

PI Report 2008

Mark Lester
on behalf of the SuperDARN PIs



PIs Meeting

- Agenda
 - USA Pis
 - Situation in France, Italy and the UK
 - Common Mode - including the THEMIS mode
 - Software Issues
 - Data Distribution



USA PIs

- Ray noted that following his retirement from APL and the move of himself, Mike and Jo to Virginia tech, it was appropriate to reconsider who would be the PIs for the USA radars
- Ray proposed that Mike Ruohoniemi became the new PI for the Goose Bay, Kapuskasing and Blackstone radars and Elsayed Talaat the PI for the Wallops radar
- This was formally agreed by the PIs
- Also agreed in this discussion that the current PI agreement needs to be revisited and a new signing would take place



Current situation in France, Italy and the UK - 1.

- Dome C
 - Ermanno explained that there is some uncertainty in the current position of the Antarctic work in Italy due to lack of budget
 - Although he wished to continue the deployment of one radar during the next austral summer and the second radar in the following austral summer, the current budget problems could mean this may not happen.
 - French support for deployment after this coming summer would probably not be forthcoming
 - News from Italy is that plans for the campaign this summer are going ahead
 - It will help if letters from SuperDARN PIs, plus individual letters from France, China and USA are sent to Ermanno next week



Current situation in France, Italy and the UK - 2.

- France
 - There is a new PI for the radar - Dr. Aurelie Marchaudon
 - The French group will concentrate on running Kerguelen
 - Issues regarding Stokkseyri were also discussed
 - Would be prepared to hand over the running of the radars to any group(s) interested in running the radars
 - French group plan to send a team in Autumn to identify the problems with the radars
 - Leicester group will also be visiting Iceland and can visit the Stokkseyri site
 - Ray proposed that he would investigate whether there was any opportunity for funds from NSF



Current situation in France, Italy and the UK - 3.

- UK
 - Halley situation is that currently re-deployment of radar is delayed due to delay in construction of base
 - Options include running the radar remotely or deploying for a short interval on Falkland Islands
 - CUTLASS will run for another 21 months at least
 - Options for funding thereafter and Leicester group will continue to work on this
- Proposal for new oversight committee
 - Ray suggested that to give a higher visibility for SuperDARN, a new oversight committee could be set up
 - Dependent upon the individual funding agencies and PIs will take soundings in their own countries



Common Mode

- Common Mode
 - Discussion over the common modes
 - Agreed that we should no longer run the 6s integration time and 2 minute scan and that we would run only 1 minute scans for Common Mode
 - Debate over whether we should run at 3s integration time or 4s integration time - this will be discussed during the next few months
 - Definition of Common Mode would be re-considered while the PI agreement was re-drafted
- THEMIS Mode
 - Mark proposed that THEMIS mode should be a Common Mode
 - THEMIS mode would be the current 3s integration time plus the camping beam, to give a 2 minute mode
 - Some discussion of PolarDARN during the THEMIS mode - should they run a camping beam
 - General view is that they should



Software Issues

- Revision of height determining algorithm
 - Much discussion of whether we should implement the new Chisham et al technique
 - Agreed that this gave considerable improvement and that we should investigate this
 - Proposal is that groups should look at this and if no disagreement we should aim to implement from start of 2009
- Software Licensing
 - Elsayed raised the issue of licensing of the radar software which currently has an APL copyright
 - Proposal is to move to an Open Source License
 - Discussion of NSF's view
 - Agreed that Mark would discuss with PIs and subsequently Rob has agreed to provide detailed information which Mark would discuss with PIs electronically



Data Distribution

- Mark raised the issue of the future of data distribution
 - Currently very successful and many thanks to APL for creating the multi radar DVDs and Saskatchewan for the copying and distribution
 - Method of data distribution is perhaps outdated and some issues have arisen with data storage at individual sites
 - Many different options which need to be investigated
 - Data distribution WG should look into this



Future Meetings

- 2009 Meeting in Corsica
- 2010 Meeting in South Africa
- 2011 Meeting is ????



SuperDARN as a powerful instrument for space science research: Principles, technique, results

- August 26 - 29 2008
- The camping-hotel "Yolochka" on the Angara river near Irkutsk
- Several "tutorial" style presentations on SuperDARN
- Please send details to Dr. Alex Potapov (potapov@iszf.irk.ru) before June 15 2008



