



science and technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



HartRAO

Hartebeesthoek Radio  
Astronomy Observatory

# Contributions of HartRAO to Space Geodesy, Astrometry and related disciplines

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Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory

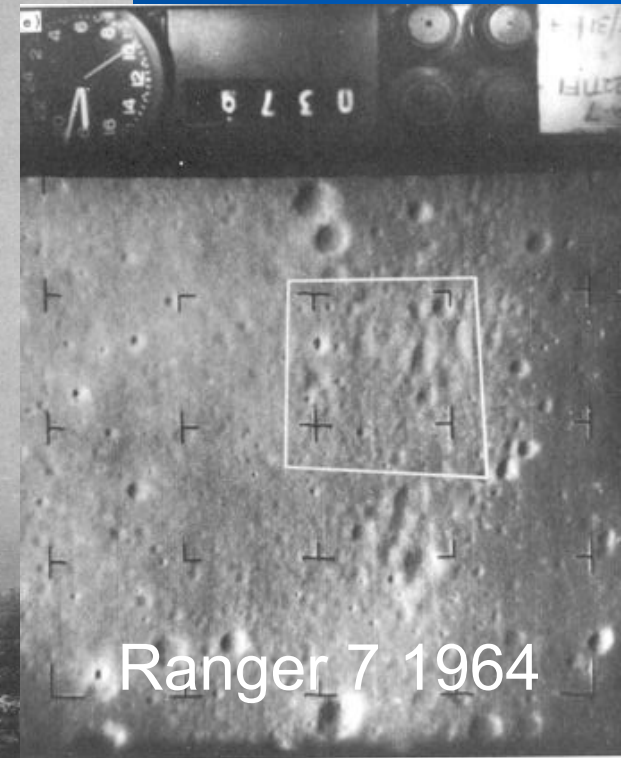
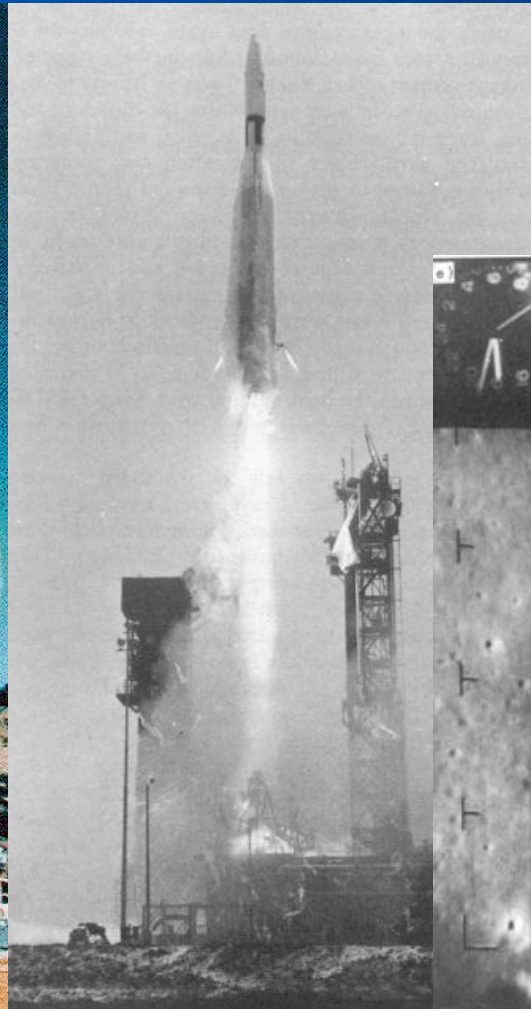
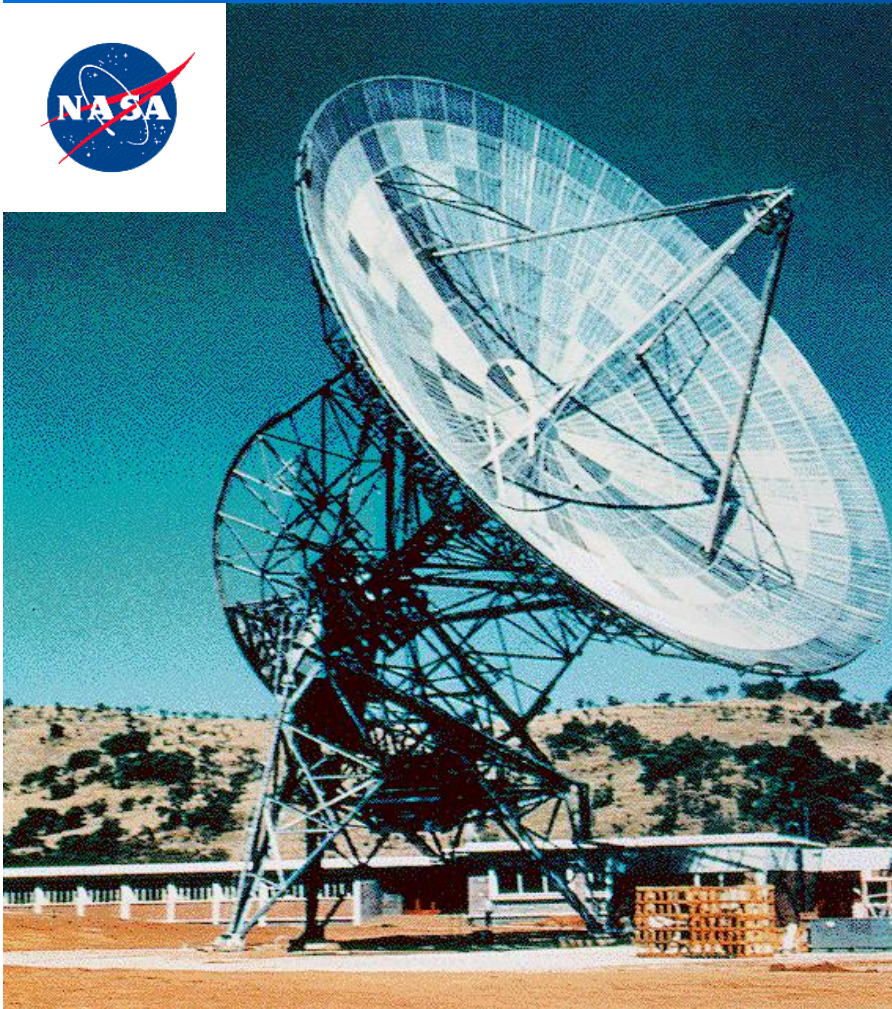
[ludwig@hartrao.ac.za](mailto:ludwig@hartrao.ac.za)  
EVGA2015



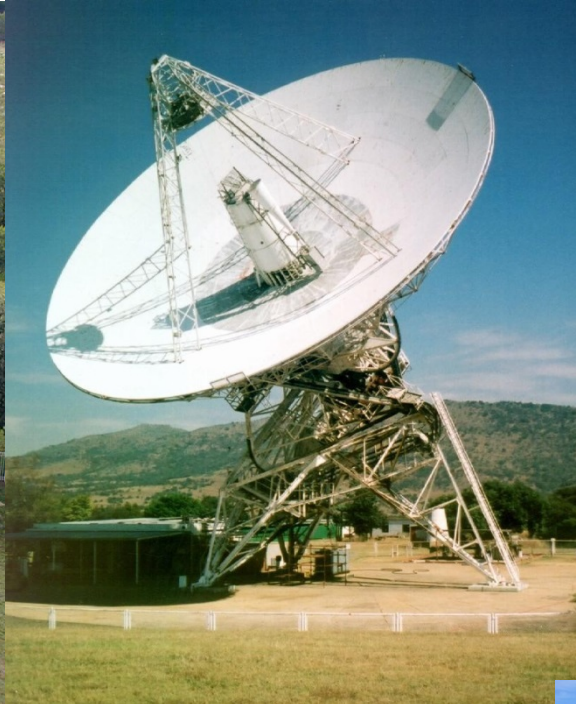


# HartRAO history

Ex NASA Deep Space Facility 51 (DSF51)



# Space Geodetic Techniques



- **Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI), radio telescopes, provides EOP etc, but low density**
- **Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), optical telescope equipped with laser, calibrates satellite orbits, low density**
- **DORIS, low density, good geometry**
- **GNSS, relatively inexpensive, can provide high density coverage for crustal deformation**



# Some collocated equipment at HartRAO



# VGOS antenna



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# The Global VLBI - Array



image credit: Tae-Hyun, Jung (MPIfR, 2004)

# What and why the AVN?

- Develop a network of VLBI-capable radio telescopes on the African continent;
- Africa (led by South Africa) will co-host the Square Kilometre Array telescope with Australia, 9 African countries to host stations in SKA2 (including SA):
  - Develop the skills, regulations and institutional capacity needed in SKA partner countries to optimise African participation in SKA2 and enable participation in SKA pathfinder technology development and science;
  - Skills and knowledge transfer in African partner countries to build, maintain and operate radio telescopes independently;
  - Bring new science opportunities to Africa on a relatively short time scale and develop strong RA science communities.



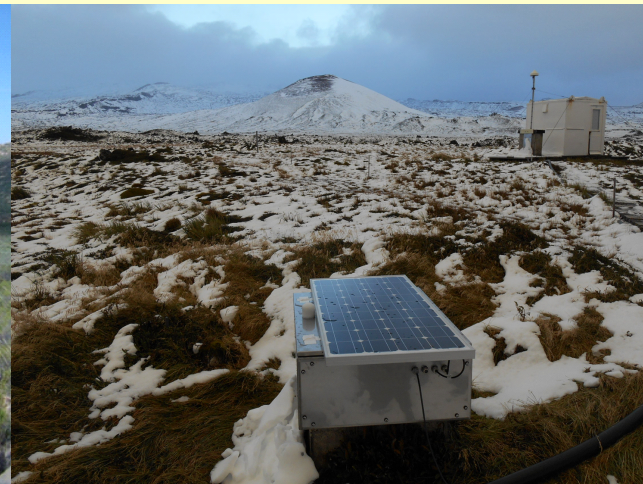
# SKA partners in Africa

- South Africa,
- Botswana,
- Ghana,
- Kenya,
- Madagascar,
- Mauritius,
- Mozambique,
- Namibia, and
- Zambia



Instruments that can be collocated synergistically with radio telescopes (e.g. AVN) or linked geodetically

- **Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR)**
- **Lunar Laser Ranging (LLR)**
- **Geodetic VLBI (ICRF, EOP, ITRF)**
- **GNSS (GPS, Galileo etc.)**
- **DORIS (Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by Satellite)**
- **optical astrometry**
- **meteorological sensors**
- **seismometer, accelerometer**
- **gravimeter**
- **tide gauge, linked to VLBI via GNSS**
- **ground control segments**
- **ALL of these are included at Hartebeesthoek**





# IAG's Global Geodetic Observing System

Markus Rothacher (GGOS Chair), Achim Helm (GeoForschungs-Zentrum Potsdam)  
Ruth E. Neilan (GGOS Vice-Chair) (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)  
Hans-Peter Plag (GGOS Vice-Chair) (University of Nevada)



Links of techniques, through IAG services, three pillars, science applications and products, through to natural events which affect life on Earth

GGOS, from cm to mm accuracy



Kobe 1995 Earthquake

Sumatra 2004 Tsunami

New Orleans 2005 Hurricane

Elbe 2002 Flood

IAG Services are based on more than 400 global observation stations

Markus Rothacher (GGOS Chair), Achim Helm (GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam)  
Ruth E. Neilan (GGOS Vice-Chair) (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)  
Hans-Peter Plag (GGOS Vice-Chair) (University of Nevada)



**Kobe 1995 Earthquake**

**Sumatra 2004 Tsunami**

**Disaster Monitoring**

**Deformations**

**Earth Orientation and Rotation**

**Atmospheric Sounding**

**St. Helens 1980 Eruption**

**Geometry and Kinematics**

**ILRS**

**IERS**

**Satellit**

**Surveying**

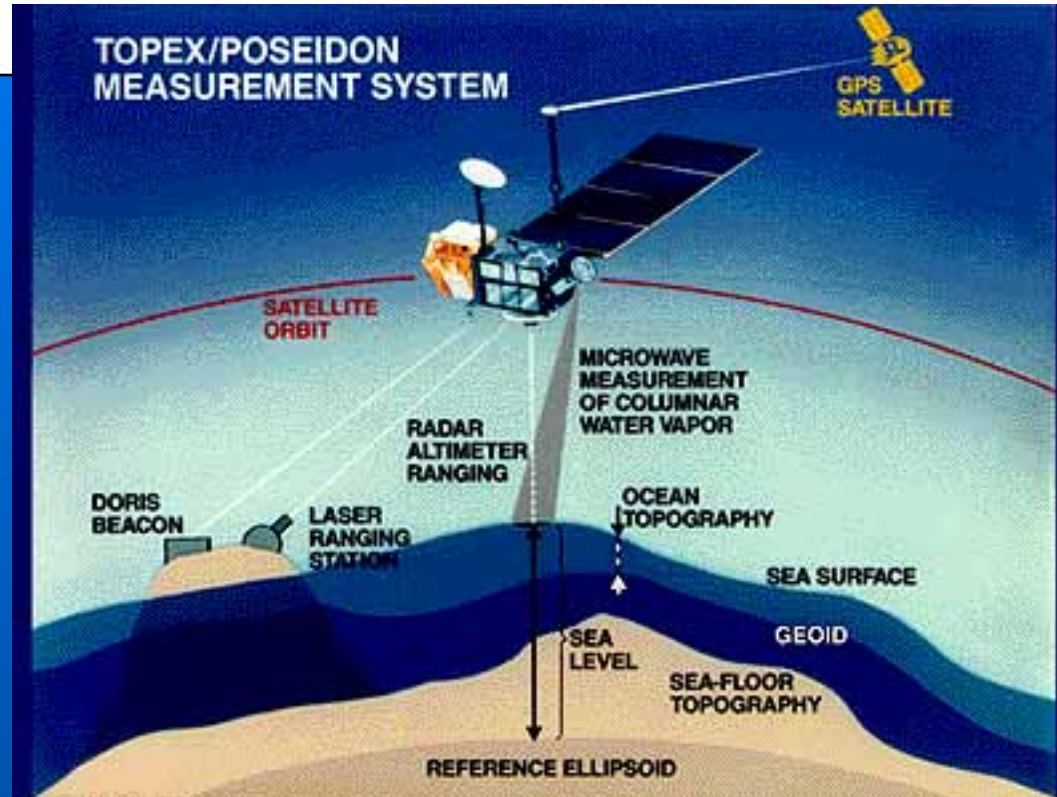
**Kainaman 2004 Mudflow**



Search: 68130258

"Where is global warming when you really want it?"

**Example: Sea surface height, changing or not changing? Is the global climate changing or not....**



**Non-uniform mass distribution in the Earth leads to a gravitation field of the Earth that is also not uniform. These mass distributions have a varying component as the variations of the atmosphere, solid Earth, oceans, and land bound water distributions affects gravity continuously**

**These subtle variations of the gravitation field influence both the ocean surface and the satellite orbit.**

**Studying, measuring and continuously improving our knowledge of the Earth's gravity field is crucial to measure global change in ocean levels, ice sheet levels and the complex interaction between the atmosphere, earth and oceans.**

## Some examples of extending the GNSS/ Seismic/Tide Gauge network



- Marion Island GPS April 2004 (Combrinck and Stronkhorst)
- 2006 GPS fixed, EIA redone (Combrinck and Prozesky)
- 2007 Tide Gauge installed, new GPS, BGAN comms (Combrinck, Botha)
- 2007/8 GPS at SANAE, Antarctica plus TerraSARx reflectors
- 2012 September, new GPS at Gough Island, EIA for tide gauge, Doris, accelerometer and seismometer
- 2013, Gough Island, tide gauge and peripheral equipment installation (Combrinck)
- 2014, Marion Island, Seismometer, accelerometer, geodetic tie (Combrinck)
- Two new GPS at tide gauges to be installed May 2015, Luderitz and Walvisbay, Namibia
- 2015, Klerefontein GNSS, Vault and meteorological station survey +
- 2015+, SANAE IV, TerraSARx network to be expanded to Norwegian (crust) and German base (ice).
- GPS for Tristan da Cunha? There is a (dysfunctional? tide gauge)



## TIDE GAUGES

[Home page](#) > [Data](#) > Tide gauges

### Which tide gauges?

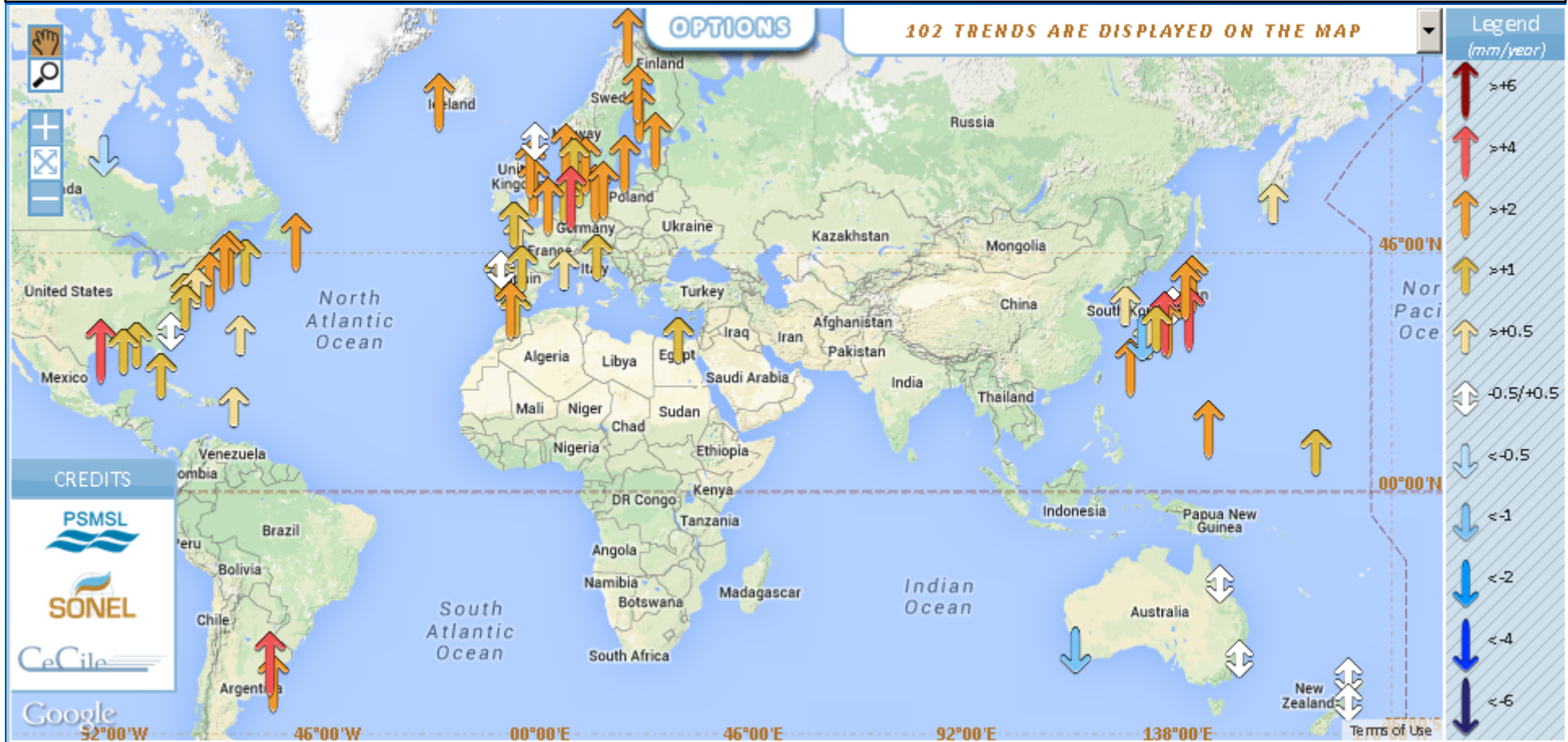
The tide gauges for which you will find data in SONEL are shown on the dynamic maps. By clicking on a tide gauge symbol detailed information is provided, as well as access to available data.

Number of stations displayed : 572

[List of stations](#)



# Sea level trends 1960-2010, GPS calibrated





# Marion Island Data



## SEA LEVEL STATION MONITORING FACILITY

[Intro](#)

[Map](#)

[Station lists](#)

[Station details](#)

[Services](#)

[\[previous station\]](#)

Station  at GMT

[\[next station\]](#)

[\[more details\]](#)

[\[GTS message\]](#)

[\[show data\]](#)

[\[show on map\]](#)

[\[monitor\]](#)

### Station metadata

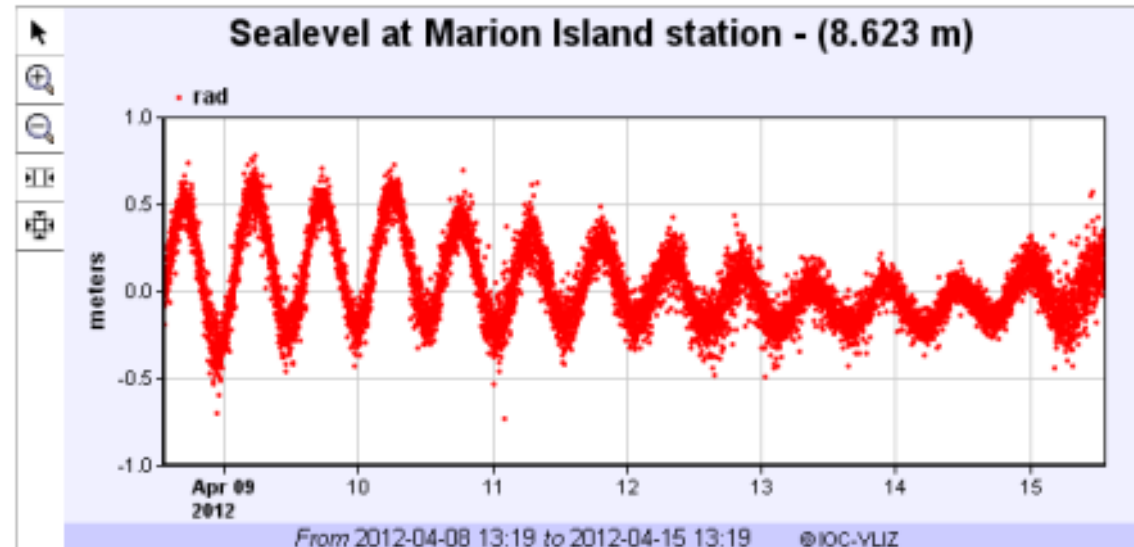
Code: maIs  
 Country: South-Africa  
 Location: Marion Island  
 Status: Operational  
 Hartebeesthoek Radio  
 Local Contact: Astronomy Observatory (South Africa)  
 Other Contact: GeoForschungsZentrum (Germany)  
 GLOSS ID: 20 [\[goto handbook\]](#)  
 Latitude: -46.8667  
 Longitude: 37.8667  
 Connection: GTS message  
 GTS message type: SXXX32

### Sensor 1

Type of sensor: rad  
 Sampling rate (min): 1

### Sensor 2

Type of sensor: bat  
 Sampling rate (min): 15

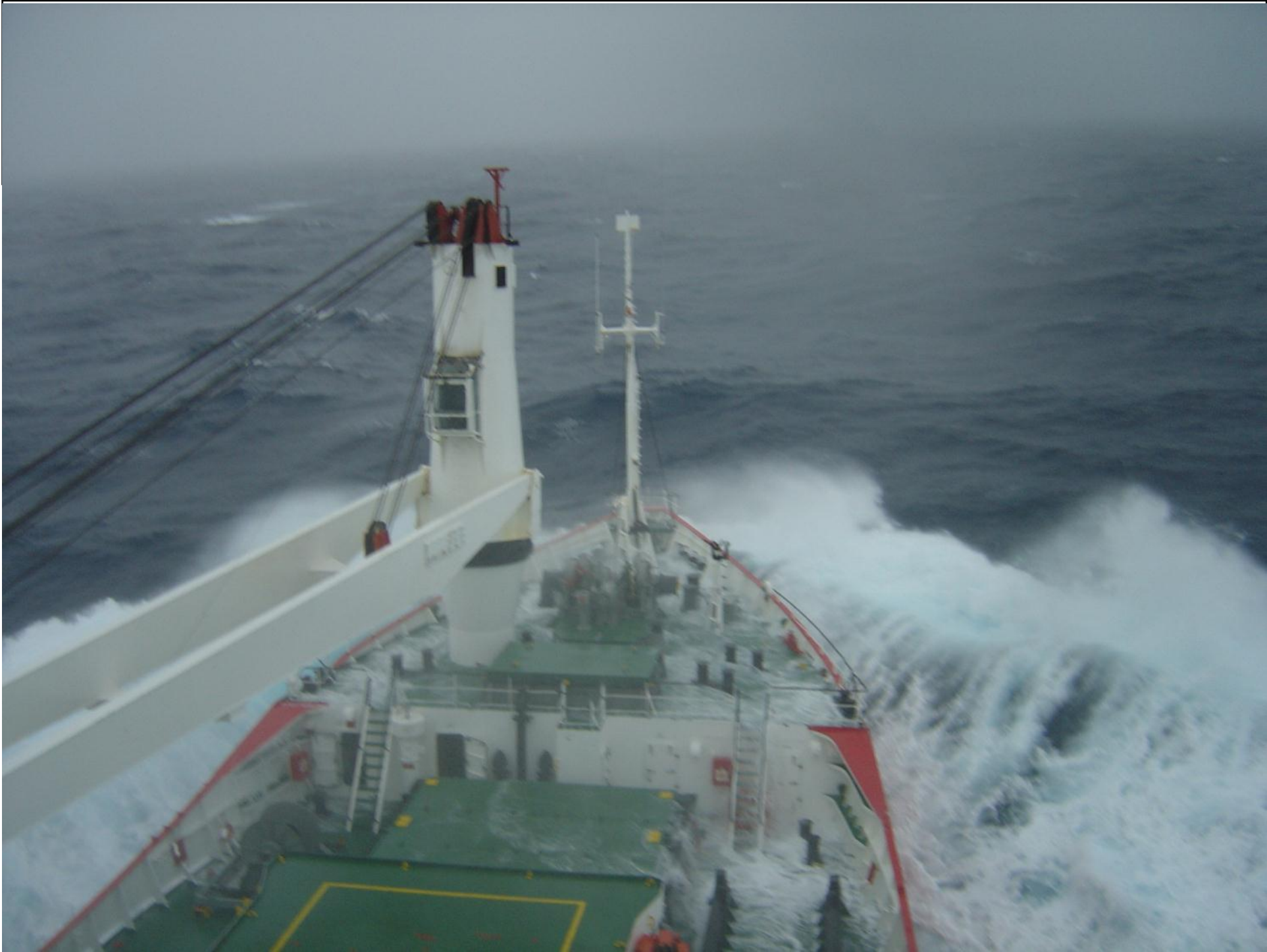


- Period:  12h  day  7 days  30 days
- Signals:  rad  Remove outliers  Remove spikes
- Data:  Relative levels= signal - average over selected period  Absolute levels= as received  Offset signals= relative signals + offset  Show battery voltage

Tip: use left icons to zoom & scroll

# Marion Island base from the air





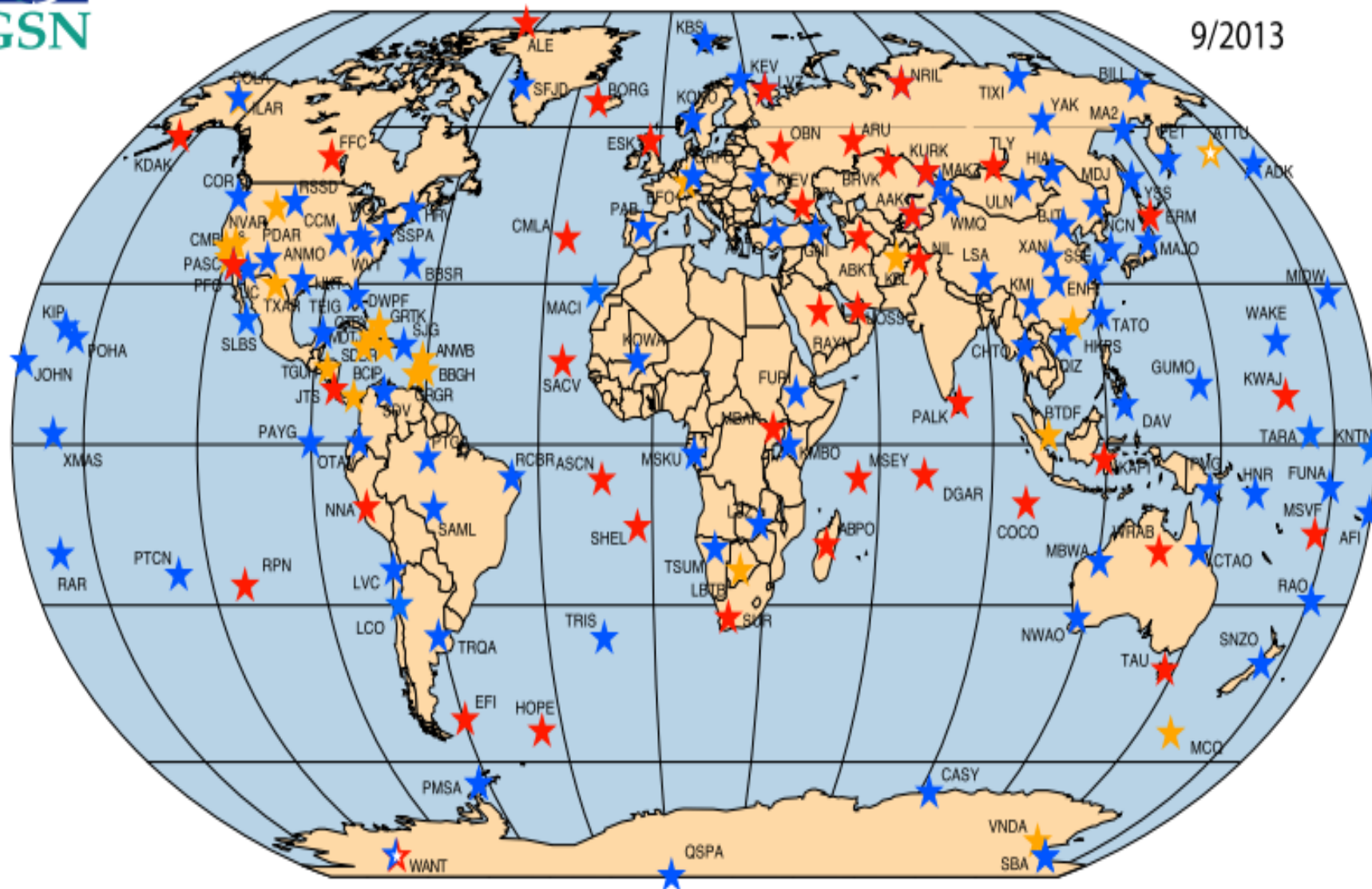






# GLOBAL SEISMOGRAPHIC NETWORK

9/2013



★ IRIS / IDA Stations

★ IRIS / USGS Stations

★ Affiliate Stations

★ Planned Stations





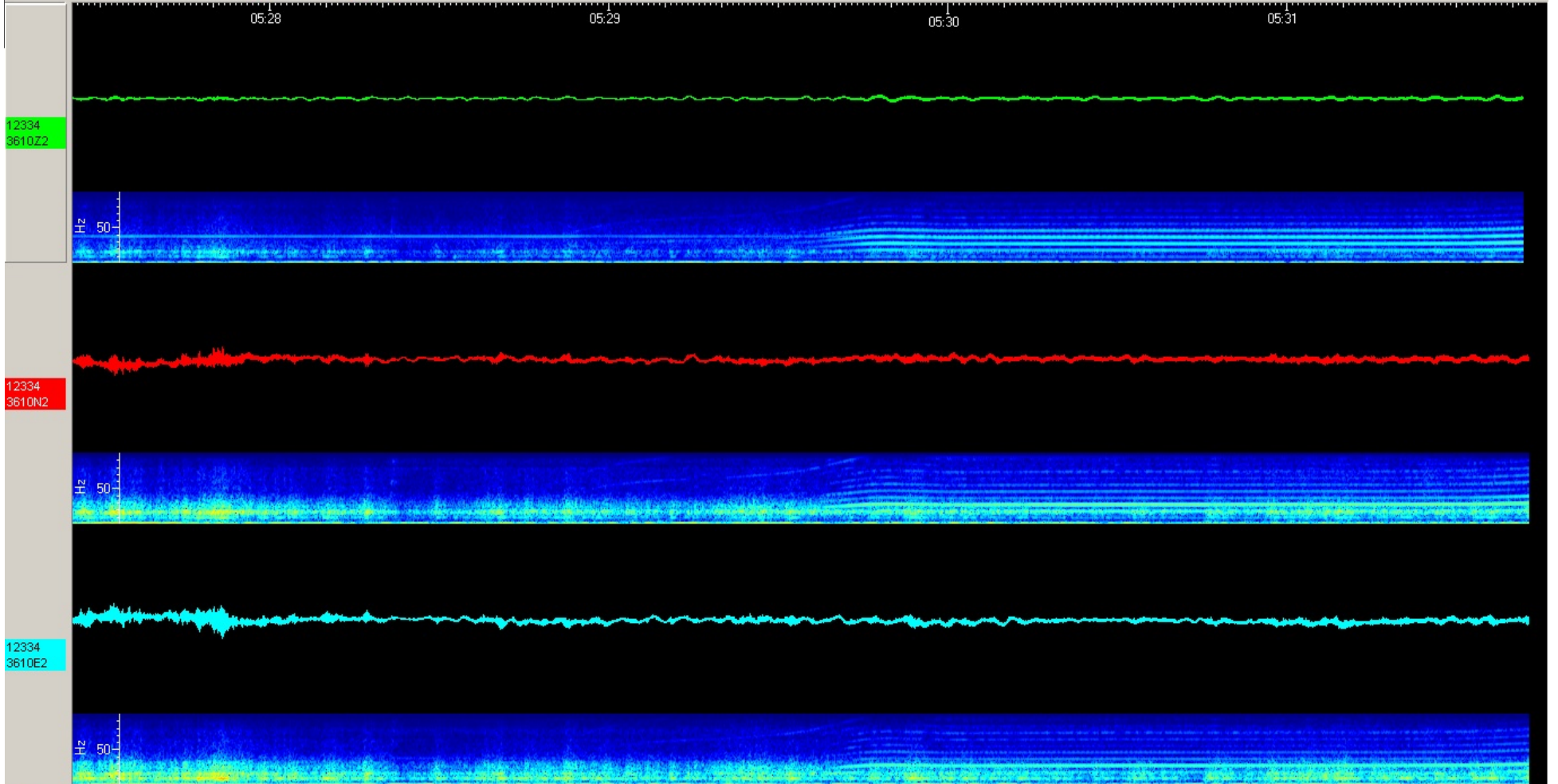






WaveView

1:2048 5 Time cursors Ampl Cursors 2014/04/26 05:31:44



Start ERRO... Win... LLR\_s... Light ... Small... Micr... Screa... 07:31 AM









# Satellite and Lunar Laser Ranging



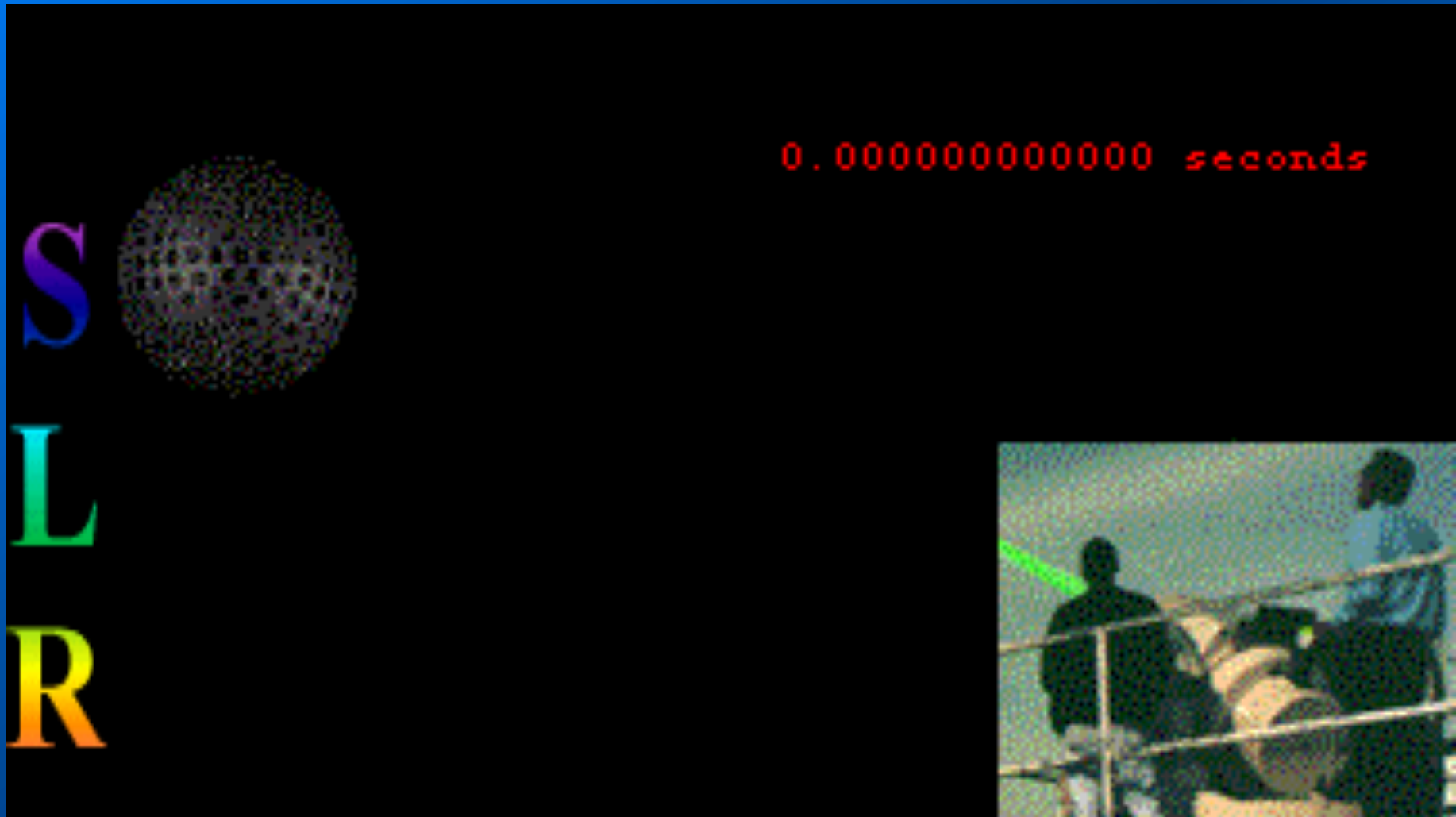
- Ground based station transmits short (pico-second) laser pulse.
- The laser pulse is reflected off a retroreflector on an artificial satellite or the Moon.
- The round trip time of flight is precisely measured and corrected for atmospheric delay and relativistic effects
- Then a geometric range is calculated. Many corrections to range, Earth-tide, pole-tide, ocean and atmospheric loading, tectonic movement



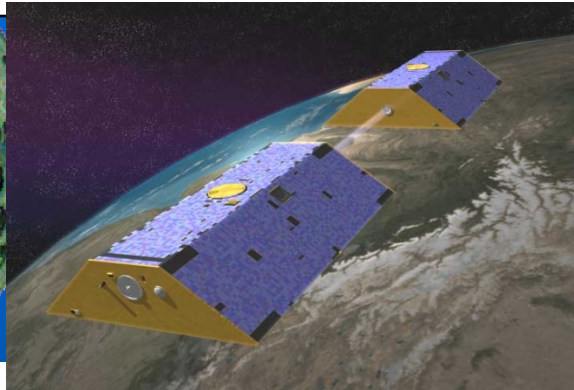
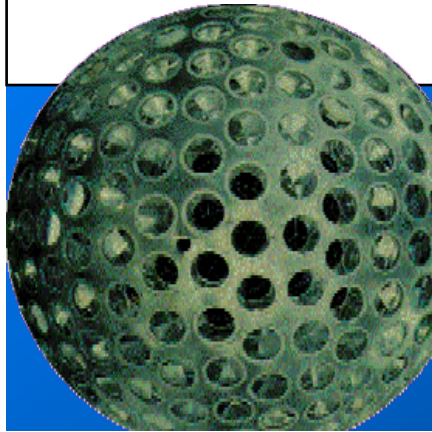
# SLR Technique



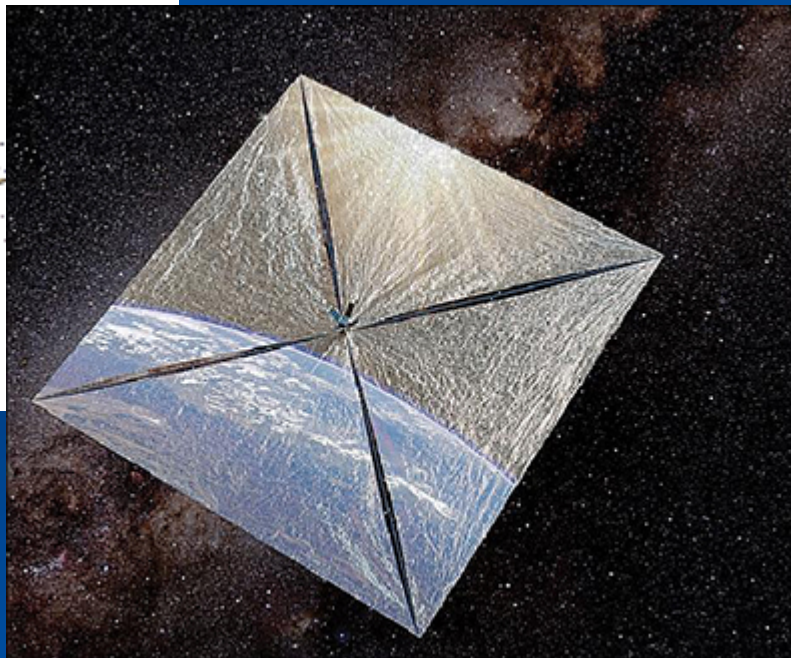
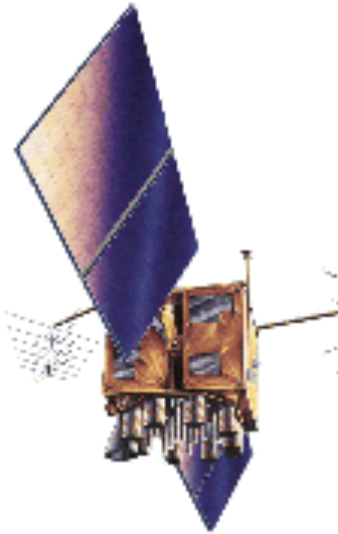
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# SLR Missions



- *Geodetic* – inert massive spheres, e.g. Lageos.
- *Earth sensing and experimental* – equipped with e.g. radar altimeters, gravity probes, etc.



*Radio navigation* – e.g. GPS

**LightSail-A is a propulsion test using a deployed sail**  
**The satellite is planned for launch around 20 May 2015**

# SLR instrumentation



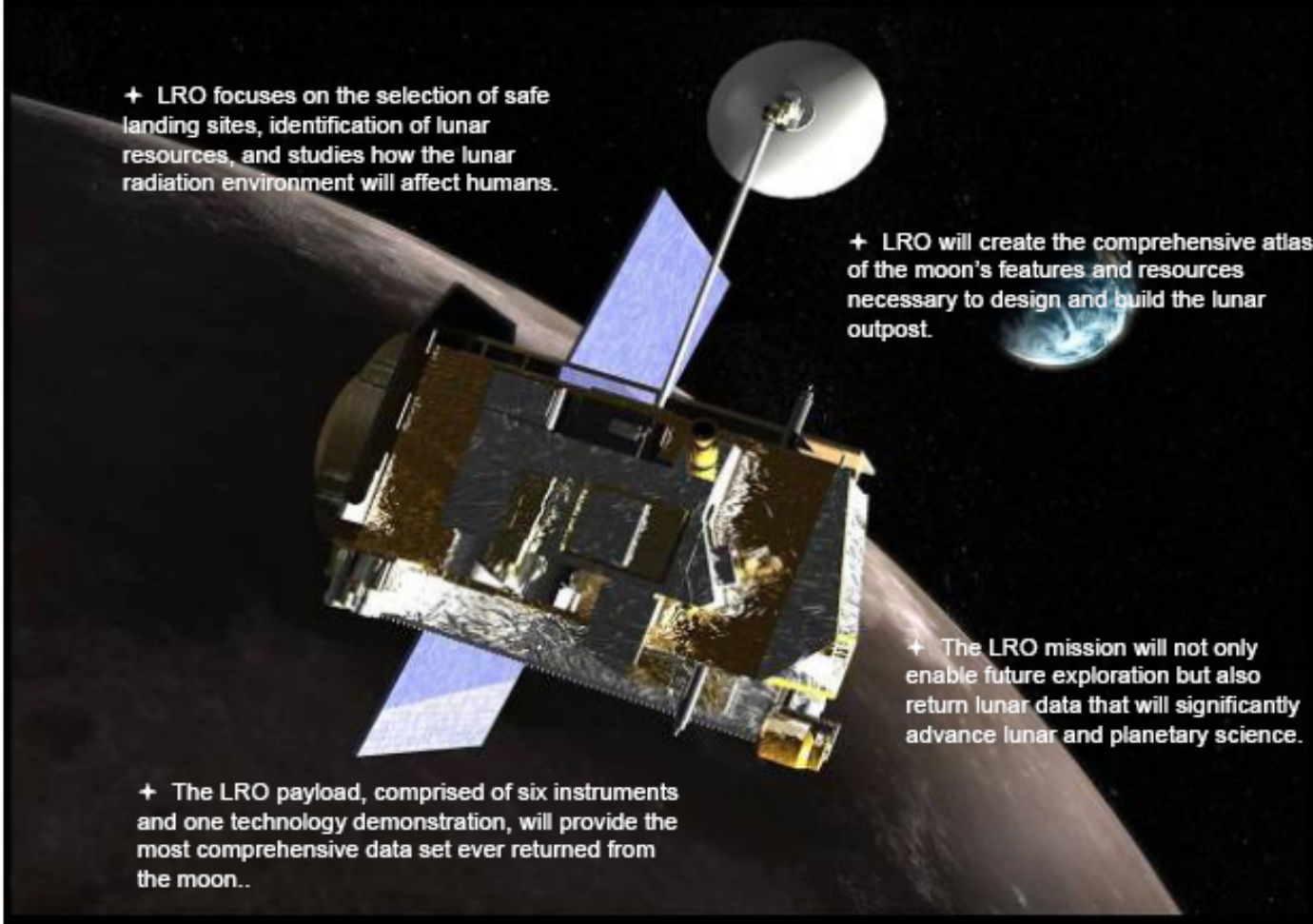
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## The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) is NASA's first step in returning humans to the moon.



+ LRO focuses on the selection of safe landing sites, identification of lunar resources, and studies how the lunar radiation environment will affect humans.

+ LRO will create the comprehensive atlas of the moon's features and resources necessary to design and build the lunar outpost.

+ The LRO mission will not only enable future exploration but also return lunar data that will significantly advance lunar and planetary science.

+ The LRO payload, comprised of six instruments and one technology demonstration, will provide the most comprehensive data set ever returned from the moon..



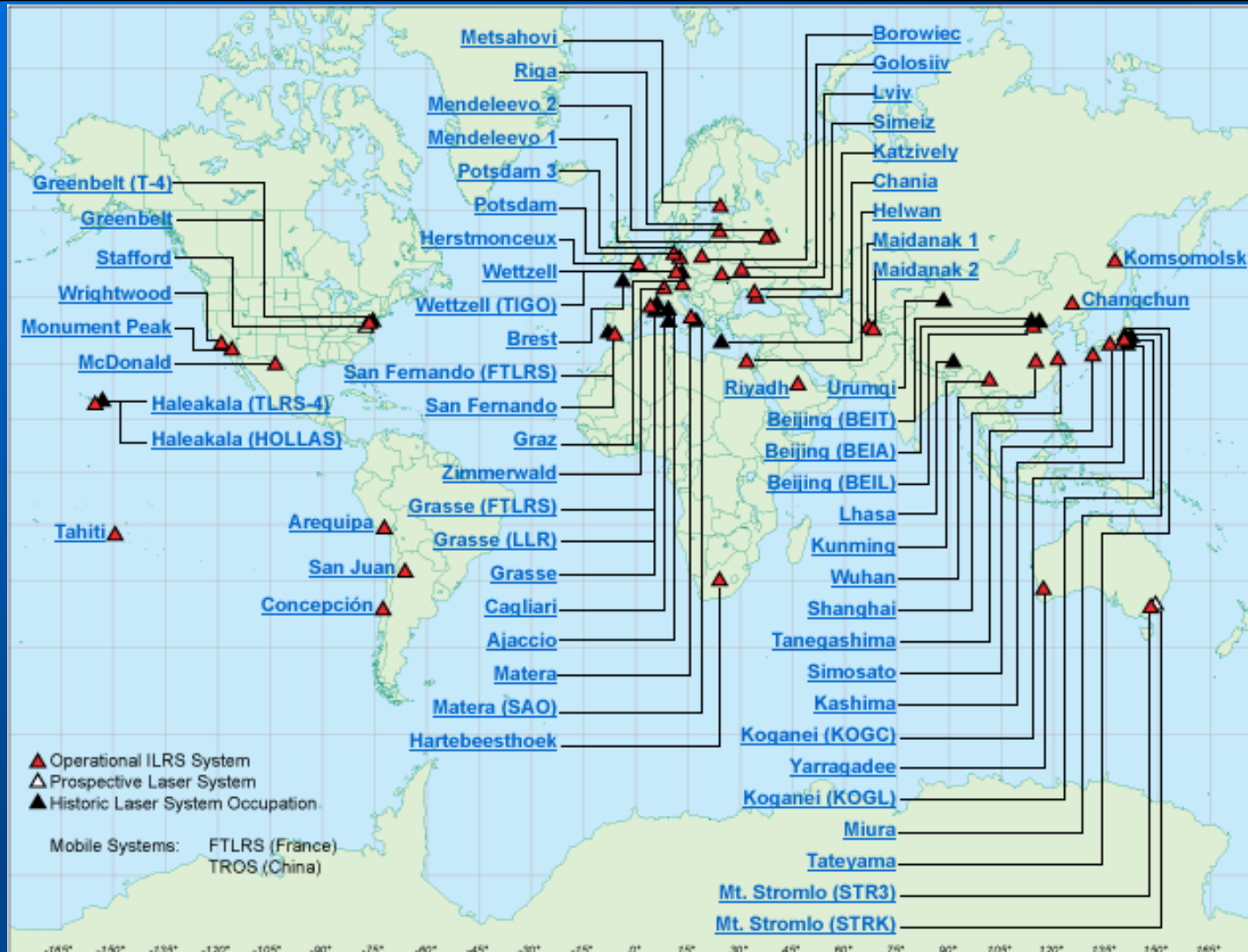
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

# International Laser Ranging Service



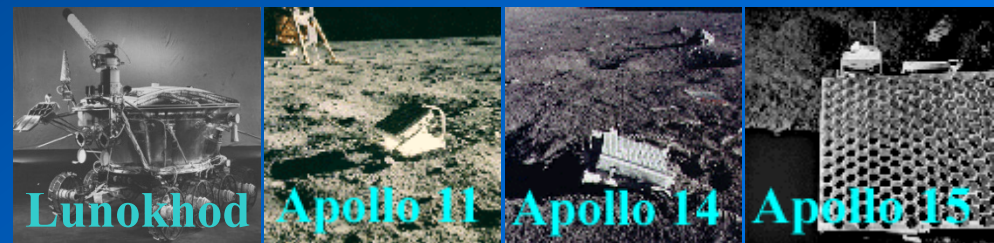
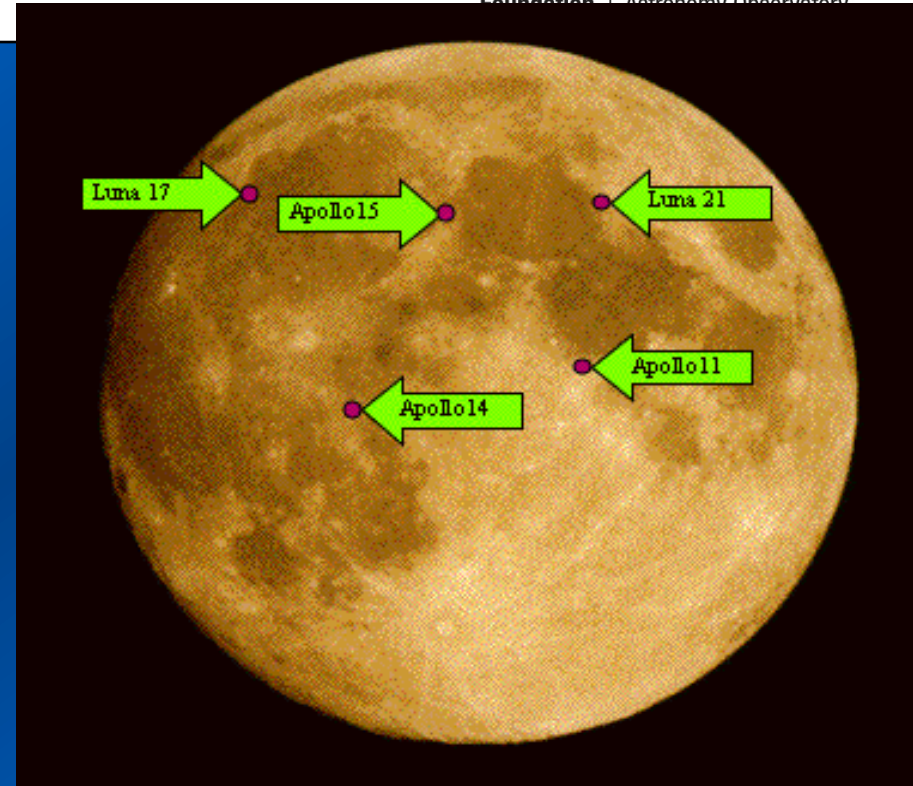
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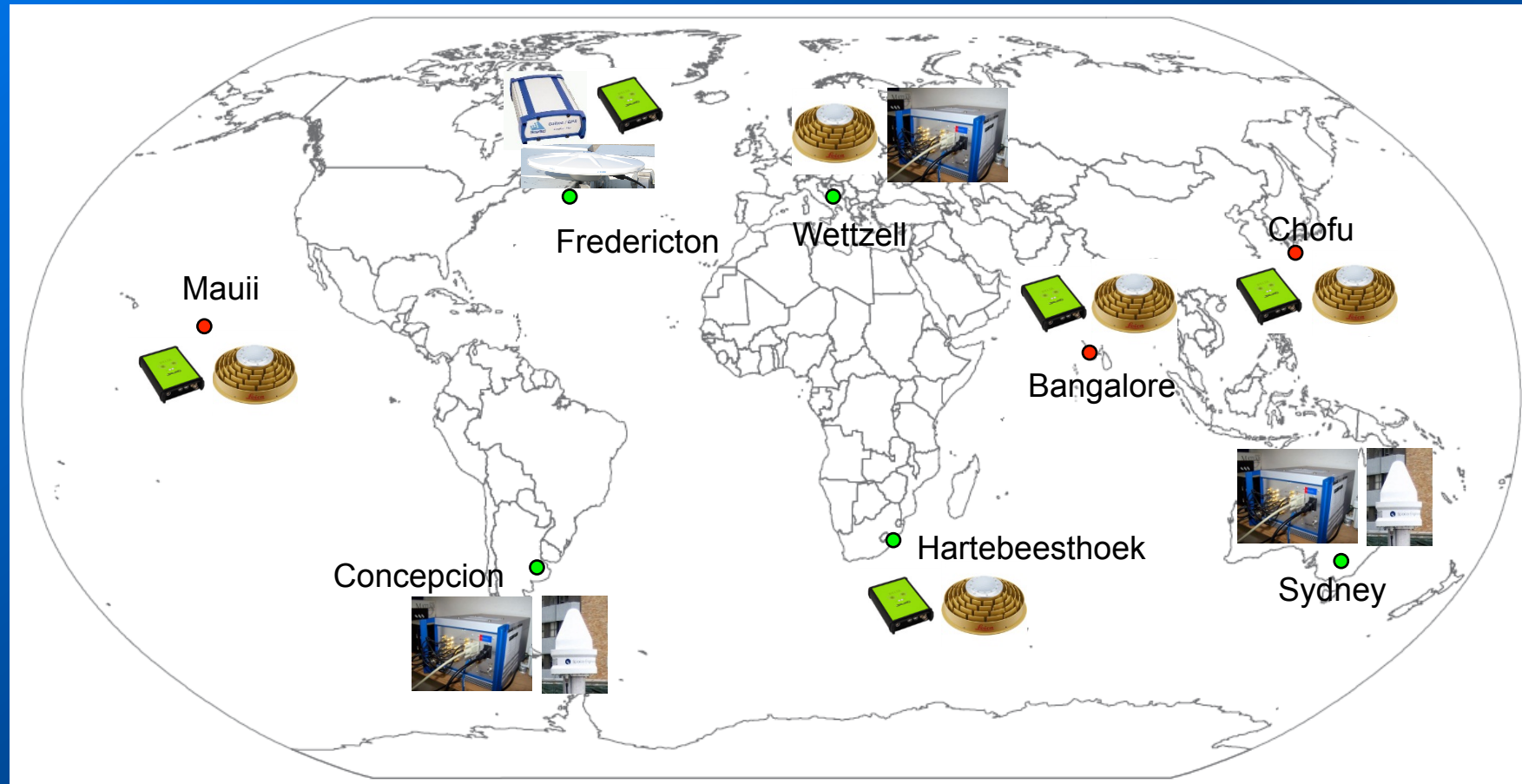
# Lunar Laser Ranging

- Purpose:  
To perform tests to verify Einstein's theory of General Relativity.
- Requirement:  
mm-accuracy range measurements to the Moon.





# Cooperative Network for GIOVE (test of GALILEO) Observation (DLR/BKG)



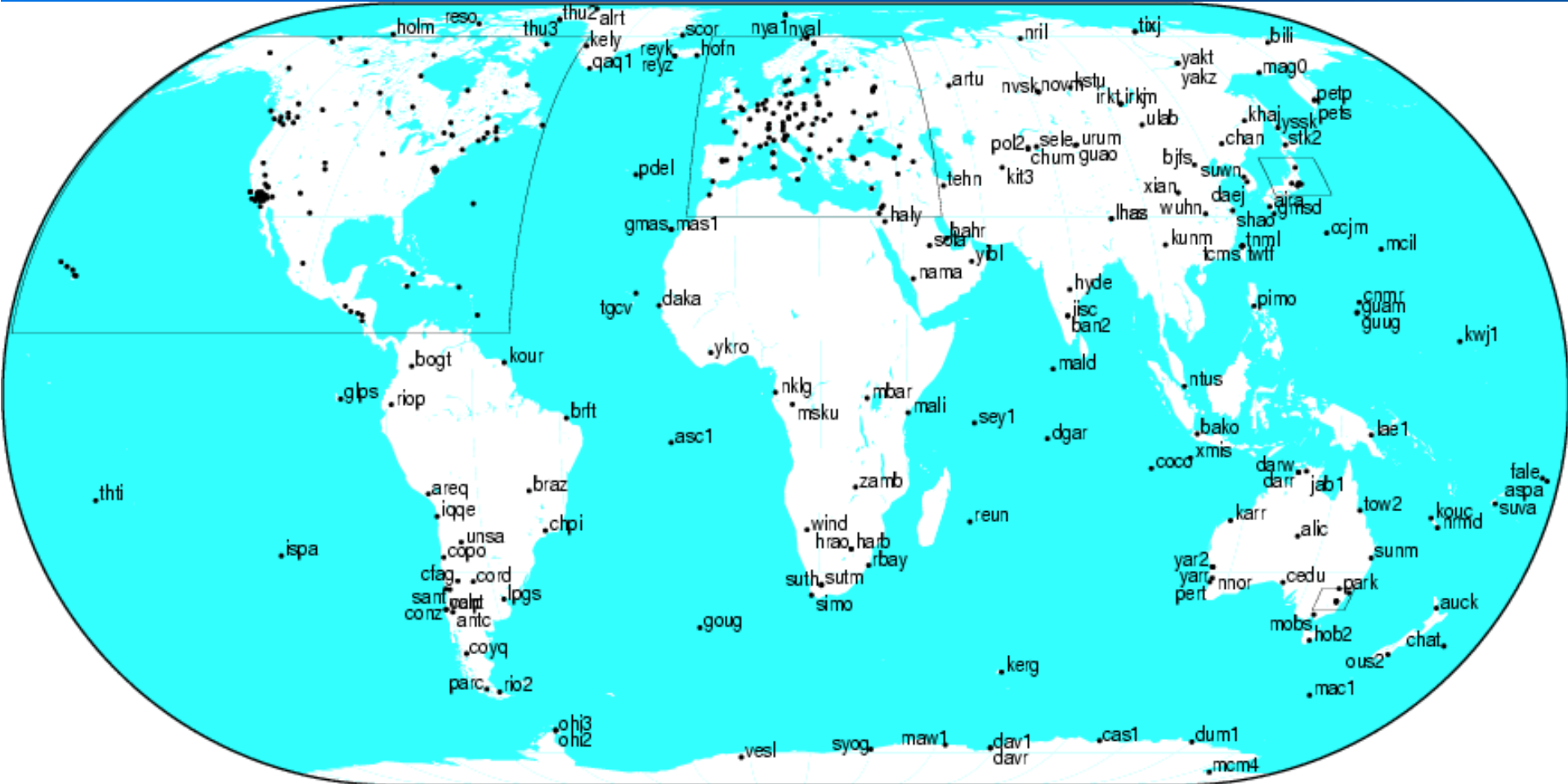
● operational    ● under construction



# International GNSS Service



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# Where are we?.....



# Portable enough, accurate enough



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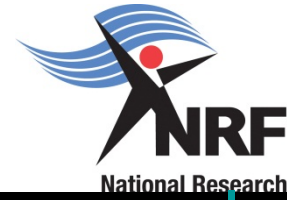
# Versatile.....



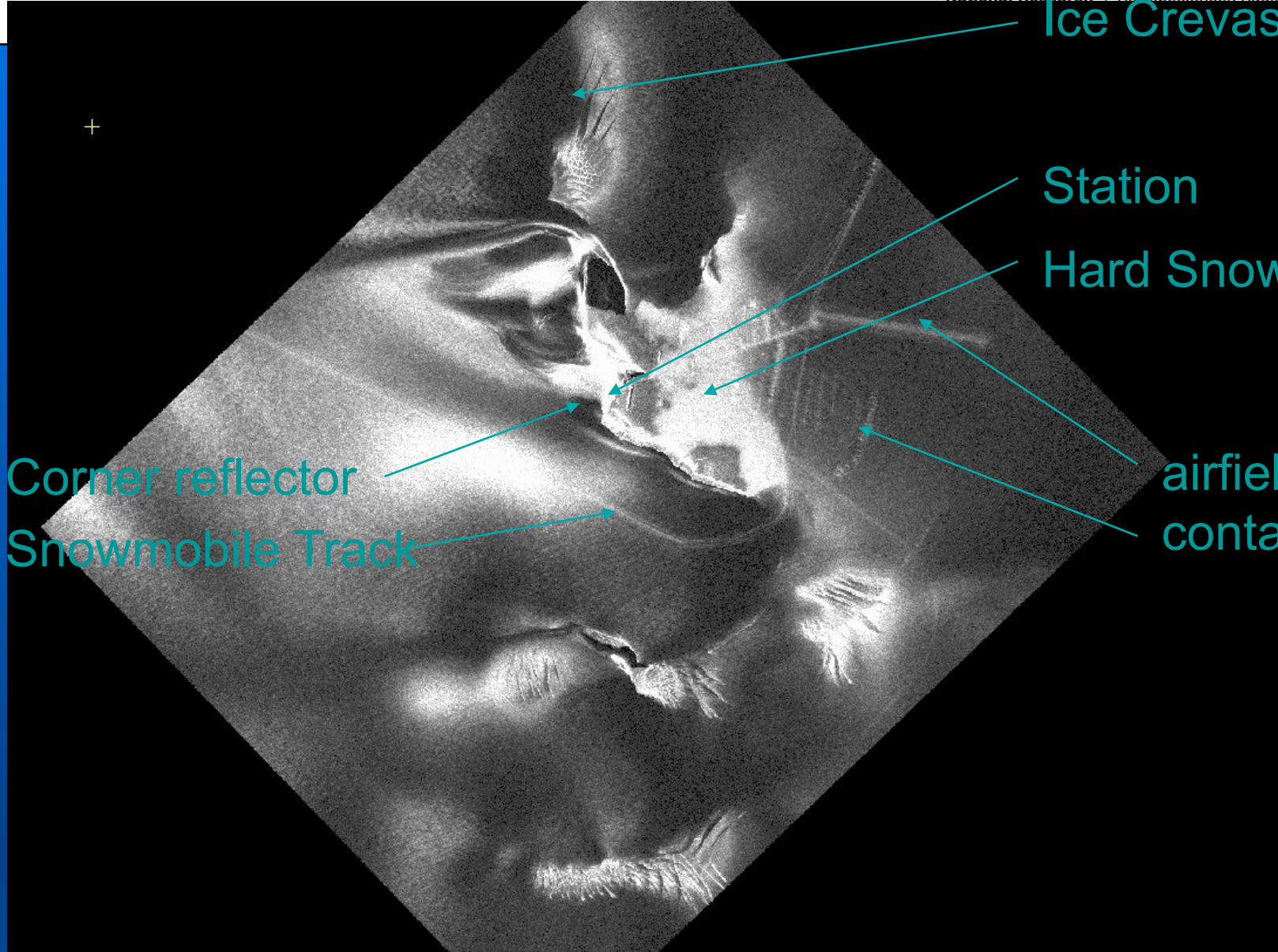
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# Terra SAR X Spotlight image



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Ice Crevasses

Station

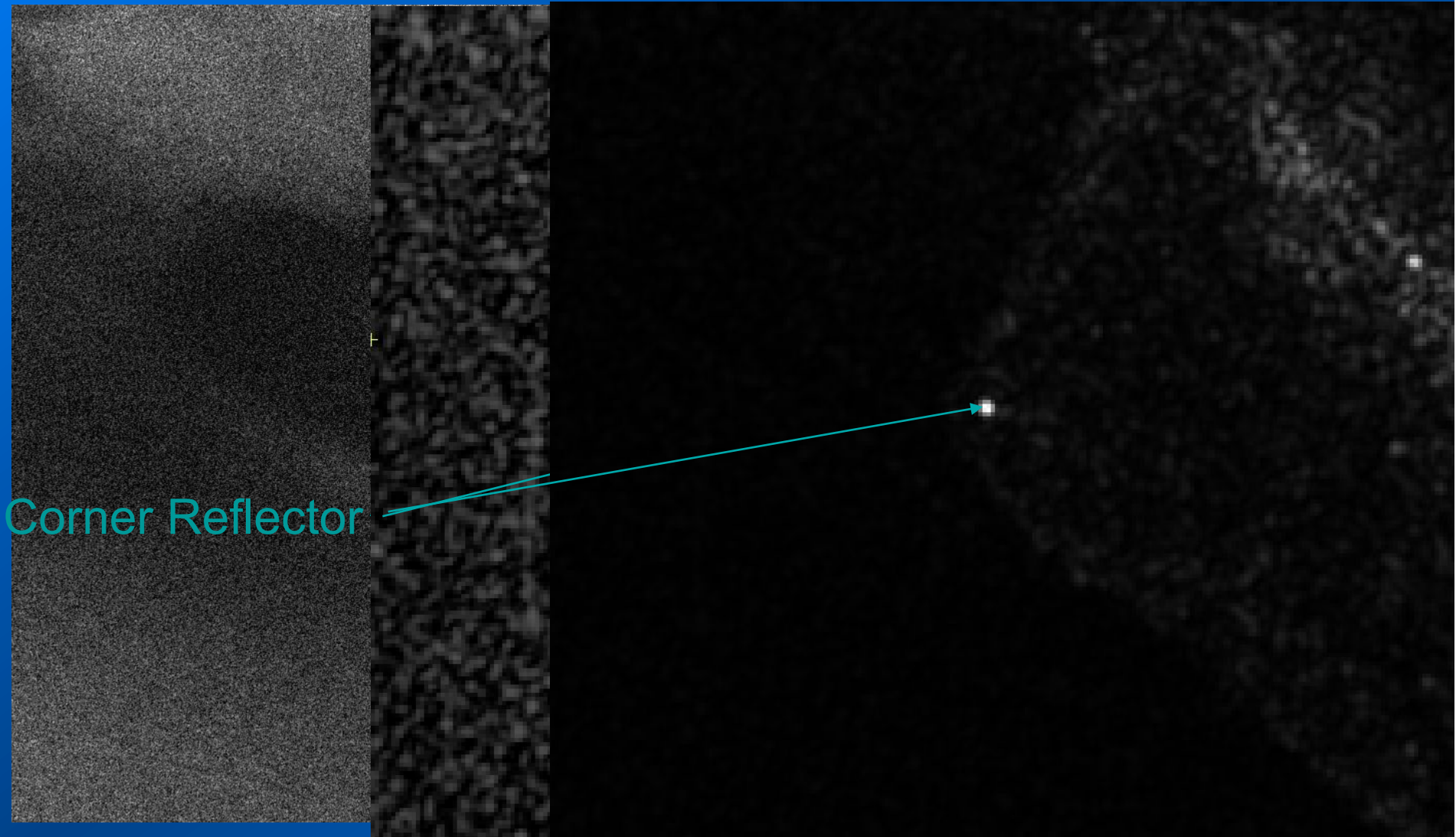
Hard Snow

Corner reflector

Snowmobile Track

airfield  
containers

# Corner Reflector overview / stretched / un-stretched



# SANAE IV Station Overview



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Mountain Ridge

Diesel tanks

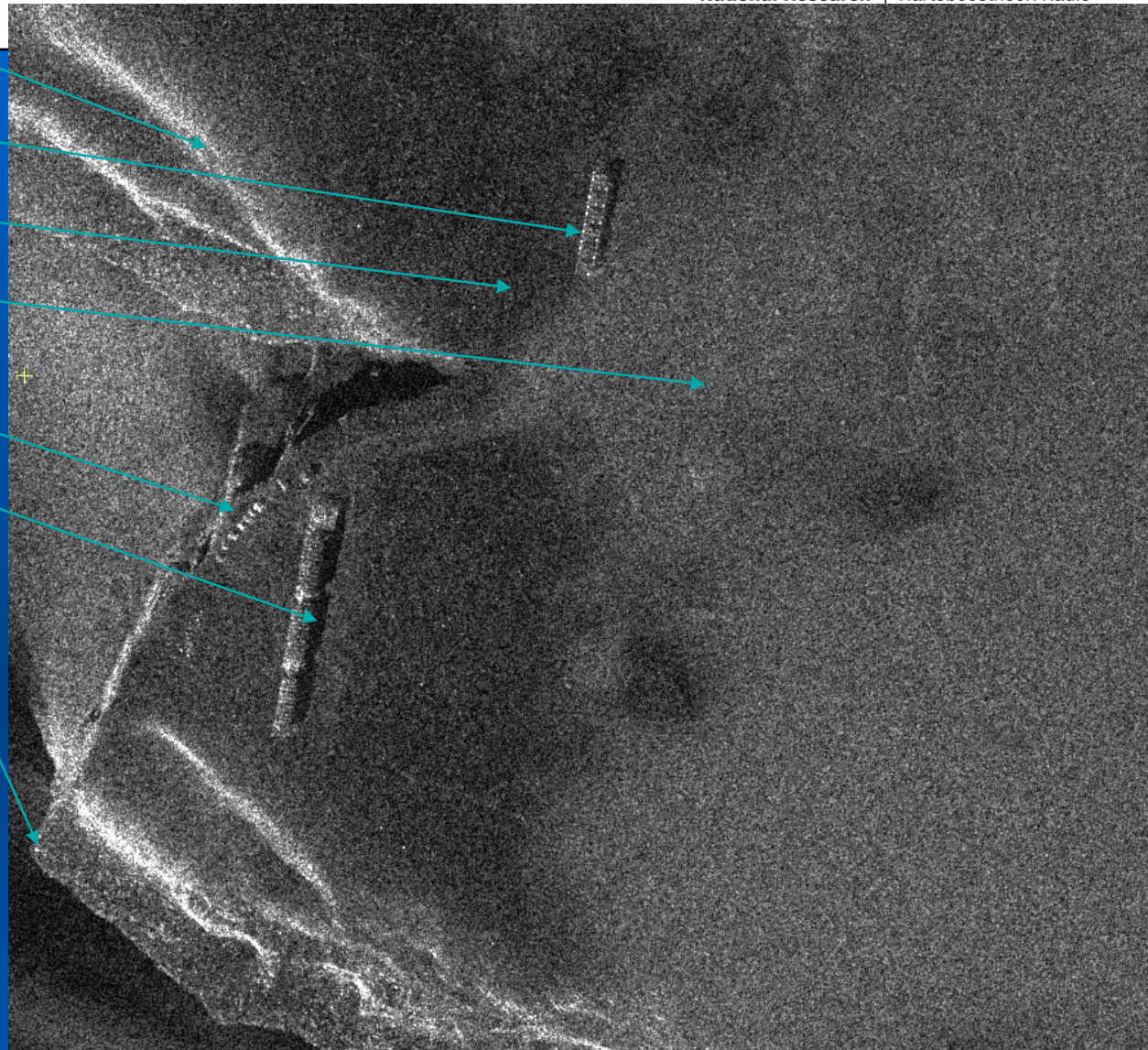
Soft Snow

Hard Snow

Containers

Main Building

Corner Reflector

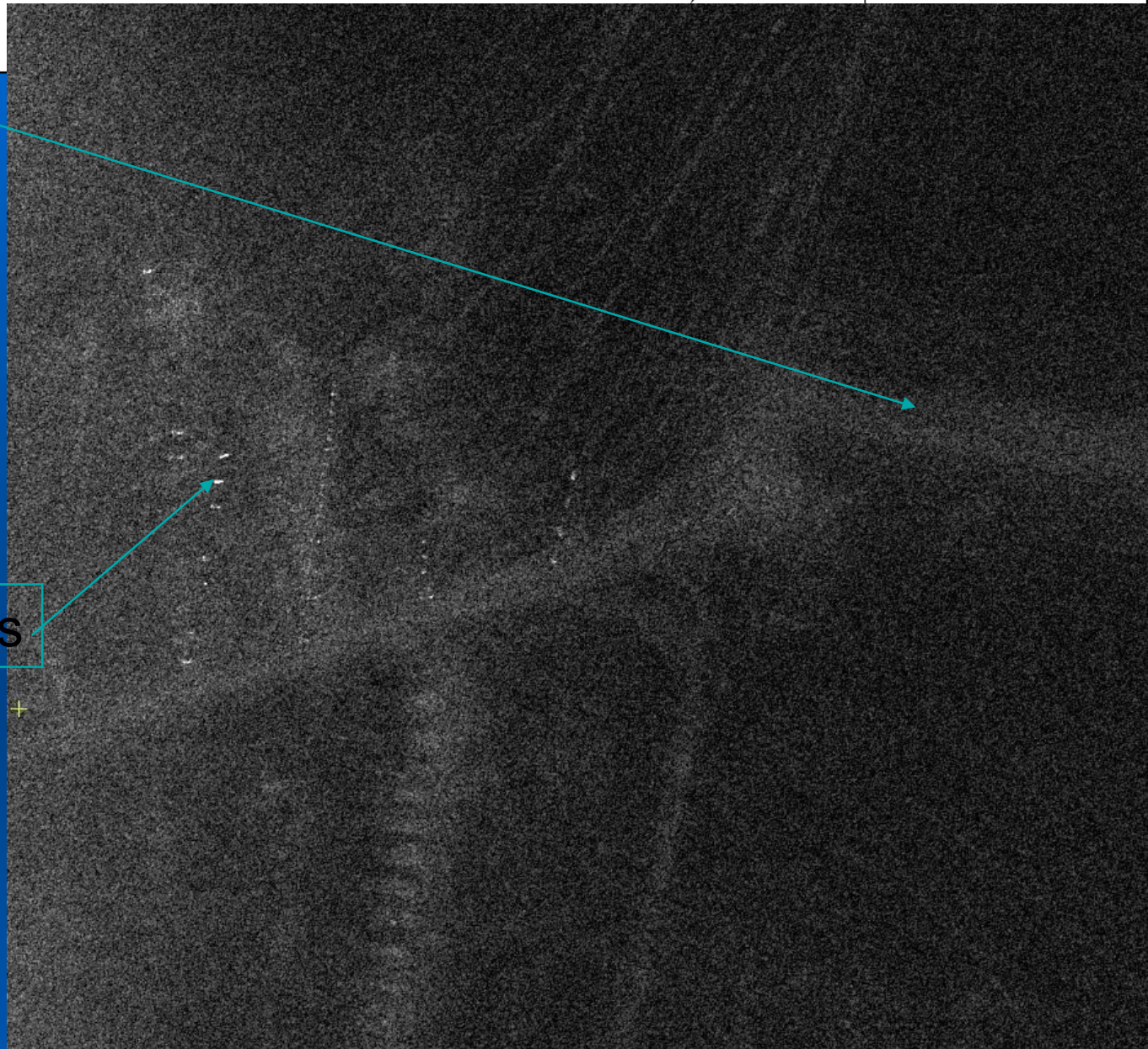


# Landing Strip



Landing Strip

Hidden Containers



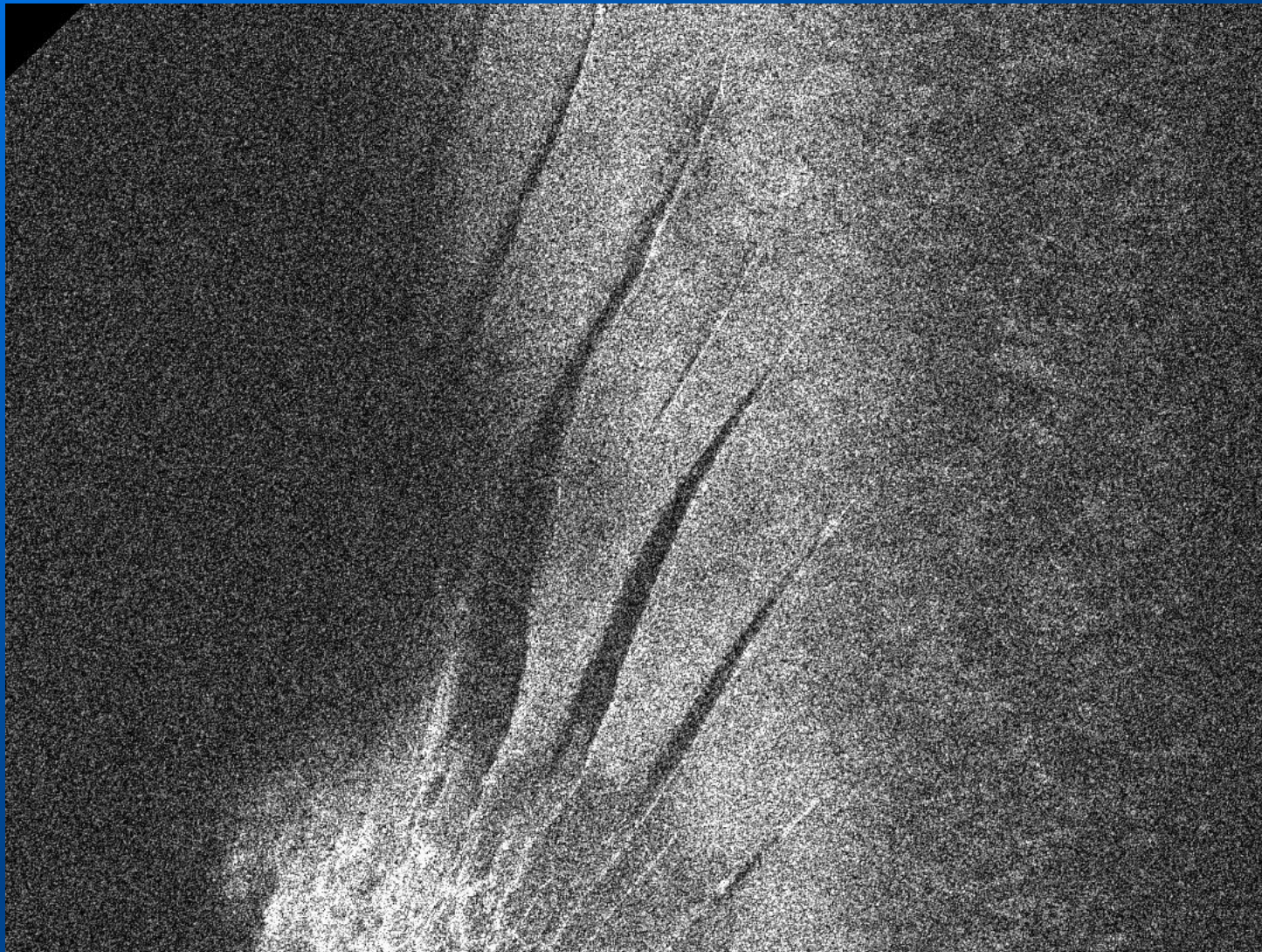


# Ice Crevasses



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## Outcomes of simple space geodesy application



- Radar reflectors can now be used to facilitate map accurate map production (geo-referencing)
- Crevasses and other features can be mapped
- Self-centring plates can be re-surveyed to determine crustal stability in region
- Motion of Antarctic plate can be determined

# Thank you



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