

# Antarctica2 – The Journey Continues

15 December 2014 by Massey Ferguson

## Ice-fog descends

The Antarctica2 tractor expedition team is already making good progress on its long and punishing 2500 km journey back from the South Pole to base camp at Novo Runway. But the latest big challenge is a dense ice-fog which has dramatically reduced visibility.

With 840 km under their belts, the team and MF 5610 tractor have now completed seven of the 20 degrees of Latitude which they need to cover before reaching Novo on the Antarctic coast. In a determined push, they reached Fuel Depot 83 where work was carried out on the tractor and support vehicles to rebalance the loads.

Until now, the expedition has been blessed with clear blue skies for the majority of the trip but freezing fog descended in a thick blanket to change the outlook completely. In her daily update from the ice, Matty McNair, Expedition Lead Guide reported: "The weather was sunny and then the ice fog rolled over us. It's hard to see the tracks and bumps. If you can imagine being in a dark room and you can see nothing. That's what it's like except it's in white!" To cope with this new situation, they had to follow GPS transit points which is extremely challenging.

The expedition is still travelling across the polar plateau at an elevation of 2603 metres (8,540 ft). Winds are up and it is cold – around minus 25 to minus 30 degrees C. Team members have to keep their vigilance at top level as they climb higher and higher towards the mountain range in their path - and where temperatures dropped to as low minus 56 C on their outward journey. After that come the dangers of the crevasse area.

It is a constant test of tenacity and endurance as the team, tractor and trucks continue their journey in one of the harshest environments on the planet. The MF 5610 has already proven its outstanding capabilities on the trek to the South Pole - and now it has to do it all over again. With interest in the trip reverberating around the world, the team spent a great deal of time fulfilling global radio, television and internet interview requests but now they have to concentrate on the serious business of getting home safely.

Sending a message to the whole team on Sunday morning, Campbell Scott, Massey Ferguson Director Sales

Engineering and Brand Development said: "We and many others all over the world are following your progress around the clock and continue to be amazed by your teamwork and fortitude. It's a hard slog back but we hope you can find a way to enjoy this last great surge despite the conditions. From a distance, every chapter of this remarkable story fills us with awe. We wish you a safe and secure traverse on these final stages of this historic expedition. Take care and bon voyage."

You can follow the team's challenge every day at [www.AntarcticaTwo.com](http://www.AntarcticaTwo.com) and #BelieveInIt

Source: AGCO, Massey Ferguson