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PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg B-48 Calves from Dotson Ice Shelf

06FEB2020, Suitland, MD — On February 6th 2020, the U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) named a new iceberg that calved from the Dotson Ice Shelf in the Amundsen Sea. B-48 is located at 74°11' South, 112°51' West and measures 12 nautical miles on its longest axis and 2 nautical miles on its widest axis with an area of 14.2 square nautical miles. B-48 was spotted and confirmed by USNIC analyst Chris Readinger in the Sentinel-1B image shown below (Figure 1). This calving event from the Dotson Ice Shelf comes soon after calvings from both Pine Island Glacier and the Getz Ice Shelf.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

    A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)   C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkes land)
    B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)   D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by USNIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, D-28 is sequentially the 28th iceberg tracked by the USNIC in Antarctica between 90E-0 (Quadrant D).
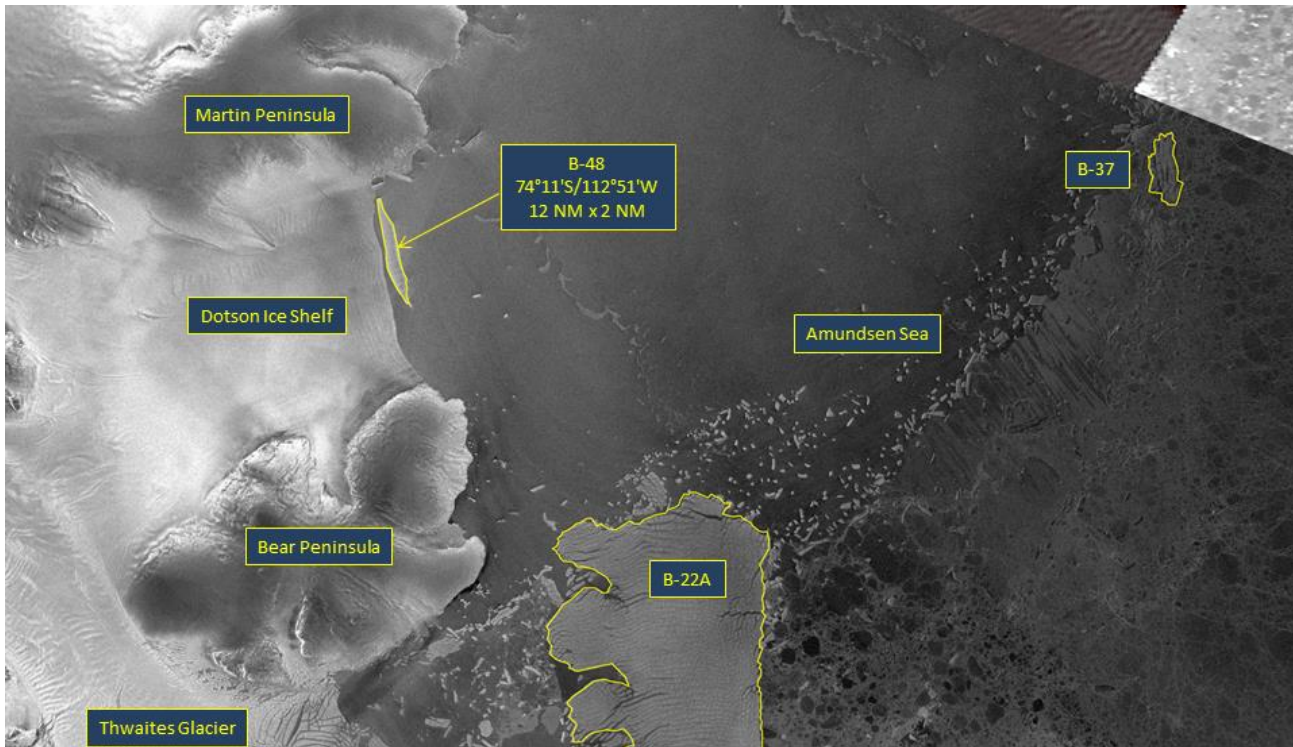
Figure 1: Sentinel-1A image from 06 February (0427Z) showing new iceberg D-48. (Sentinel-1 Imagery courtesy of European Space Agency)

To access daily products, weekly products, archival data and much more of USNIC data in various formats, visit the USNIC webpage at: http://www.natice.noaa.gov/Main_Products.htm

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