



ARISS Meeting in Montreal 04 - 06 April 2002

ARISS-Europe Report

ARISS-Europe Member Societies

- **AMRAD (TBD)** **Portugal**
- **AMSAT-Belgium** **Belgium**
- **AMSAT-France** **France**
- **AMSAT-Italy** **Italy**
- **ARI** **Italy**
- **DARC** **Germany**
- **PZK** **Poland**
- **REF-Union** **France**
- **REP** **Portugal**
- **RSGB** **UK**
- **UBA** **Belgium**

ARISS-Europe meeting ESTEC 2002

- **1 1/2 day meeting 22-23 March 2002**
- **Astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG assisted Friday afternoon**
- **Technical telecons are called for as decided at the ESTEC 2001 meeting**
- **Technical inputs to the Montreal 2002 meeting were discussed**
- **Waiting schools become frustrated. An easy means to let them participate before their proper contact can be scheduled was sought of**
- **It was decided to create a European School Mentors Task Force**

ARISS-Europe welcomes volunteering School Contact Mentors

ARISS Schools Contacts

Setting up amateur radio Space Talks for children and students with astronauts on board the International Space Station is one of the most rewarding activities of the amateur radio community.

ARISS has built a solid structure to implement the manifold steps required to welcome an "Astronaut in the Classroom". Please have a look to <<http://www.ariss-eu.org>>.

The key for success in this field of activity has proven to be the volunteering Mentors' Task Force.

School Contact Mentors

When a school is selected for an upcoming Space Talk, a member of the Mentors' Task Force volunteers to guide the school on the way to a successful contact.

The Mentor who accepts this responsibility will inform, guide and control the school teacher(s) as well as the amateur radio operator(s) involved in the undertaking. The further implementation of the contact depends on the efficient collaboration of the parties involved with the responsible Mentor.

Mentors have a specific task, not to be confounded with the task of the amateur radio operator for a school contact. Per school contact, a volunteering Mentor accepts to spend a considerable amount of time and energy to prepare the school. Most of this work is done by e-mail. Schools can be very well prepared by experienced Mentors without the need of visiting the school.

Mentors participate to the weekly teleconferences of the ARISS Operations Committee till the school for which they volunteered has performed a successful ARISS School Contact.

The Mentor's profile

Efficient ARISS School Contact Mentors are experienced amateur satellite operators. More important though is their motivation to act as an "Elmer", i.e. as a guide to help somebody wishing to accomplish a dream.

ARISS Mentors shall have a conversational knowledge of English.

To be a Mentor, a thorough preparation is needed. ARISS-Europe provides the training.

European School Contact Mentors' Task Force

In countries wishing to offer Space Talks to schools, mentors are needed. ARISS-Europe wishes to recruit Mentors for the European Mentor's Task Force.

Candidates are invited to send a mail to the ARISS-Europe Chairman at the address <gaston.bertels@skynet.be>. Please mention your age, membership to your national IARU society or AMSAT society, your experience with amateur satellites as well as the limits to your availability.

A Mentors' training seminar will be set up next Autumn. Deadline for candidates is 15.09.2002.

Publication

ARISS member societies are invited to publish this letter in their magazines and newsletters as well as on their webpages.