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Walter R Roest has a PhD in marine geophysics from the Vening Meinesz Laboratory of the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. After a three year post-doc at the Atlantic Geoscience Centre of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Nova Scotia, Canada, he joined the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa as a research scientist. He headed the Crustal Geophysics Subdivision, was acting Chief Geoscientist, and acting director of the Continental Geosciences Division of the GSC, before joining the French marine research institute Ifremer in Brest in 2003, as director of the Marine Geosciences Department (until 2009). From 2004 to 2012, he headed the French UNCLOS programme for the delineation of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and headed many research cruises offshore the French overseas territories. He is (co-)author of over 80 peer reviewed papers, dealing with topics ranging from global geodynamics, tectonics and regional magnetics to continental margin studies. Walter Roest was nominated by France to be a member of the UN Commission on the limits of the continental shelf and was elected for the period 2012-2017.