.S. Ice Drilling Program (IDP) has the need to efficiently develop and operate drilling equipment. A prototype ice well has been created at the University of Wisconsin as a significant step in addressing this need. The well provides a column of ice approximately 15m deep and 25cm in diameter at temperatures as low as -20°C. The well provides significant cost savings to the program by providing an efficient facility for testing drill equipment and by minimizing logistical burdens of field testing and training. This poster provides technical details of the system and performance as well as a proposal for future development.

Author: Mr GIBSON, Christopher (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Co-authors: Mr KUHL, Tanner (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Mr BOECKMANN, Grant (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Mr KOEHLER, Jim (Koehler Design Works, LLC)

Presenter: Mr GIBSON, Christopher (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

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