

# Press Release

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## **Changes to the Team**

As Jean-Marc Porte (F) was unable to join the expedition due to professional reasons, Alain Hubert requested Ronald Ross (US) to replace him on the team of **THE WALL 2000**.

Alain Hubert and Ronald Ross met for the first time last year while Alain and Daniel Mercier were in Antarctica for a reconnaissance of the peaks in the Holtanna Range in Queen Maud Land. Ronald was there for a scientific project for Stanford University in the US.

Ronald, an energetic 42 year-old, is originally Scottish, but now lives in San Francisco. An electronics engineer by training, he acts in an advisory capacity to engineering students at the University of Stanford (student mentor). As an amateur radio enthusiast, he developed and deployed a radio satellite in some of the most remote deserts of the Western United States and Mexico. During tests that he conducted, he was able to establish contact with the American space shuttle, and the Russian Mir space station.

During the last two years, Ronald Ross has also been involved in research in the Antarctic region. He has been carrying out field tests on amateur radio systems over the southern hemisphere summer of 1997-98, and 1999-2000. In this way, in 1997-98, he managed to establish radio contact, via satellite, between Patriot Hills, and the rest of the World. A year later, he managed to repeat this test during a reconnaissance skiing expedition in Dronning Maud Land. During the present expedition, he will be responsible along with the Belgian journalist, Kathelijne Van Heukelom (VRT), for communications, via satellite, between base camp and the operations HQ in Brussels.

Ronald Ross will install the first weather station built by the students of Stanford University near Blue One, and he will also begin work on the development of software for the second weather station. This station will transmit weather data, which shall be relayed via amateur satellite onto the Internet.

**The Wall in Antarctica**  
**From 30 november**  
**Queen Maud Land**  
[www.antarctica.org](http://www.antarctica.org)

Please inform! Thank you.  
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