

# Sir Ranulph boards SA Agulhas for 'coldest journey on earth'

*The South African* website reports that South African ice-strengthened polar research vessel SA Agulhas I, is en route from Cape Town and will dock in London next week, ready to carry Sir Ranulph Fiennes and an expedition team on the so-called "Coldest Journey on Earth" - the first ever winter crossing of the Antarctic.

The Trans-Antarctic Winter Expedition (TAWA) will take place from December 2012 to March 2014. Arriving in London on 27 November, SA Agulhas will be moored at Canary Wharf until its return to Cape Town and then the Antarctic, according to *The South African* website.

Agulhas will dock in Antarctica's Crown Bay around mid-January 2013 for testing of the equipment, scientific research, route reconnaissance and the laying of a fuel depot.

On 21 March 2013, the equinox, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and a team of explorers will begin a six month, 2,000 mile journey to reach the Ross Sea. Their remarkable attempt aims to raise \$10 million for Seeing is Believing, an international initiative tackling avoidable blindness, with match-funding from Standard Chartered Bank, *The South African* website says.

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