



POTENTIALS COOPERATION MINERAL RESOURCES

Qaasuitsup Municipality - Greenland's best municipality for mineral resource activities





We are pleased to welcome you

The interest in minerals and petroleum in our municipality has never been greater. A fact that creates new opportunities and challenges – demanding, exciting and innovative all at the same time.

We do undoubtedly have the essential infrastructure and scope for the mineral resources industry. Qaasuitsup Municipality is geared for growth. We are a municipality in which citizens want to live. And a town in which the business community wants to operate businesses. Whether it's about

finding the best location for a plant on land or establishing contact with our local business community and labour force, Qaasuitsup Municipality will provide targeted assistance. We have a lot to offer, which many guests from other countries have already discovered. Our municipality is the most visited tourist destination in Greenland. We have significant experience in accommodating the numerous tourist needs; this experience can now benefit the mineral resources industry. We have excellent facilities and a well-functioning infrastructure. We are used to providing

a high service level in all areas. We are competent, efficient and accustomed to change.

The expectations and optimism concerning the mineral resources sector are clearly felt among the municipality's citizens and in the business community. In the long term, we hope that the mineral resources sector will develop into a leading industry in the municipality in a safe and eco-friendly way.

In other words, our municipality is full of activity. And that's not all. Our nature and hospitality are second to none.

Welcome to Qaasuitsup
– an inviting municipality


On behalf of the municipal council
Jess Svane, mayor



Why Qaasuitsup municipality?

Qaasuitsup Municipality has several unique qualities that provide an excellent setting for the prospecting and extraction of mineral resources.

Mineral resources

The substratum in Qaasuitsup Municipality has significant deposits of coveted minerals. Previous surveys also indicate that large quantities of hydrocarbons exist under the sea off the municipality's coasts. Due to increasing temperatures, less snow

and sea ice are produced in the Arctic regions, making it possible to prospect for and extract mineral resources in new areas and for a larger part of the year. Many have already discovered this. Today, some of the biggest companies in the mineral resources industry are busy exploring onshore as well as offshore locations in the municipality.

Excellent facilities

The municipality's major towns are geared to accommodate the increasing interest from the min-

eral resources industry. The towns have excellent facilities and the residents of the municipality are used to many visitors, thanks to our well-developed tourist industry. Thus, accommodation here is better than elsewhere in Greenland. We have excellent shopping opportunities, educational institutions and hospitals as well as a rich cultural life with sports facilities, restaurants and museums. At the same time, the original culture with dog sledges and kayaks is still wide-spread throughout the municipality.

Excellent infrastructure

The infrastructure of the municipality is excellent. There are several daily flights from the municipality to the capital, Nuuk, and to the transatlantic airport in Kangerlussuaq. In the summer months there are also direct departures between Ilulissat and Iceland. The national airline, Air Greenland, has a fleet of planes and helicopters, which are suited especially for the demanding Arctic conditions. The company has long-standing experience in provi-



ding logistics services in connection with special tasks. There are transatlantic wharfs in all the major towns of the municipality, and container ships from Nuuk and Aalborg dock several times every month.

Mineral resources – a municipal priority

The municipal administration gives high priority to the region's potential for extraction of mineral resources. The municipal Mineral and Petroleum Office attends to all enquiries regarding local conditions in connection with prospecting for

and extraction of mineral resources. The Mineral and Petroleum Office can help establish contact with the local business community and relevant authorities. Qaasuitsup Municipality already has experience in cooperating with and servicing the oil and mineral prospecting companies that currently have licences in the area. In the mineral resources area, the municipality cooperates closely with the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum in Nuuk.

Flexible labour force

The municipality is geared for growth and the popu-

lation is adaptable. The labour force is flexible and the versatility of the municipality's private business community is great. A readjustment phase is currently going on, focusing on the possibilities within the mineral resources sector both from an educational and from an industrial point of view. Cooperation has been established with educational institutions outside the municipality specialising in education within the hydrocarbon and mineral industry. Expectations and optimism are high among the population with regard to future business opportunities in the mineral resources sector.

Highly educated labour force

Due to the municipality's spectacular nature, original culture and well-functioning towns with excellent facilities, skilled manpower is easy to attract to the major towns of the municipality. This helps develop a well-functioning and dynamic community.

Cooperation with Qaasuitsup Municipality

The central authority in the mineral resources area in Greenland is the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum, which is responsible for the administration of mineral resources activities. In addition to contact with the Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum, early and close cooperation with Qaasuitsup Municipality is important in connection with the prospecting for mineral resources in the municipality.

The Mineral and Petroleum Office in Qaasuitsup Municipality attends to all enquiries regarding

local conditions. The Mineral and Petroleum Office cooperates closely with the business community of the municipality and can help establish contact with companies, local citizens, etc. The municipality has the area competence to administer and allocate areas in towns as well as in open land. The office also provides advice on environmental and emergency preparedness requirements. The Mineral and Petroleum Office is located in Ilulissat, the largest town in Qaasuitsup Municipality.



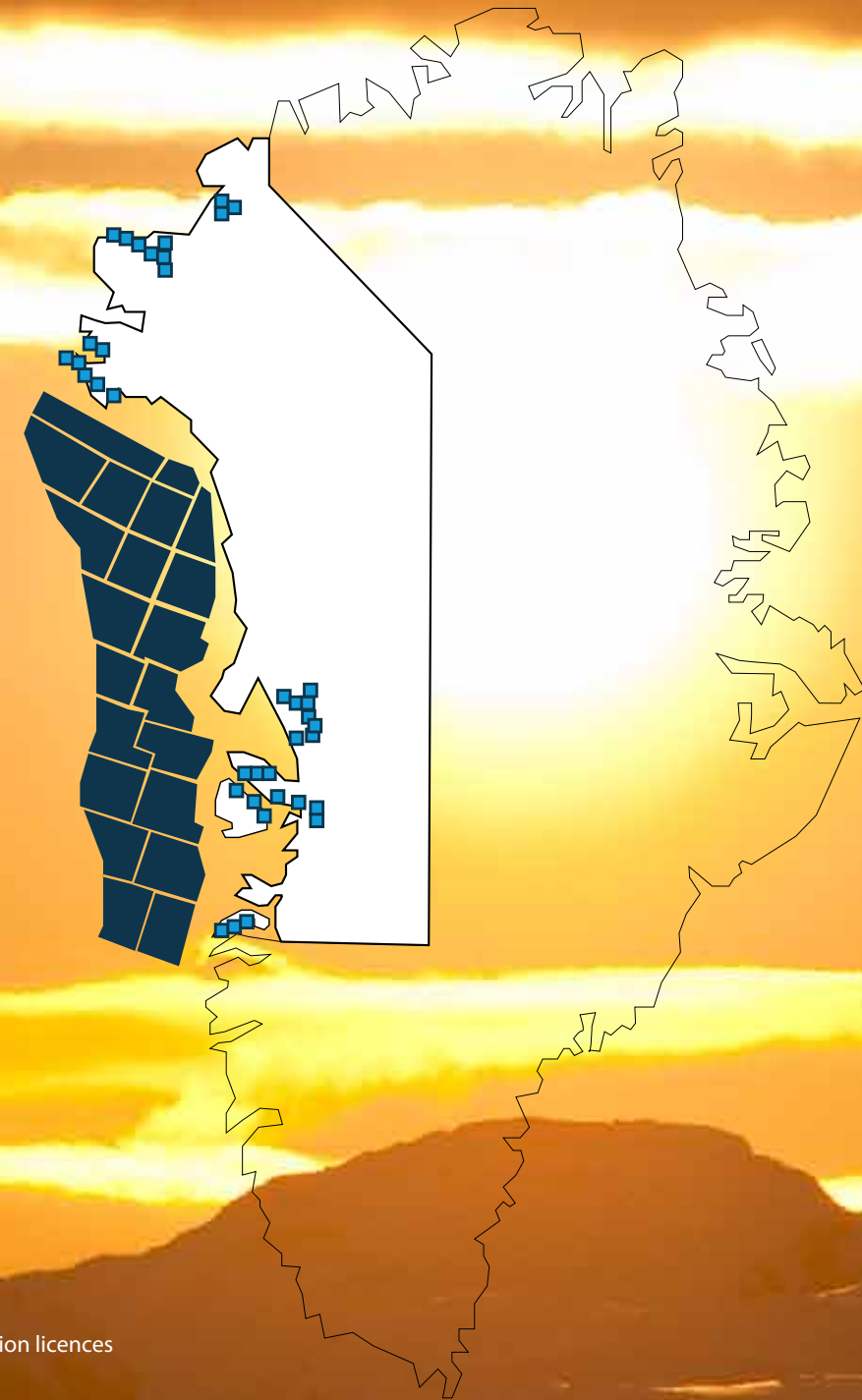
Ongoing mineral resource activities in Qaasuitsup Municipality

Today, some of the world's largest oil companies have exploration and exploitation permits for work in the waters off Qaasuitsup Municipality. Prospect drillings for hydrocarbons are carried out in the waters off Disko Bay.

The lead and zinc mine near Mamorilik has been reopened. A large number of mineral companies also have licence areas throughout the municipality, from Thule in the north to south of the Disko Bay.



- Mineral exploration licences
- Current hydrocarbon exploration licences



Facts

Geography

Greenland is located in the North Atlantic Ocean between Canada and Norway. The country has approx. 56,000 inhabitants of whom approx. 15,000 live in the capital city, Nuuk, where the country's central administration is located.

Qaasuitsup Municipality is located in Northwest Greenland. The municipality stretches from slightly north of the Polar Circle in the south to approx. 81 degrees north. In terms of size, it is the world's largest municipality with a coastline of more than 1,600 km (990 miles) and an area of more than 660,000 km² (255,000 m²). Towards the east, it is bordered by the inland ice, and towards the west, by Baffin Bay. From the inland ice and out to the sea, the ice-free land areas are characterised by rugged mountain landscapes traversed by fjords. Many of the fjords have glaciers at the bottom from which large amounts of ice calve out into the sea. For example, the glacier at the bottom of Ilulissat Icefjord is the most productive glacier in the northern hemisphere. It is estimated that in Baffin Bay, more than 20,000 icebergs are calved annually, of which the biggest have a diameter in excess of one kilometre.

Political conditions

Politically, Greenland is a very stable country with a government elected according to applicable international democratic principles. The country gained self-government from Denmark in 2009. In this connection, the responsibility for a number of areas, including mineral resources and the substratum, was transferred from the Danish to the Greenland administration. Several multinational mineral companies have shown interest in invest-

ing heavily in Greenland based on, among other things, the country's political stability.

Climate

The municipality has a low arctic climate in the south and a high arctic climate in the north. The average temperature for the summer months varies between +5 and +7 °C (41 and 46 °F) and for the winter months, between -24 and -16 °C (-11 and 3 °F) in the north and south, respectively. Most of the precipitation between September and April falls as snow. There is a dark period in the winter months and midnight sun in the summer. Large parts of the municipality's sea area is covered by ice in the winter months and drifting ice can occur throughout the year.

Flora and fauna

The ice-free areas are sparsely covered with low arctic flora, which provides the basis for life for e.g. musk ox and reindeer. The nutrient-rich sea forms the habitat for abundant animal life. Marine mammals such as seals, walruses, whales as well as polar bears are found throughout most of the municipality. There is an abundance of fish and shellfish in the sea, including shrimps, crabs, cod and halibut, which contribute to the rich bird life.

Protected areas

In 2004, Ilulissat Icefjord achieved World Heritage status. In addition, a large part of the coast in Melville Bay has been zoned as a national park and the southern part of Disko Bay is protected due to its importance to bird life.

Towns

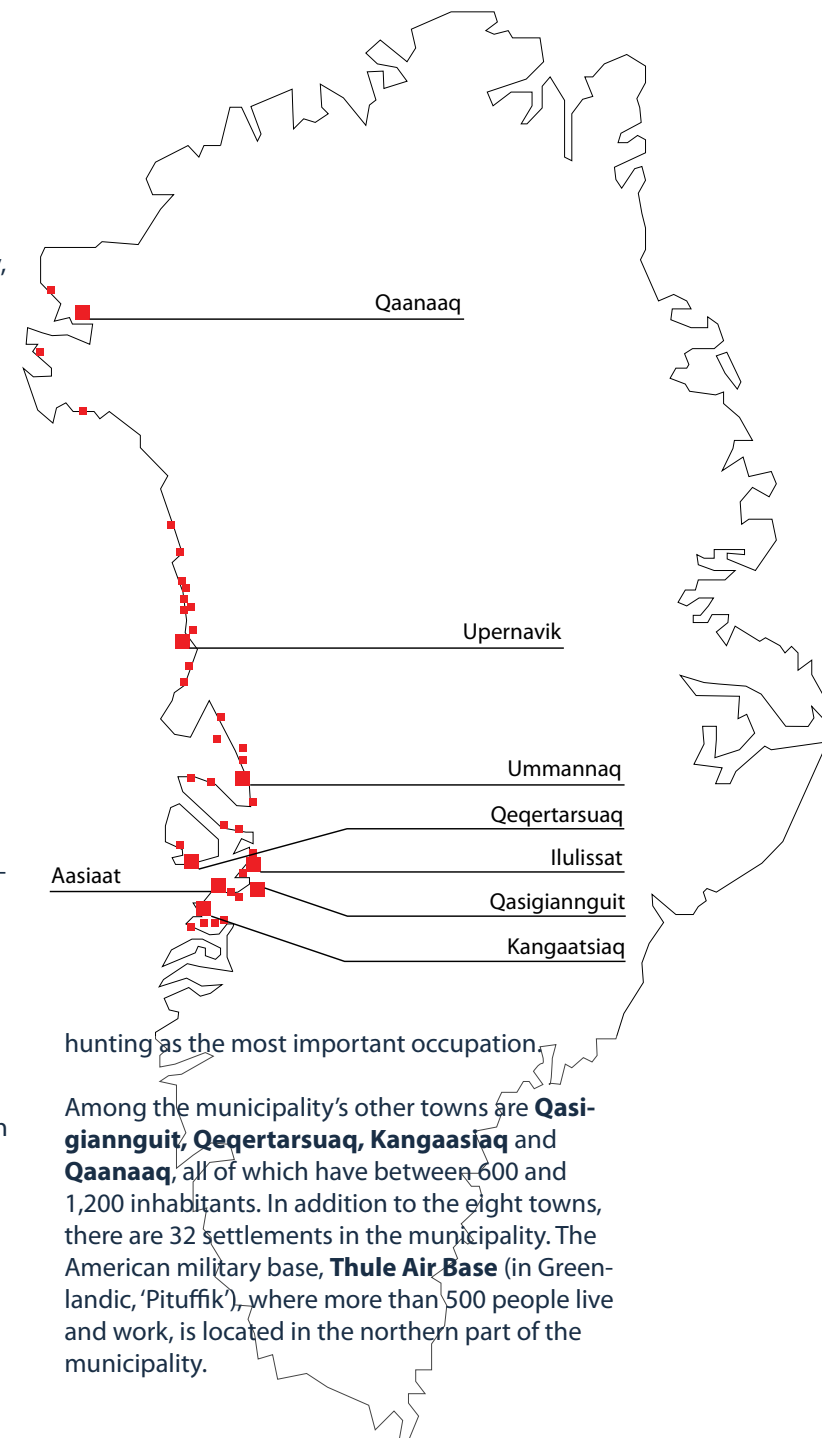
Approx. 18,000 inhabitants live in the municipality, distributed between eight towns and 32 settlements.

The municipality's biggest town is Ilulissat, with approx. 4,500 inhabitants. The town is located at the bottom of Disko Bay, close to the mouth of Ilulissat Icefjord. The municipality's main administration is located in Ilulissat. The town is the base for especially shrimp and halibut fishing. Ilulissat is also the centre for the majority of tourism in the municipality due to, among other things, the town's excellent infrastructure as well as its closeness to the World Heritage area, Ilulissat Icefjord.

Aasiaat is located just south of Disko Bay and has a population of slightly more than 3,000 people. The town's largest workplace is the fish factory where shrimps are processed. Moreover, the town is home to one of Greenland's three upper secondary schools. Aasiaat is the centre for many of the current offshore activities.

Uummannaq has approx. 1,500 inhabitants. The town is located on a small island north of Disko Bay. Surrounded by spectacular nature, the town has been well-frequented by tourists for many years. There has also been some mineral extraction in the area. The lead and zinc mine at Mamorilik is situated at the bottom of Uummannaq Fjord.

Upernavik has approx. 1,200 inhabitants. The town had a runway built for fixed-wing aircraft in 2000. This opened the town and district up to tourism, resulting in a significant improvement of the town's facilities. In recent years, fishing has increased heavily in the area and is about to replace



hunting as the most important occupation.

Among the municipality's other towns are **Qasigiannguit**, **Qeqertarsuaq**, **Kangaatsiaq** and **Qaanaaq**, all of which have between 600 and 1,200 inhabitants. In addition to the eight towns, there are 32 settlements in the municipality. The American military base, **Thule Air Base** (in Greenlandic, 'Pituffik'), where more than 500 people live and work, is located in the northern part of the municipality.

Industries

The two most important industries in Qaasuitsup Municipality are fishing and tourism. Fishing is primarily for shrimp, halibut, cod and crabs and is concentrated mainly in and around Disko Bay. In the municipality's northern districts, hunting for marine mammals such as seals, whales, walruses and polar bears is still an important occupation. Ilulissat is the main centre for tourist activities, but the majority of the municipality's towns have experienced an increase in tourism in recent years. The tourist industry is based primarily on activities such as dog sledding, sailing, hiking and skiing. Most tourists arrive during spring and summer from March to August. In recent years, cruise ship tourism along the municipality's coasts has increased dramatically.

Almost all industries are represented in the municipality's major towns, including local contracting companies, electricians, auto repair shops, carpenters, decorators etc.

Air transport

None of the municipality's towns are connected by roads. All transport to and from, as well as internally in the municipality, takes place by planes or helicopters, which are operated by the national airline, Air Greenland. However, in the summer months, Air Iceland offers direct flights between Ilulissat and Iceland, from where there are flight connections to North America and other destinations. There are runways for fixed-wing aircraft as well as jet fuel depots in Aasiaat, Ilulissat, Qaarsut (near Uummannaq), Upernavik, Qaanaaq and Thule Air Base. With the exception of Thule Air Base, none of the runways in the municipality are longer than 1,020 m (3,346 ft). There are daily departures between Ilulissat and Aasiaat to both Kangerlussuaq and Nuuk, from where there are weekly flights to Denmark and Iceland.

Harbours

Transatlantic wharfs have been built in Ilulissat, Aasiaat, Uummannaq and Upernavik. Throughout most of the year and several times a month, container ships from Nuuk or Aalborg dock at Aasiaat and Ilulissat, though not from January through March where the ice situation can make navigation impossible.

Health services

There are hospitals with medical staff in all eight towns of the municipality. However, none of these have specialist departments, which means that patients with complicated illnesses are always sent to Nuuk or Denmark. The hospitals also function as pharmacies. No vaccinations are required for entry into Greenland. There are dental clinics in all the major towns of the municipality, but dentists are not necessarily present in all towns throughout the year.

Shops

All towns in the municipality have shops from which foods and ordinary consumer goods are sold. In the major towns it is possible to buy fresh meat and vegetables throughout the year whereas the supply of these goods varies more in the small towns. Ilulissat and Aasiaat also offer more specialised shops.

Entertainment and leisure time options

The major towns of the municipality have cultural offers such as libraries, museums, restaurants, sports clubs, discotheques and bars. All the towns of the municipality offer guided tours in the countryside, including tours by boat, dog sledge, kayak, skis, and helicopter as well as hiking tours

Water and waste

All the towns of the municipality have fresh water supplies from nearby lakes where water is pumped up, cleaned and distributed through pipelines to households, businesses and service stations. Waste is incinerated at the local incineration plant or is transported by ship to Denmark if the waste is considered a threat to the local environment.

Educational system

All the towns of the municipality have daycare institutions as well as schools with tuition up to and including 10th grade. Aasiaat also has an upper secondary school. Daycare institution services are offered at a fee, whereas tuition at schools and the upper secondary school is free.

Postal service, banks and money

There are post offices in all the towns of the municipality. In small towns that do not have a bank, the post office also functions as a bank where money can be withdrawn. The local currency is Danish Kroner. Ordinary international debit cards can be used in the majority of shops, hotels and the like.

Languages

The language is Greenlandic. In general, Danish and English are also spoken in the administration.

Communication

There are networks for mobile telephony in and around all the towns of the municipality. Internet access is also provided by the majority of major hotels, the administration and the municipality's businesses.



**Qaasuitsup Municipality,
Mineral and Petroleum Office**
Qaasuitsup Municipality
P.O. Box 1023
3952 Ilulissat
Greenland
Tel.: +299 94 79 26
E-mail: qaasuitsup@qaasuitsup.gl
www.qaasuitsup.gl

Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum
P.O. Box 930
3900 Nuuk
Greenland
Tel.: +299 34 68 00
Fax: +299 32 43 02
E-mail: bmp@gh.gl
www.bmp.gl

