

2015-16 ANSMET Meteorites

The Antarctic Search for Meteorites (ANSMET) project, funded by the Near Earth Object Observations Program, has recovered over 21,000 meteorites from Antarctica on annual expeditions since 1976.

- For the 2015-16 field season, the ANSMET team returned to the Miller Range in the Transantarctic Mountains, on the edge of the south polar ice cap. Previous visits to this area showed it to be a rich location for meteorites with over 2900 specimens recovered over many visits to date, including lunar, martian and other rare types.
- Despite several days of sustained 40 mph winds during this most recent 40-day field camp, the ANSMET team collected another 569 meteorites for the U.S. national collection.
- At the end of the season, the meteorites were shipped in their frozen state from Antarctica to the curation facilities at Johnson Space Center where they were classified into chemical groups. Some of these newest finds already have been distributed to the scientific community for detailed analyses.



The image on the left shows a eucrite being measured and photographed in the field as part of the collection process. Eucrites are a group of meteorites blasted off the surface of asteroid (4) Vesta, the first rendezvous target of NASA's Dawn mission.

On the right, a satellite image of the northern Miller Range is overlain with field traverse lines and locations of the meteorites found in the area.

