

**MEETING OF THE SCAR ACTION GROUP “GPS FOR WEATHER AND SPACE  
WEATHER FORECAST”**

Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome 10-11 September 2009.

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## Agenda

### September 10

9.00 - 9.30 **Opening** works

*Antonio Meloni (SCAR Vice-President, Department Director of INGV- RM2)*

*Maurizio Candidi (SCAR PS-SSG Chair)*

*Alessandro Capra (SCAR GS-SSG Chair)*

*Bruno Zolesi ( Leader of The Physics of the Upper Atmosphere Unit - INGV)*

9.30 – 12.00 Invited talks on:

#### **- National activities of relevance for the Action Group**

##### **Emilia Correia**

*CRAAM/INPE Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie (Brasil)*

*GPS ionospheric monitoring at 'Comandante Ferraz' station - King George Island*

##### **Juha-Pekka Luntama, Kirsti Kauristie**

*FMI (Finland)*

*Finnish interests in POLENET: Space Weather monitoring and geospace-atmosphere interactions*

##### **Andrzej W. Wernik**

*SRC-CBK (Poland)*

*High-latitude phase scintillation during solar minimum: some Hornsund results*

##### **Joao Francisco Galera Monico**

*FCT/UNESP (Brasil)*

*FCT/UNESP activities related to GNSS applications on atmosphere*

##### **Ben Opperman, Pierre Cilliers, Rory Meyer**

*Hermanus Magnetic Observatory (HMO)- National Research Foundation (South Africa)*

*Investigation of ionospheric scintillation over South Africa and the South Atlantic Anomaly using GPS signals: First Results*

#### **11.00 Coffee Break**

##### **Marcio Aquino**

*University of Nottingham (UK)*

*Ionospheric Research at the IESSG*

**Biagio Forte**

*Un. of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)*

*Current activities and experiments developing in Slovenia*

**Paul Prikryl**

*Communications Research Centre (Canada)*

*GPS Scintillation Observed with the Canadian High Arctic Ionospheric Network during Solar Minimum*

**Giorgiana De Franceschi, Vincenzo Romano, Lucilla Alfonsi, Luca Spogli**

*INGV (Italy)*

*Italian Contribution to bipolar ionospheric investigations*

12.00-13:00 Overview and discussion on the main topics focused in the morning session

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Invited talks on

**- Recent results and opening scientific questions**

**Pierguido Sarti, Monia Negusini**

*IRA-INAF (Italy)*

*GPS and Radiosonde Derived Precipitable Water Vapour Content and its Relationship with 5 Years of Long-Wave Radiation Measurements at “Mario Zucchelli” Station, Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica*

**Cathryn Mitchell**

*Un. Of Bath (UK)*

*Antarctic imaging and Scintillations*

**Massimo Materassi**

*ISC-CNR (Italy)*

*Something new on scintillation analysis: multi-scale et al.*

**Lucilla Alfonsi**

*INGV (Italy)*

*Bipolar scintillation climatology as contribution to Space Weather forecasting.*

16:00-17:00 Overview and discussion on the main topics focused in the afternoon session

20:00 Icebreaker party at Excel Hotel Roma Montemario

Via Degli Scolopi 31, Rome

<http://www.excelmontemario.it/it/index.html>

## **September 11**

9:00-12:00 Next steps of the Action Group:

9:00 -10:00

- Steps in view of the next SCAR Open Science Conference (3-6 August 2010, Buenos Aires).

### **10:00-10:30 Coffee Break**

10:30-12:00

-Joint papers, publications, conference presentations, organise thematic science sessions

-Realization of Action Group web pages

-Data sharing policy

-Exploration of possible joint measurements campaigns

-Exploration of possible participation to international calls on GNSS atmospheric delay issues.

12.00-13.00 Conclusions

Closing works

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

SCAR Action Group “GPS for weather and space weather forecast”

10-11 September 2009, Rome (Italy)

Venue: Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia

### **Thursday, 10 September 2009.**

It was pointed out that it is mandatory for the Action Group to precisely define the scientific goals and to stress the interaction with the Geoscience community for what concerns experimental observations (policy, quality, archiving, sharing, etc.). Useful contacts within SCADM (Standing Committee Antarctic Data Management) are Kim Finney ([kim.finney@aad.gov.au](mailto:kim.finney@aad.gov.au)) and Helen R. Campbell ([hcamp@bas.ac.uk](mailto:hcamp@bas.ac.uk)).

The need has been discussed of a new scientific research proposal submission to the next SCAR Open Science Assembly 2010, throughout the Standing Scientific Groups for Physical Sciences and Geoscience. It has been agreed to post-pone such an opportunity after other groups/institutions working on bipolar GNSS network activities for multi-discipline purposes will be involved in the Action Group. The greater will be the international consensus on the Action Group objectives the higher will be the possibility for a new SRP to be selected and approved by SCAR countries delegates.

It has been pointed out that SERCE (<http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/geoscience/serce/>), recently submitted to SCAR by the POLENET community led by Terry Wilson, is going to become a SRP. Among the several SERCE topics, there is an explicit mention of the objectives of this Action Group. This has been welcomed and will motivate a closer interaction of the Action Group with the SERCE community. SERCE is looking for people covering their issues, with a possible interest by GIANT (Geodetic Infrastructure of Antarctica) (<http://www.scar.org/publications/reports/23/giant/index.htm>) people, not still assessed.

The discussion continued on data format issue. A proper form will be prepared (Vincenzo Romano (VR), INGV) and circulated among the Action Group members in order to have a clear picture on the data specification. VR will be also the Action Group contact person with the SCADM.

The dissemination of the Action Group activities will be provided throughout a proper website (Ben Opperman (BO), HMO).

The afternoon session was dedicated to the recent results and to new scientific open questions. Two main points have been highlighted during the discussion, i.e. the opportunity to develop an unprecedented imaging of the Antarctic ionosphere, and the importance of a bipolar approach to investigate the conjugacy between the two hemispheres. These issues

could be accomplished tacking also the opportunity of novel observing infrastructures (e.g. CHAIN, Paul Prykyl (PP)).

### **Friday, 11 September 2009.**

The day was dedicated to the discussion on the next steps of the Action Group.

#### 1) Leadership of the Action Group.

Firstly the opportunity given by the establishment of this Action Group for approaching national funding agencies has been highlighted. BO underlined the great interest of South Africa on polar research, allowing Countries without access to Antarctica to use their facilities. From a national point of view, South Africa wants to extend an experimental network to monitor the ionosphere over Africa. Cathryn Mitchell (CM), backed the project offering a GPS scintillation monitor to a student from Nigeria, to install it in Lagos.

South Africa could also be a good candidate to support Italy in leading this Action Group. South Africa is also creating its own space agency: within 2-3 years some funds and support could be devolved to the Action Group initiatives and purposes. Also the British Antarctic Survey might be a useful actor to lead Action Group efforts. Canada interest will be investigated by PP. Some funds could be available for INPE to strengthen the Brazilian role in polar science (as reported by Emilia Correia (EM)), and to improve the Space Weather programme and climate change science. Brazilian colleagues could give an important crucial input on the co-leadership of this Action Group in the future.

The representative from Slovenia, Biagio Forte (BF), recently joining the Action Group, informed about the Slovenia actions in progress for a possible SCAR Associate Membership.

#### 2) Funding Search

Services may be a market place where this type of efforts may be successful. Governments are responsible for these services but they are unaware of this issue. TM (SCAR vice president) informed that SCAR is interested in coordinating groups running different GPS based measurements. It is not necessary to have a programme as large as SERCE, but the activity may be part of it. SCAR can be considered as a framework where science can be developed. Finally the SCAR endorsement would attract funds by national agencies and programmes.

#### 3) Who, When and Where

In the forthcoming weeks, before the end of November 2009, it has been planned:

ALL - to send meeting contributions (pdf) to Giorgiana De Franceschi

BO – to verify the possibility to prepare a webpage on this Action Group

(VR, Paolo Spalla, CM) – to circulate a proper data form and to contact SCADM. Within POLENET, this Action Group will recommend the type of GNSS receivers needed for multi-purposes science.

(Lucilla Alfonsi, LA) - to contact SERCE

ALL – to identify Conferences attended by the participants of this Action Group for extra meetings organization and for proposing dedicated sessions (e.g. AGU Joint Assembly in Iguassu Falls-Brazil, August 2010, SCAR-Buenos Aires - August 2010, EGU – Wien, April 2010, etc..).

Massimo Materassi, (MM) and Monia Negusini, (MN) - to coordinate a review paper in order to describe the state of art and future opportunity of *GNSS as a multiple tools for polar sciences* .

ALL – to identify, within this Action Group, possible work packages (data, etc.) and relative chairs in order to start contacting people, coordinating funding applications, and so on. Two possible work packages have been envisaged on solar-terrestrial dynamics (lower-upper atmosphere), and magnetospheric effects at conjugate points.

Last but not least recommendation: the available time to work around any possible ideas, either successful or not, is about 1 year.

## **Proposed Science Plan (to be discussed via e-mail).**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The high latitudes ionosphere contains the footprints of processes that have their origin in the interplanetary space. Many different techniques are now available for probing the ionosphere, from radar measurements to the analysis of radio cosmic noise. Among them the use of GNSS high rate (50 Hz) measurements allows to describe the 3D plus time evolution of the ionospheric plasma over restricted regions. Mathematical techniques combined with experimental observations provide the ability to study the ionosphere from high in the F-region to the bottom of the D-layer. Thus coupling processes from the magnetosphere and to the neutral lower atmosphere can be considered. At high latitudes perturbation phenomena due to solar events have a high occurrence percentage even during solar minimum activity, propagating towards middle latitudes with both different time delay and spatial distribution, can seriously degrade technological systems useful for human life.

### **SCIENTIFIC CONTENT**

As the lack of GNSS high rate sampling receiver coverage over polar regions particularly in Antarctica, the Action Group will contribute to the questions still open within the Sun-Earth interactions studies. Issues of scientific international debate of particular interest are:

- 1) characterization of the cause-effect mechanisms driving the formation and evolution of ionospheric irregularities;
- 2) distribution and evolution of Precipitable Water Vapour in polar regions which play a key role in the characterization and evolution of global earth phenomena.

### **PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES**

Encourage the establishment of a permanent network of GNSS receivers for a multi-purposes investigation over Arctic and Antarctica. Stimulate international collaboration addressed to bi-polar investigations particularly at conjugate regions. To facilitate these processes, it is envisaged the establishment of a common portal where data and products will be available for scientific communities.

### **CROSS CUTTING ISSUES**

The POLENET (SCAR-Geosciences Standing Group) and ICESTAR – UAMPY(Upper Atmosphere Monitoring for Polar Year, SCAR-Physical Sciences Standing Group) Communities are cooperating to achieve the followings:

1. Ionospheric imaging over Antarctica.
2. Exchange of data and expertise for the application of tomography to other fields of interest for both the communities (e.g. 3D water vapour reconstruction).
3. Exchange of technologies to install and manage remote GPS stations.
4. Possibility to host instruments in the polar stations represented by the two communities.



## Participants list

Name	Institution
<b>ALFONSI</b> Dr. Lucilla	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <b>Lucilla.alfonsi@ingv.it</b>
<b>AQUINO</b> Dr. Marcio	Institute of Engineering, Surveying and Space Geodesy (IESSG) University of Nottingham Nottingham – UK <i>Marcio.Aquino@nottingham.ac.uk</i>
<b>CANDIDI</b> Dr. Maurizio	IFSI-CNR Area di ricerca di Tor Vergata Via Fosso del Cavaliere snc 00133 Roma Tel. 49934490/4562 (direct) Fax: 06 49934592 <i>candidi@ifsi.rm.cnr.it</i>
<b>CAPRA</b> Prof. Alessandro	Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia <i>capra.alessandro@unimore.it</i>
<b>CORREIA</b> Dr.ssa Emilia	Centro de Radio Astronomia e Astrofisica Mackenzie(CRAAM),Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, Rua da Consolacao 930,CEP:01302-907Sao Paulo, Brazil <i>ecorreia@craam.mackenzie.br</i>
<b>DE FRANCESCHI</b> Dr. Giorgiana	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <i>Giorgiana.defranceschi@ingv.it</i>
<b>FORTE</b> Dr. Biagio	University of Nova Gorica Vipavska 13 Nova Gorica – SLOVENIA <i>biagio.forte@p-ng.si</i>
<b>GALERA MONICO</b> Dr. Joao Francisco	FCT/UNESP Rua Roberto simonsen 305, CEP 19060-900 Pres. Prudente, SP BRAZIL Tel.: +55 18 3229 5388 Fax: +55 18 3229 5353 <i>galera@fct.unesp.br</i>
<b>LUNTAMA</b> Dr. Juha-Pekka	Finnish Meteorological Institute Erik Palmenin aukio 1 Helsinki - FINLAND <i>Juha-Pekka.Luntama@fmi.fi</i>
<b>MATERASSI</b> Dr. Massimo	Istituto dei Sistemi Complessi Via Madonna del Piano, 10 50019 Sesto Fiorentino ITALY Tel.: +39 055 5226627 <i>massimo.materassi@fi.isc.cnr.it</i>
<b>MELONI</b> Dr. Antonio	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <b>meloni@ingv.it</b>
<b>MITCHELL</b> Dr. Cathryn	University of Bath UNITED KINGDOM Tel.: +44 1225 386610 <i>c.n.mitchell@bath.ac.uk</i>

<b>NEGUSINI</b> Dr.ssa Monia	Istituto di Radioastronomia - IRA Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - INAF Via P.Gobetti N.101 40129 Bologna - ITALY Ph. +390516399417 Fax +390516399431 <i>negusini@ira.inaf.it</i>
<b>OPPERMAN</b> Dr. Ben	Hermanus Magnetic Observatory P O Box 32, Hermanus 7200 South Africa Fax +27-(0) 28-312 2039 <i>Ben.Opperman@hmo.ac.za</i>
<b>PRIKRYL</b> Dott. Paul	Research Scientist, Communications Research Centre Canada 3701 Carling Avenue, P.O. Box 11490, Station "H" Ottawa, Ontario K2H 8S2, Canada Ph. +1 613 998 2068 Fax +1 613 990 6339 <i>paul.prikryl@crc.gc.ca</i>
<b>ROMANO</b> Dr. Vincenzo	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <i>romano@ingv.it</i>
<b>SARTI</b> Dott. Pierguido	Istituto di Radioastronomia - IRA Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - INAF Via P.Gobetti N.101 40129 Bologna - ITALY Ph. +39 051 63 99 417 Fax +39 051 6399431 <i>p.sarti@ira.inaf.it</i>
<b>SPALLA</b> Dr. Paolo	IFAC – CNR Via Madonna del Piano 10 Sesto Fiorentino – Frenze ITALY <i>p.spalla@ifac.cnr.it</i>
<b>SPOGLI</b> Dr. Luca	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <i>Luca.spogli@ingv.it</i>
<b>WERNICK</b> Prof. Andrzej	Space Research Center Polish Academy of Sciences ul. Bartycka 18a 00-716 Warsaw, Poland phone: +48-22-8403766 ext. 379 fax: +48-22-8403131 <i>aww@cbk.waw.pl</i>
<b>ZOLESI</b> Dr. Bruno	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome, Italy <i>zolesi@ingv.it</i>

## COSTS

Meeting of the SCAR Action Group “GPS for Weather and Space Weather forecast” held at Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome 10-11 September 2009

<b>INGV ID order</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost in euro</b>
n 11327	Coffee breaks	340.00
n. 11328	Icebreaker party	756.00
n. 11329	Participants overnight	710.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1806.00</b>
	<b>Funds by SCAR</b>	<b>1792.92</b>

Financed by INGV: local transportation, lunch, secretariat support.