

South Pole Atmospheric Research Observatory dedicated

On 12 January, the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station community gathered to dedicate the new Atmospheric Research Observatory (ARO). Joseph Bordogna, Acting Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation; D. James Baker, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere at the Department of Commerce; and David Hofmann, Director of NOAA's [Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory](#) in Boulder, Colorado, participated in the dedication.



The new Atmospheric Research Observatory at Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station. *Photograph by Jerry Marty, U.S. Antarctic Program.*

[RETURN TO BEGINNING OF ARTICLE](#)

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

ARO, which replaces the old Clean Air Facility, is located in the northeast sector of South Pole Station, an area receiving prevailing winds that have traveled thousands of kilometers without direct human influence. Even planes flying in and out of South Pole are kept downwind of the facility to avoid contaminating the air, which is the cleanest in the world. Among projects housed in ARO are air-monitoring instruments for NOAA's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory, the University of Illinois lidar experiment that is measuring the vertical structure and dynamics of the lower stratosphere, Biospherical Instruments' UV-monitor, and instruments measuring effluent aerosols upwind and downwind from South Pole Station. Completed in 1997, ARO has served as the base for these experiments for just under 1 year.

D. James Baker (right), Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and David Hoffman (left), Director of NOAA's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado, are shown here inside the new laboratory with the NOAA flag. *Photo by Jerry Marty, U.S. Antarctic Program.*

