

CIMR

COPERNICUS IMAGING MICROWAVE RADIOMETER

Strategies to mitigate the impact of RFI for the Copernicus Imaging Microwave Radiometer (CIMR)

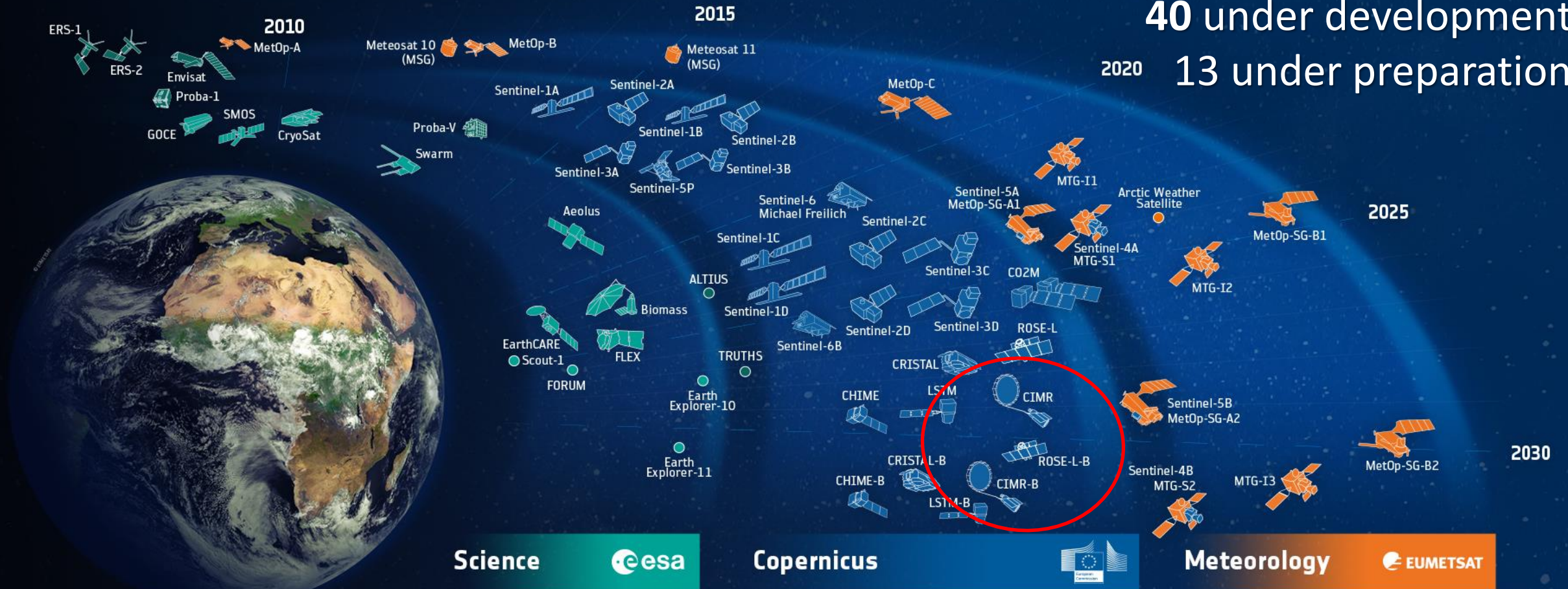
Craig Donlon, Rolv Midthassel, Marcello Sallusti, Mariel Triganese,
Claudio Galeazzi, Benedetta Fiorelli and Yan Soldo
ESA, ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

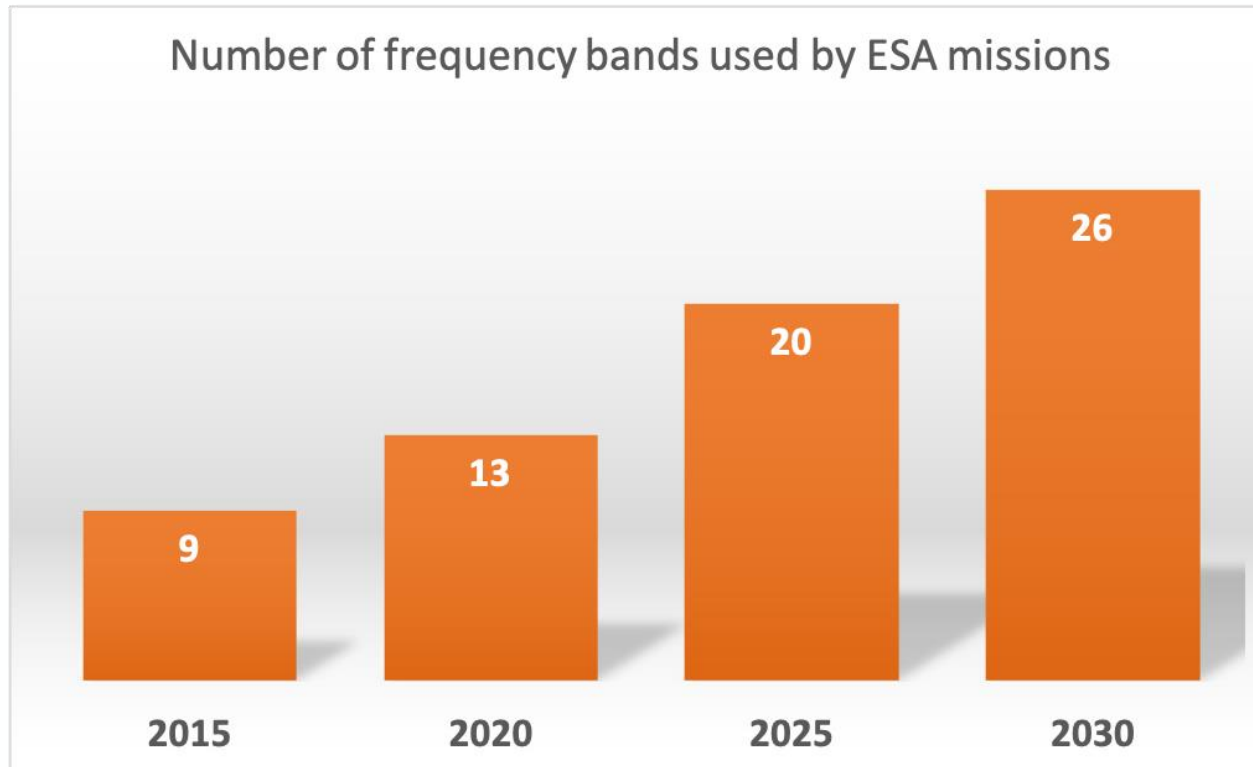
RFI2022, ECMWF 14-18th February, 2022

ESA-DEVELOPED EARTH OBSERVATION MISSIONS




15 in operation
40 under development
13 under preparation





This implies an **improved ability to observe the Earth system.**

Radiocommunication Study Groups



Received: 31 January 2022

France

COMPATIBILITY STUDY BETWEEN EESS (PASSIVE) AND POTENTIAL ALLOCATION OF IMT IN FREQUENCY BAND 6/7 GHz

Document 5D/976-E
Document 7C/306-E
31 January 2022
English only
SPECTRUM ASPECTS &
WRC-23 PREPARATIONS

1 Introduction

The bands 6 425-7 075 MHz and 7 075-7 250 MHz are used by passive EESS in order to perform measurements of brightness temperature of ocean. This band is not allocated to passive EESS in the Radio Regulation, however RR 5.458 states that : “Administrations should bear in mind the needs of the Earth exploration-satellite (passive) and space research (passive) services in their future planning of the bands 6 425-7 075 MHz and 7 075-7 250 MHz”.

The bands 6 425-7 075 MHz and 7 075-7 250 MHz are already allocated to several services (Fixed, FSS (Space to earth) and Mobile).

Due to the particularity of natural emission captured by EESS sensors, the only band to perform ocean temperature measurement need to be closed to the bands described in RR 5.458. The advantage of the measurement by satellite of ocean temperature is the capability to perform measurements globally everywhere on the earth ocean surface. It should be noticed too, that it is well known today that the ocean temperature provides a direct knowledge of the storm strength.

The aim of this contribution is to assess the situation that passive EESS will have to face if IMT is deployed in the band 6/7 GHz and particularly if deployments are performed closed to coast. It should be highlighted that in that frequency band passive EESS have no right in Radio Regulations and that the EESS protection is totally dependent of the wish to administration to preserve the measurement performed in that bands.

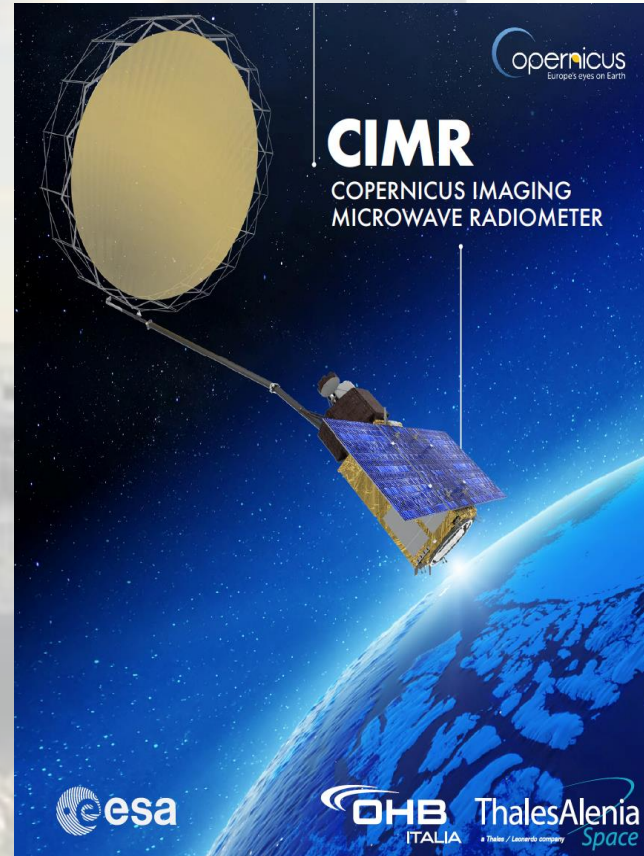
Because EO sensors operate outside allocations, it is **difficult to argue for their protection** in frequency management fora, and they **cannot claim protection** from the RFI they experience.

But it also implies **more RFI issues** and more involvement in frequency regulatory matters.

- RFI is present in all CIMR frequency bands (as for most microwave radiometer instruments)
- **RFI issues are expected to increase**, as the use of the spectrum increases
- **In the design phase, it is important to take RFI into account to:**
 - Ensure **survivability** of the instrument;
 - Ensure high **rejection** levels outside the allocated band;
 - Develop RFI **detection** strategy;
 - Develop RFI **mitigation** approaches;
 - Develop RFI **monitoring** approach (evidence for ITU and spectrum pollution management)
 - In Phase E2 operations, it is important to implement **ground based RFI mitigation and monitoring techniques based on the CIMR data** → each sensor 'sees' RFI in its own way
- RFI in some frequency bands can be reported to the ITU (e.g. in the bands where all emissions are prohibited by article 5.340 of the Radio Regulations). This has decreased RFI in L-band!
- Possible to **coordinate with other space agencies to report RFI**: now RFI in L-band are reported by SMOS and SMAP around the same time.

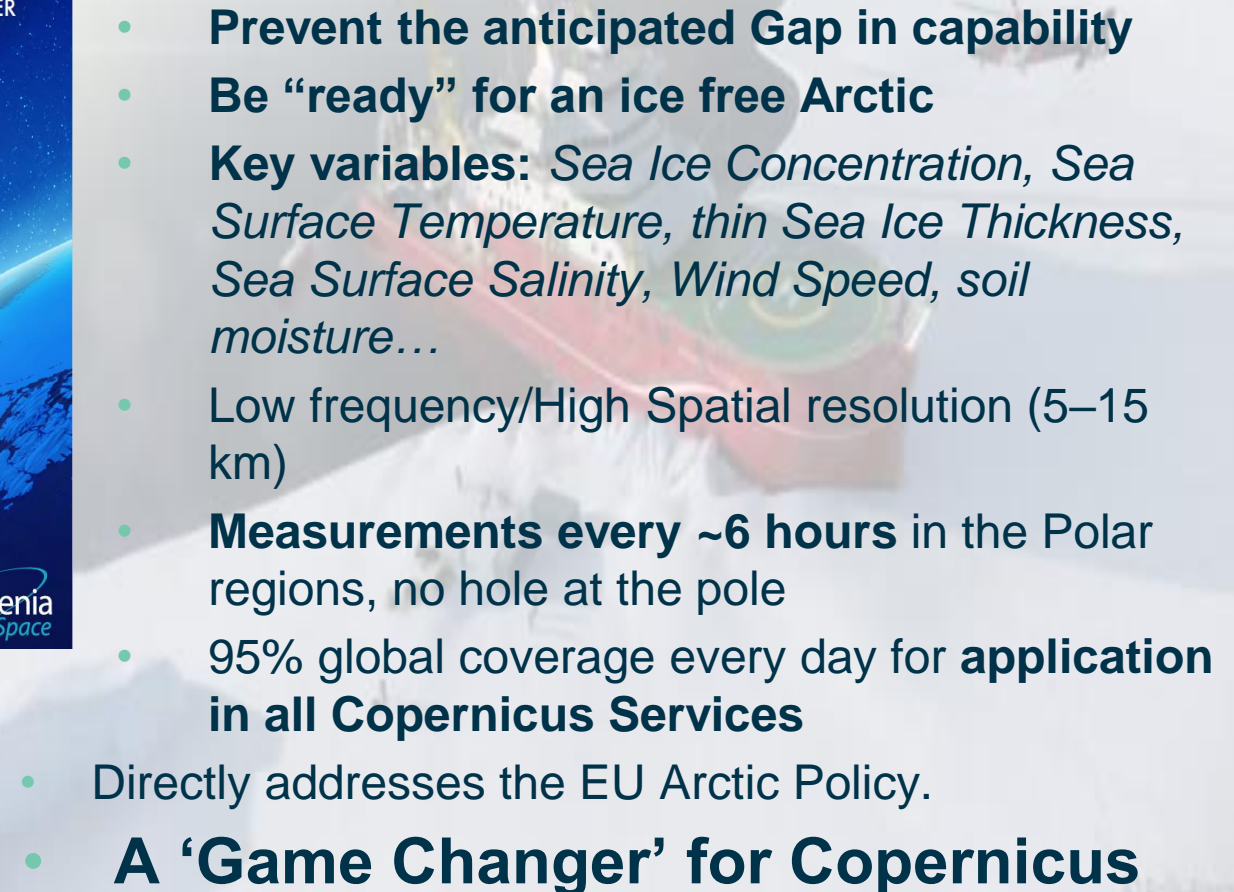


The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued to the European Parliament and the Council, on 27 April 2016, a joint communication that **proposed "An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic"**



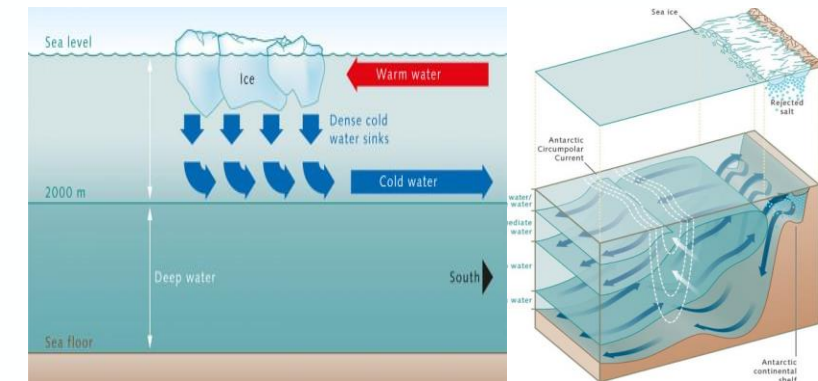
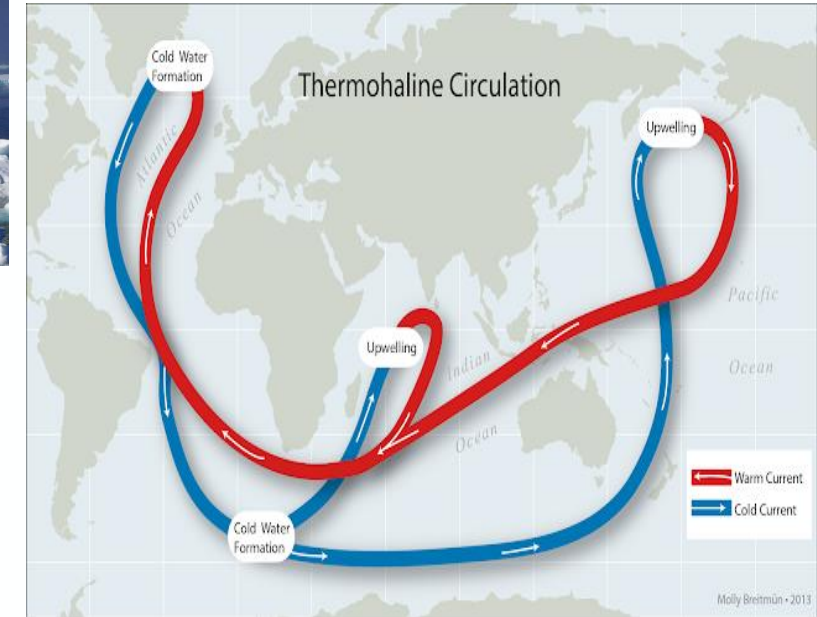
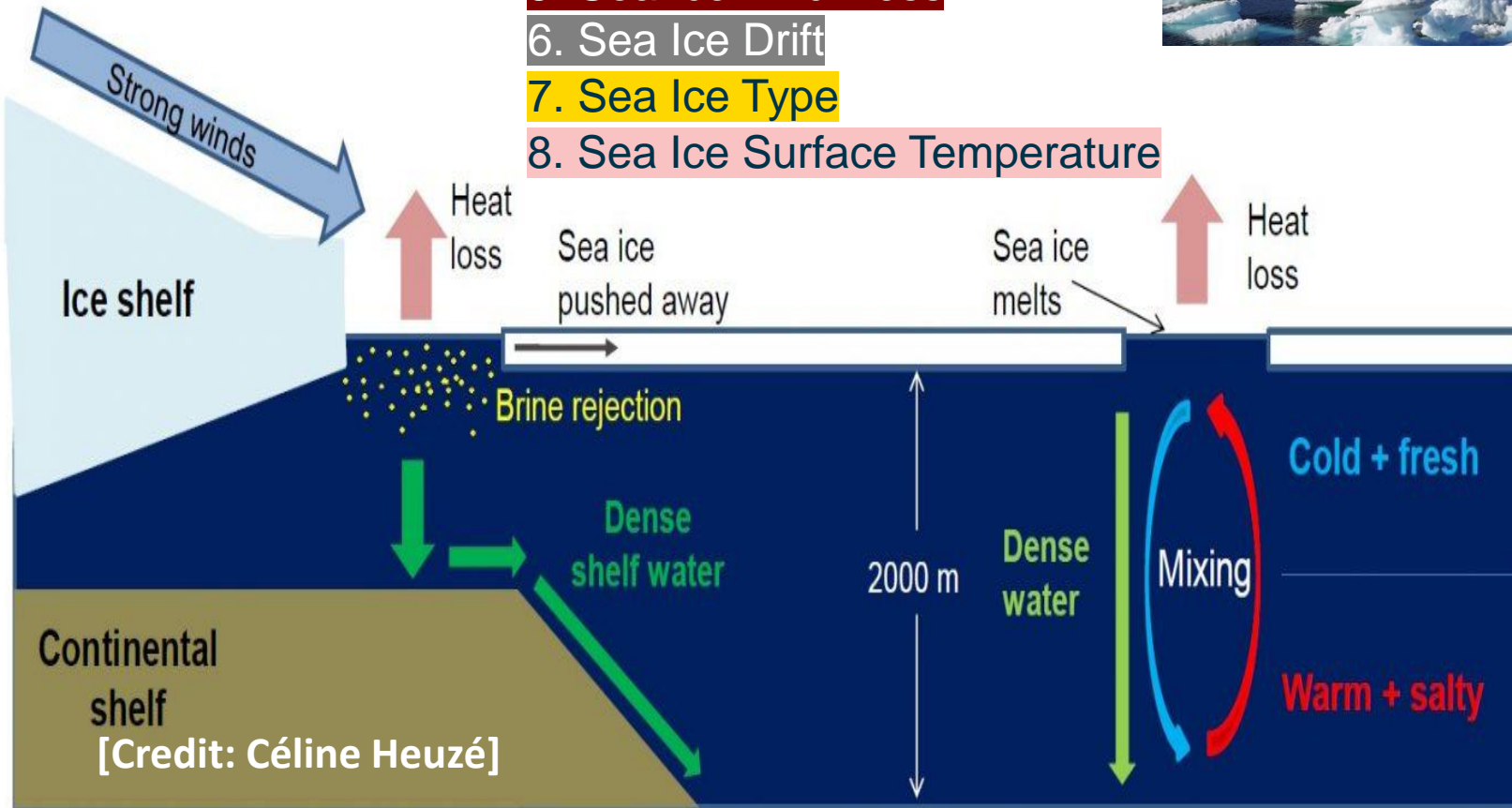
Polar Oceans are fundamental to understanding the global environment

CIMR is designed to:

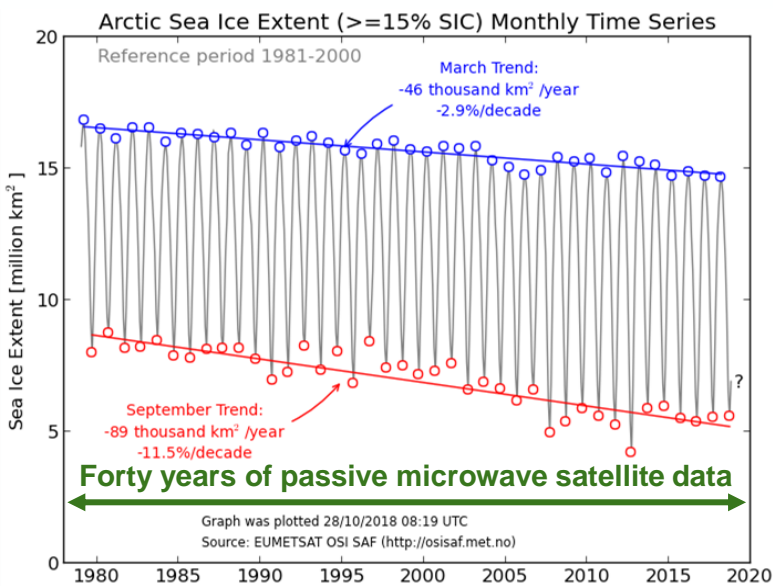
- 
- **Prevent the anticipated Gap in capability**
 - **Be “ready” for an ice free Arctic**
 - **Key variables:** *Sea Ice Concentration, Sea Surface Temperature, thin Sea Ice Thickness, Sea Surface Salinity, Wind Speed, soil moisture...*
 - Low frequency/High Spatial resolution (5–15 km)
 - **Measurements every ~6 hours** in the Polar regions, no hole at the pole
 - 95% global coverage every day for **application in all Copernicus Services**
 - Directly addresses the EU Arctic Policy.
 - **A ‘Game Changer’ for Copernicus**



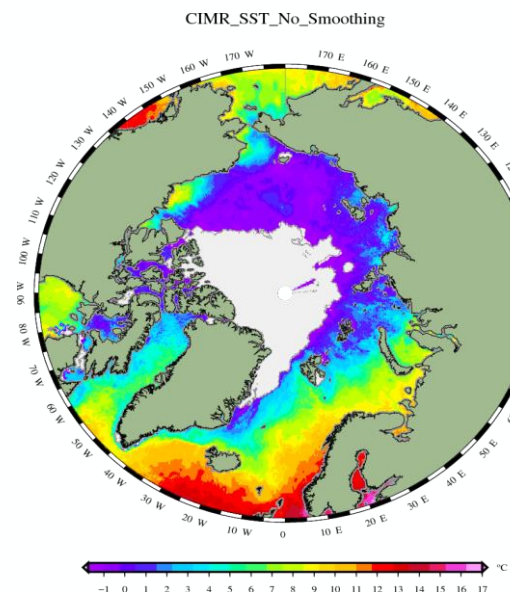
1. Sea Ice Concentration
2. Sea Surface Temperature
3. Sea Surface Salinity
4. Surface Winds
5. Sea Ice Thickness
6. Sea Ice Drift
7. Sea Ice Type
8. Sea Ice Surface Temperature



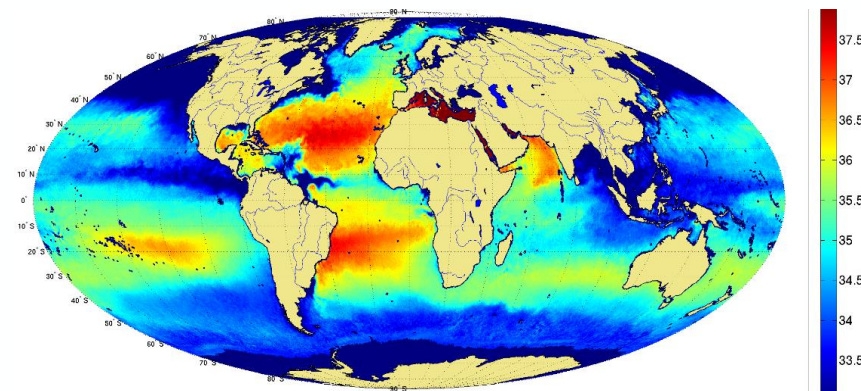
Sea Ice Concentration



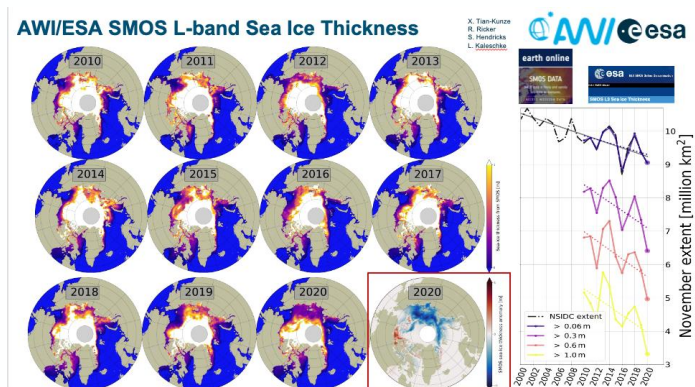
Sea Surface Temperature



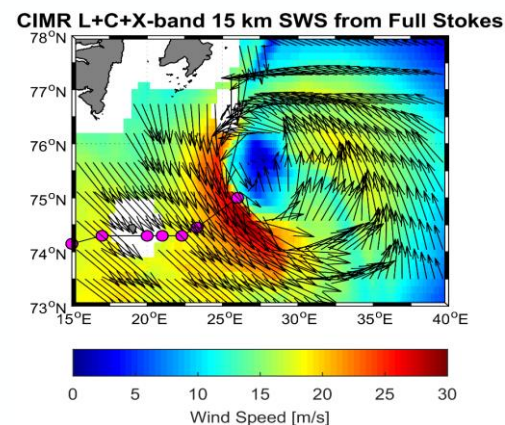
Sea Surface Salinity



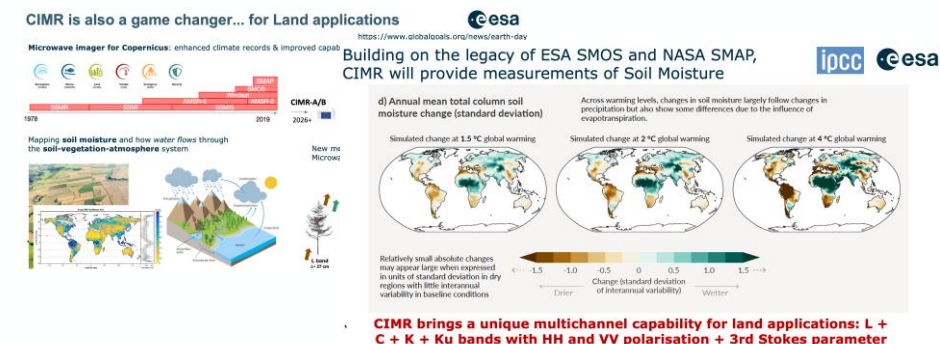
Thin Sea Ice thickness



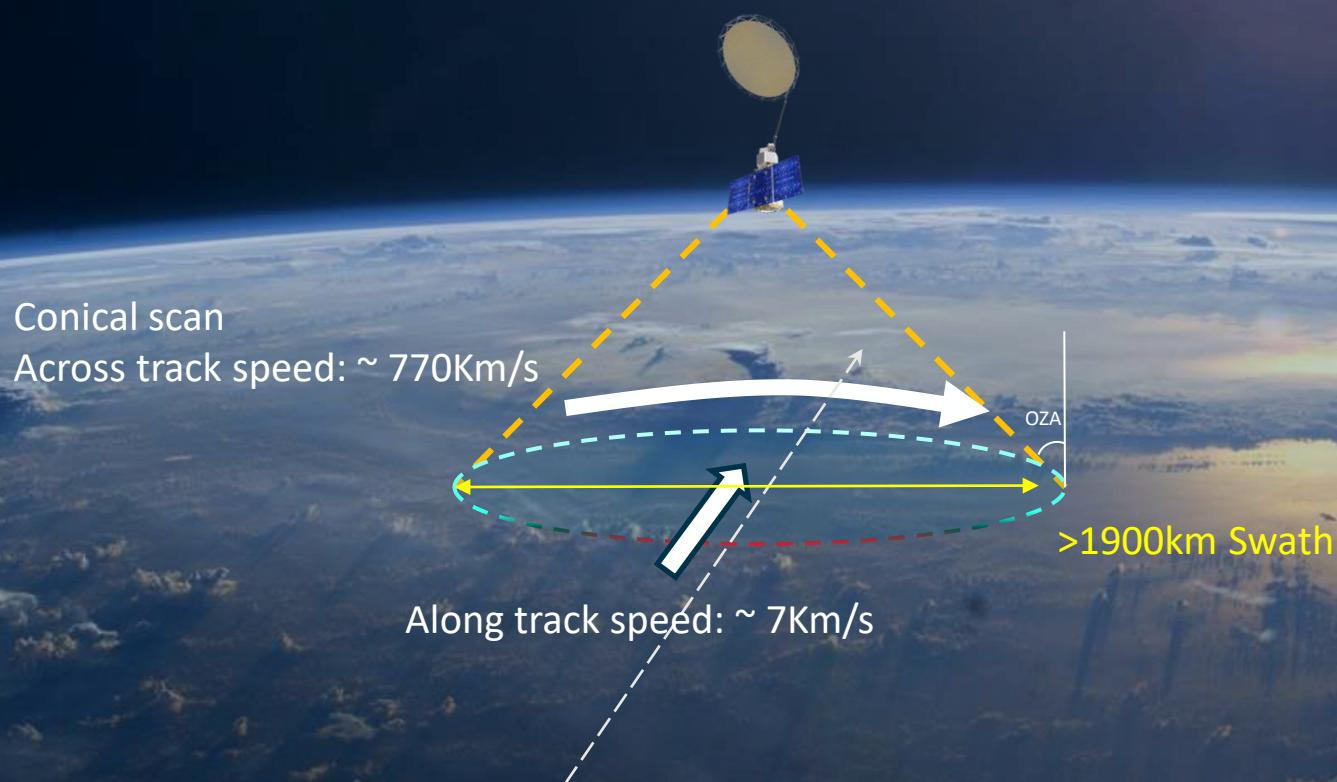
Surface Wind over ocean



Sea Ice Drft, ice type, snow, Vegetation, soil moisture...



The CIMR Payload Overview

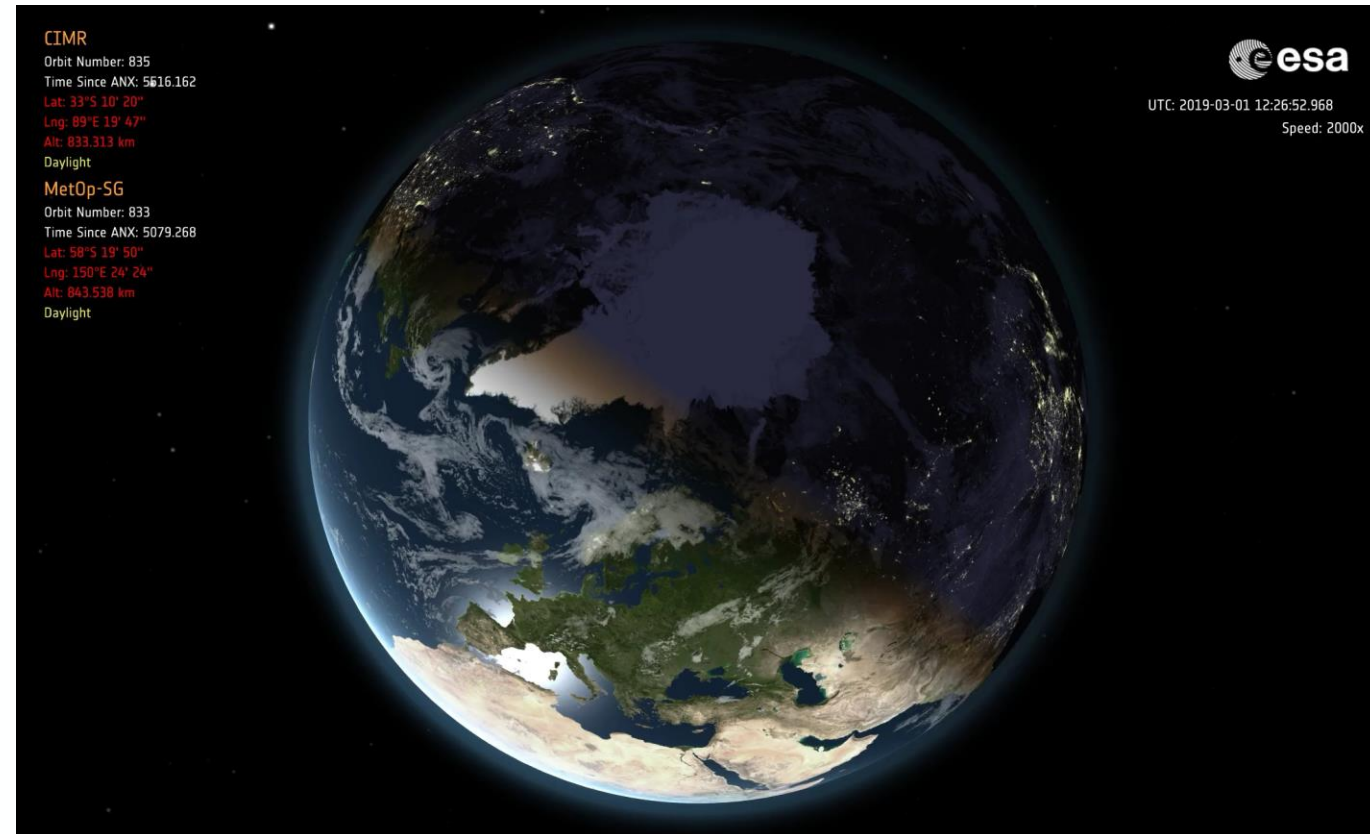


- Reference altitude 817.5km
- OZA 55 ± 1.5 degrees
- Rotation speed 7.8rpm
 - Dictated by radiometric sensitivity requirements
- Instrument Mass $\sim 600\text{kg}$ (inc margin) rotating
 - 120Kg non-rotating
- Instrument Power $\sim 860\text{W}$
- Antenna diameter 7.4m
- $f/D = 0.84$
- 50 receiver channels in total ($\sim 11\text{GHz}$ total bandwidth), including dual linear polarisation
- Data $\sim 7\text{Mbps}$ nominally

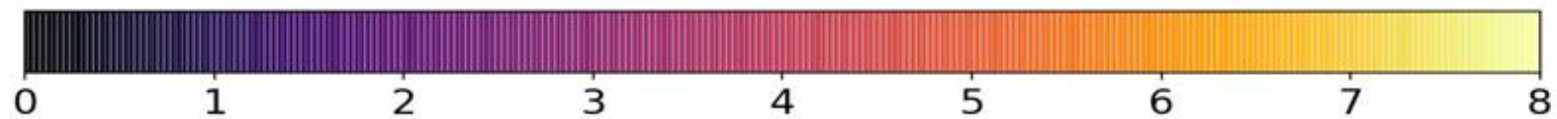
CIMR is to be placed in a 06:00 **sun synchronous dawn-dusk orbit**

CIMR flies 'ahead' of MetOp-SG(1B)

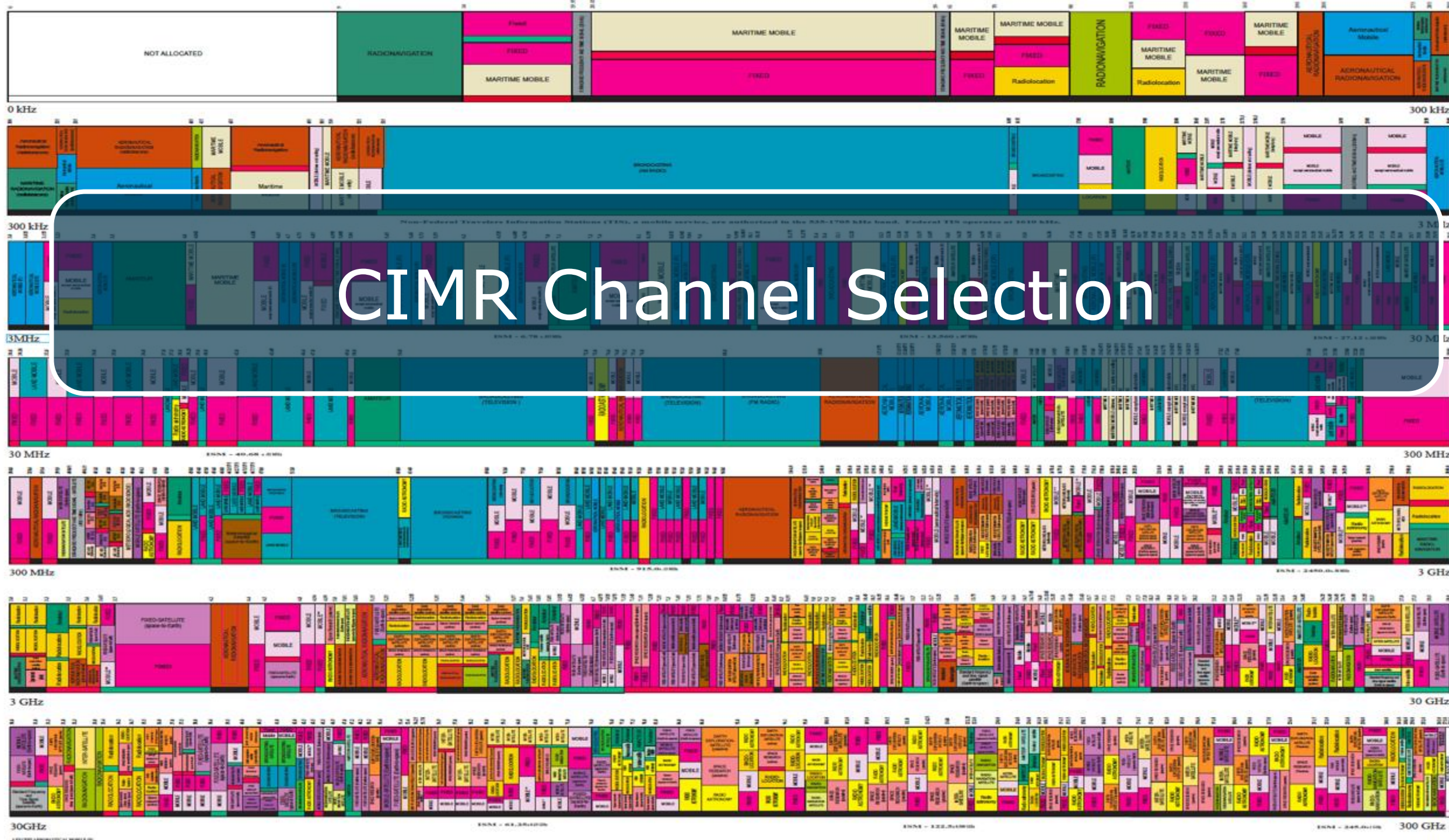
- +/- 10 mins difference in Arctic
- Focus on the Arctic region
- No "hole at the pole"
- Minimise daily eclipse periods and mitigate the impact of thermoelastic distortion,
- Maximise power generation,
- Minimise the complexity and size of the solar array.
- Maximise the colocation between CIMR measurements and MetOp-SG(B) within ± 10 minutes in the polar regions



Coverage of CIMR (global)



Number of revisits in 24 hours



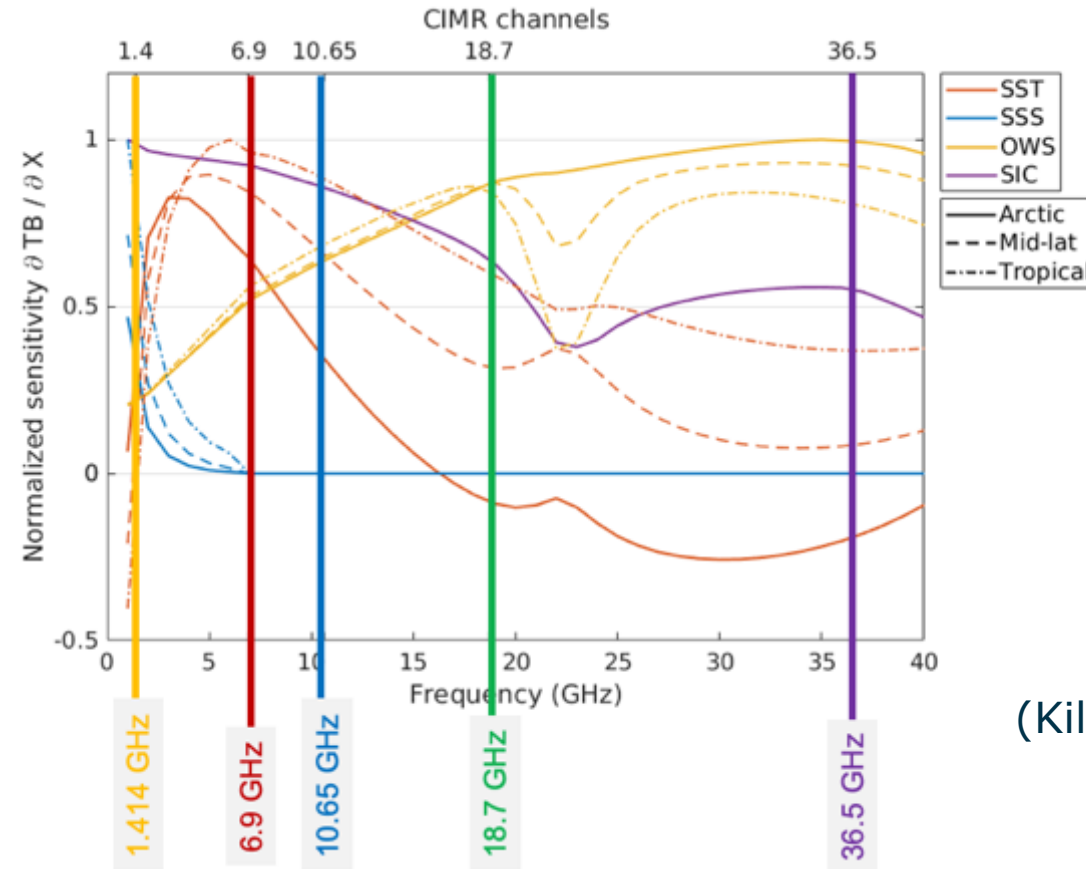
1.4145 GHz: SIT, SIC, SSS, WS, SM, SD

6.9 GHz: SIC, SST, SIT, IST, WS, SID, SM, SD

10.65 GHz: SST, PCP, WS, SD, SM

18.7 GHz: TCWV, LWP, PCP, SIC, SD, SM, SID

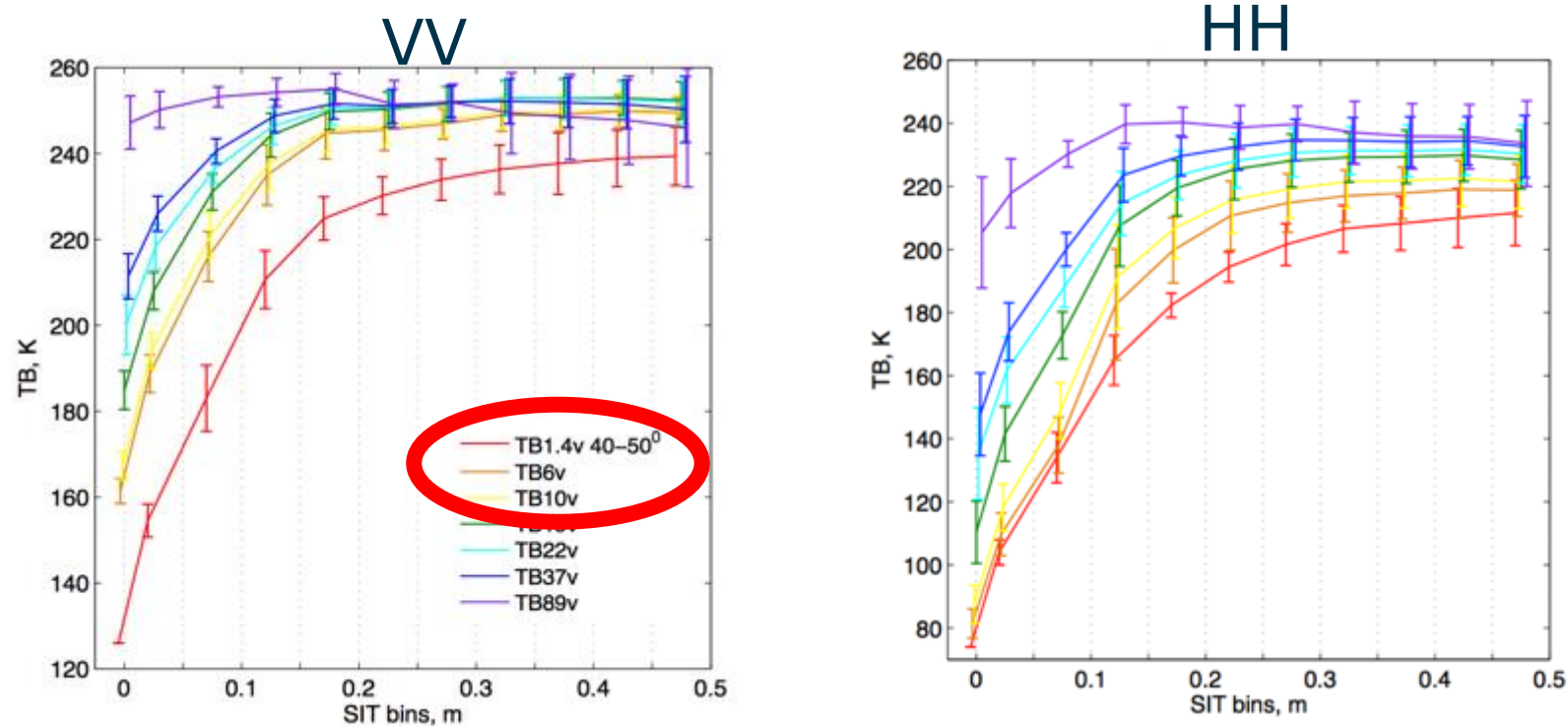
36.5 GHz: SIC, SST, LWP, TCWV, PCP, SIC, SWE, SD



(Killic et al, 2020)

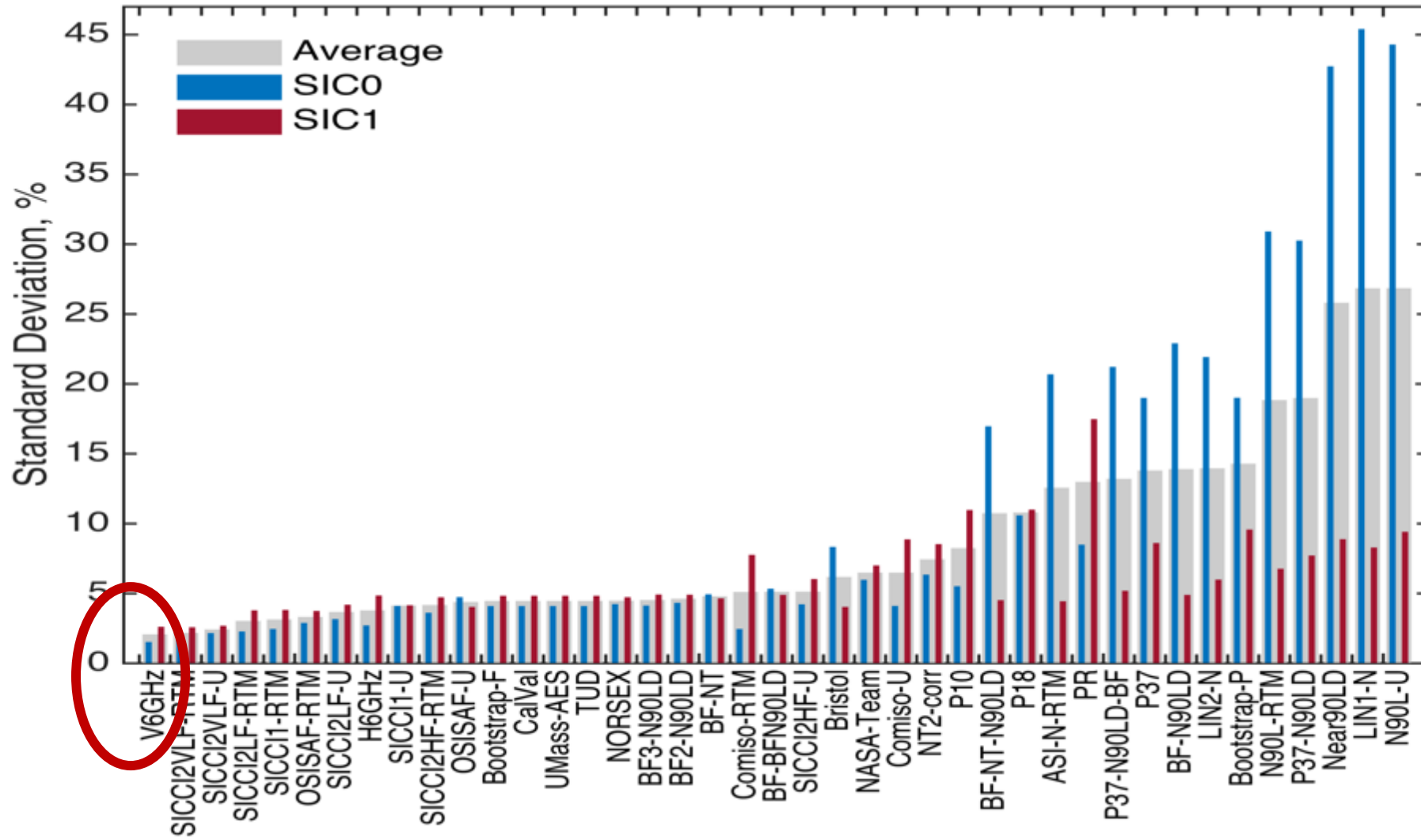
SIC = Sea Ice Concentration,
SST = Sea Surface Temperature, SIT = Sea Ice thickness,
SSS= Sea Surface Salinity,
WS = Wind speed,
LWP = Liquid Water Path,
TCWV = Total Column-liquid Water Vapour,
SD = Snow Depth,
SM = Soil Moisture,
SWE = Snow Water Equivalent,
SID = Sea Ice Drift,
PCP=precipitation

Channels (GHz, Full Stokes):	1.4	6.9	10.65	18.7	36.5
Resolution (km):	<60	≤15	≤15	≤5.5	≤5 (g:4km)
NEAT (K @150K):	≤0.3	≤0.2	≤0.3	≤0.4	≤0.7
Tot. Standard Uncertainty(K):	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.5	≤0.6	≤0.8



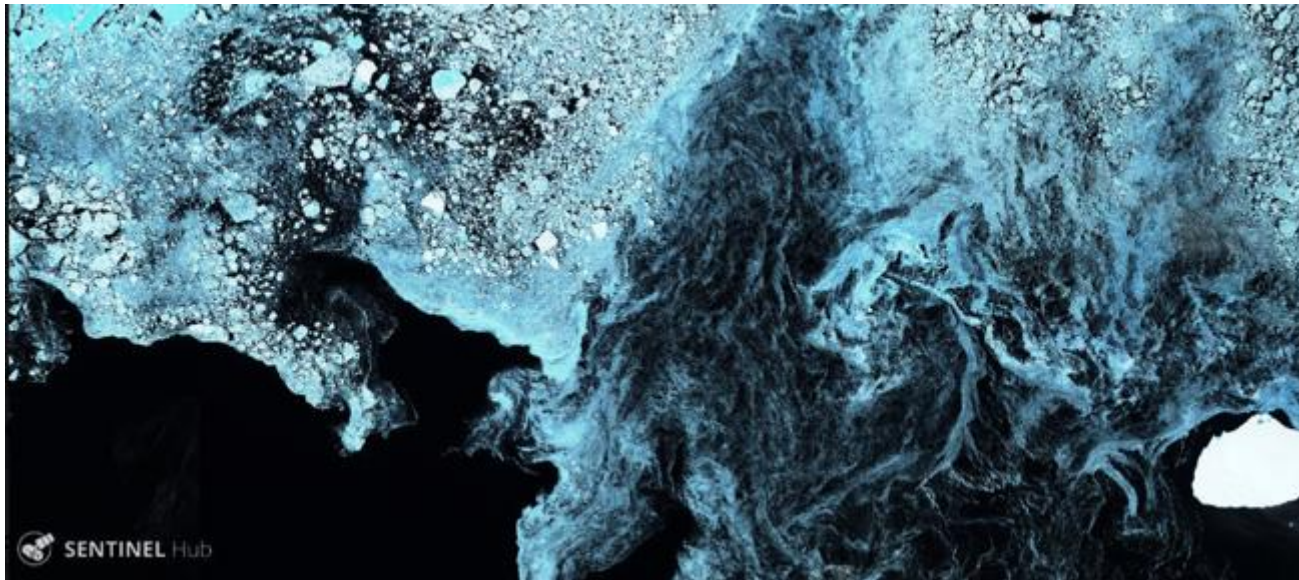
Polarized brightness temperatures as function of sea ice thickness for various frequencies (from *Heygster et al, 2014*).

The best performing frequency for thin sea ice thickness determination is 1.4 GHz.

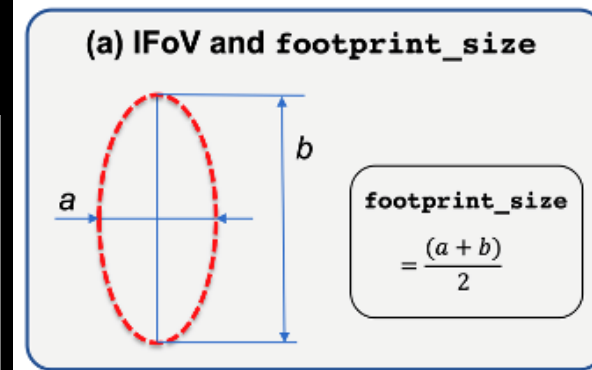
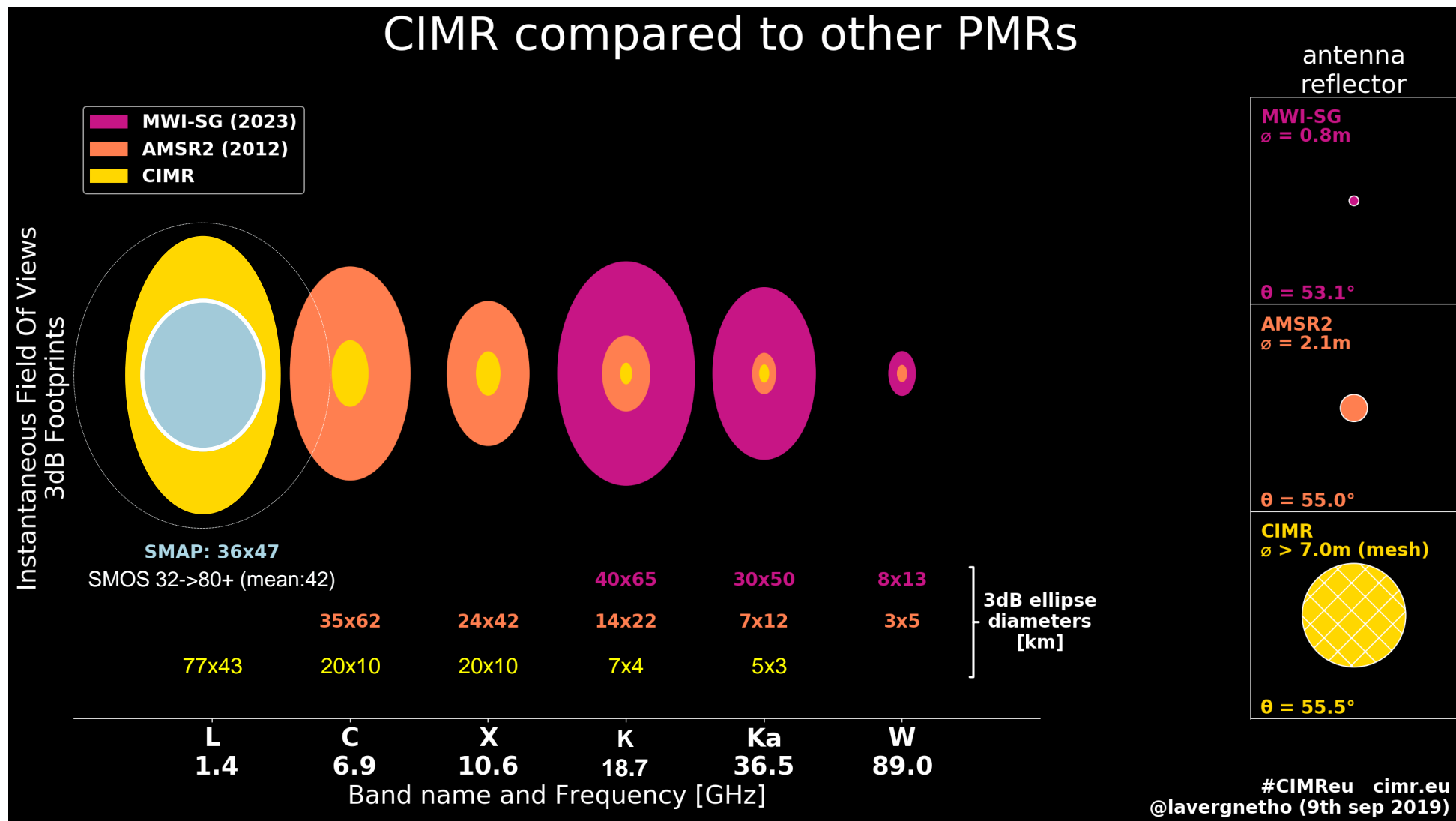


The best algorithm uses C-band

But...C-band
has a large
footprint...



CIMR compared to other PMRs



```
footprint size:
```

L: <60 km

C: ≤ 15 km

X: ≤ 15 km

K: ≤ 5.5 km

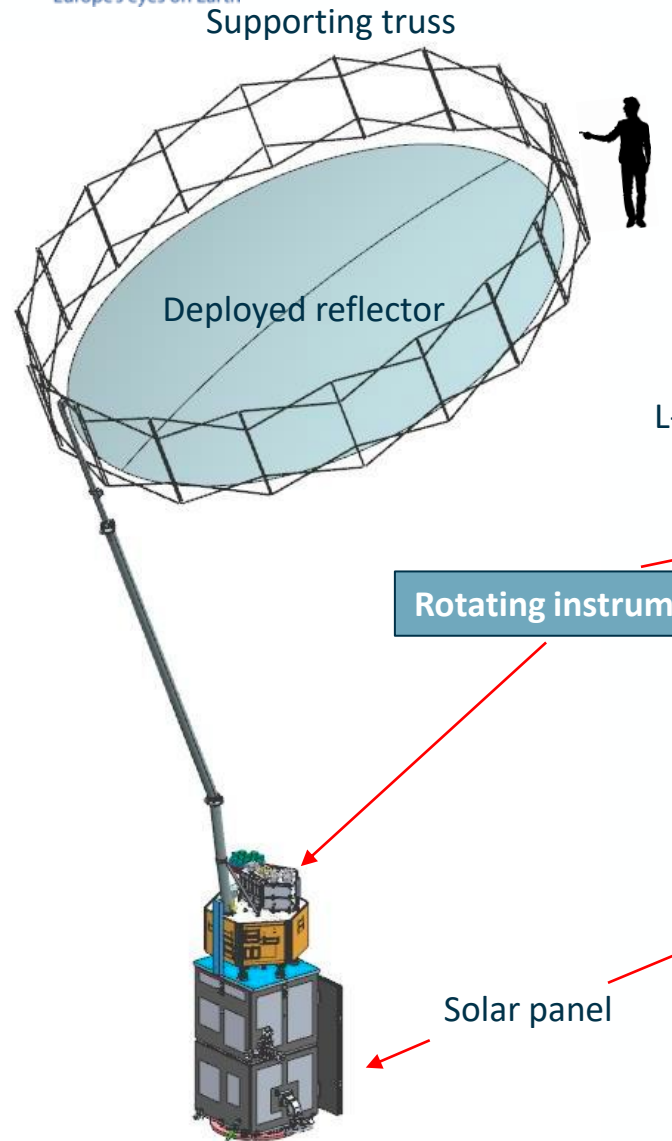
Ka: ≤ 5 (g:4) km



↑ Antenna boom during deployment testing. © HPS GmbH

← First automatic motorised deployment test of the European LDR. © LSS GmbH

<https://phi.esa.int/automatic-unfurling-of-european-large-deployable-reflector-successfully-demonstrated/>



Rotating instrument

- 50 receiver channels in total (~11GHz total bandwidth), including dual linear polarisation.
- Full Modified Stokes parameters provided.
- Each channel uses internal calibration.
 - Hot and Active Cold Load (ACL).
- Detection is done in digital domain.
- All channels have onboard RFI processor.
 - To identify interference and remove it from the measurement.
- All the above done in rotating part of the satellite (due to limitation in data transfer through the rotary joint to the fixed part).

The CIMR Measurement Principle

Footprint sizes and overlap for all frequencies @ center of swath

L-band
60km FP
(77x43)
30% overlap

C-band
15km FP
(20x10)
20% overlap

X-band
15km FP
(20x10)
20% overlap

K-band
5.5km FP
(7x4)
6% overlap

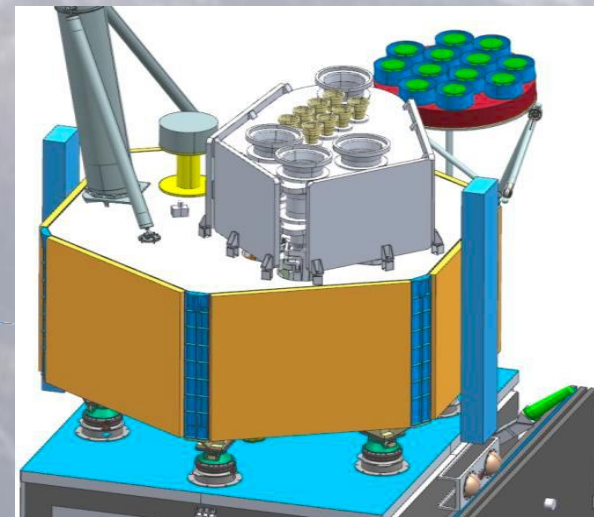
Ka-band
4km FP
(5x3)
~1km gap (center of swath)

Instrument feed configuration:

- 1 L-band
- 4 C&X combined multifrequency
- 8 K&Ka combined multifrequency

All feed are dual polarised

50 receiver channels in total



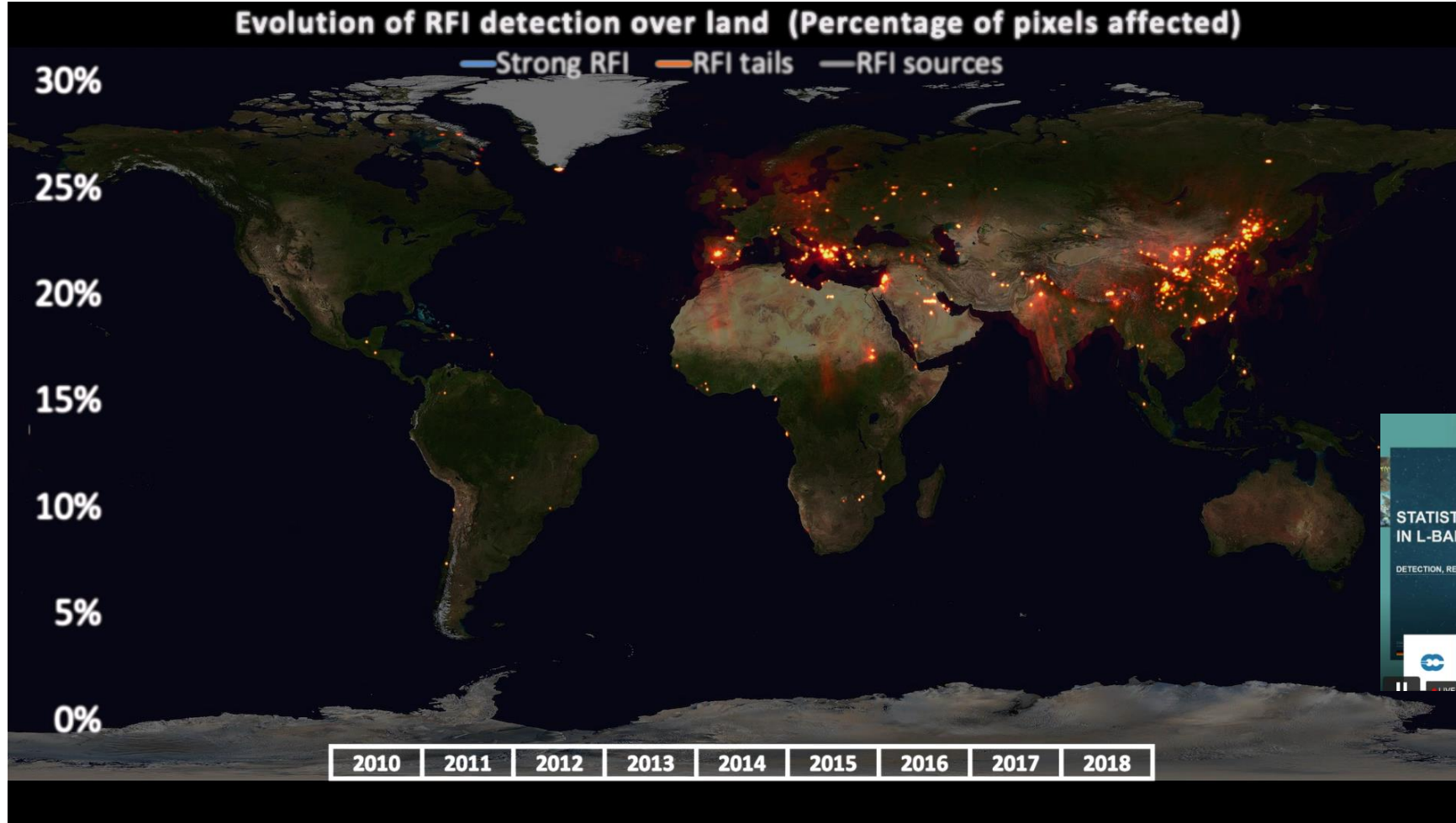
Label	Mission Priority	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
ID-080-1-1	Addressing CIMR Objectives	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL	ALL
ID-080-1-14 (MRD-250)	ITU EESS (passive) allocated band and band centre frequency (MHz)	1.4 – 1.427 1.4135	6.425–7.250 6.8375	10.6-10.7 10.65	18.6-18.8 18.7	36-37 36.5
ID-080-1-2 (MRD-240)	Channel centre frequency ¹⁴ [GHz]	1.4135	6.925	10.65	18.7	36.5
ID-080-1-3 (MRD-380)	Maximum channel bandwidth [MHz]	25	300	100	200	300
ID-080-1-4 (MRD-300)	<u>footprint size</u> [km]	<60 ¹⁶	≤15	≤15	≤5.5	<5 (goal=4)
ID-080-1-5 (MRD-420)	L1b Radiometric resolution [K] NEAT for zero mean, 1-sigma at 150 K	≤0.3	≤0.2	≤0.3	≤0.4 (goal: ≤0.3)	≤0.7
ID-080-1-6 (MRD-430)	Dynamic Range [K]	Kmin=2.7, Kmax=340				
ID-080-1-7 (MRD-440, MRD-450, MRD-460)	L1b Radiometric Total Standard Uncertainty ¹⁷ [K, zero mean, 1-sigma]	≤0.5	≤0.5 (goal ≤0.4)	≤0.5 (goal: ≤0.45)	≤0.6 (goal: ≤0.5)	≤0.8
ID-080-1-8 (MRD-560)	Polarisation	Full Stokes (see MRD-550, MRD-560, MRD-570)				
ID-080-1-9 (MRD-170)	Swath width [km]	>1900				
ID-080-1-10 (MRD-270)	Observation Zenith Angle [deg]	55.0 ±1.5				
ID-080-1-11 (MRD-470)	L1b Radiometric stability over lifetime [K, zero mean, 1-sigma]	≤0.2	≤0.2	≤0.2	≤0.2	≤0.2
ID-080-1-12 (MRD-480, MRD-490)	L1b Radiometric stability over orbit [K, zero mean, 1-sigma]	≤0.2	≤0.15 (goal=0.1)	≤0.15 (goal=0.1)	≤0.2	≤0.2
ID-090-1-13 (MRD-660)	L1b geolocation uncertainty [km]	≤1/10 of ID-080-1-4 (see MRD-660)				

The CIMR instrument remains on track to meet these performances

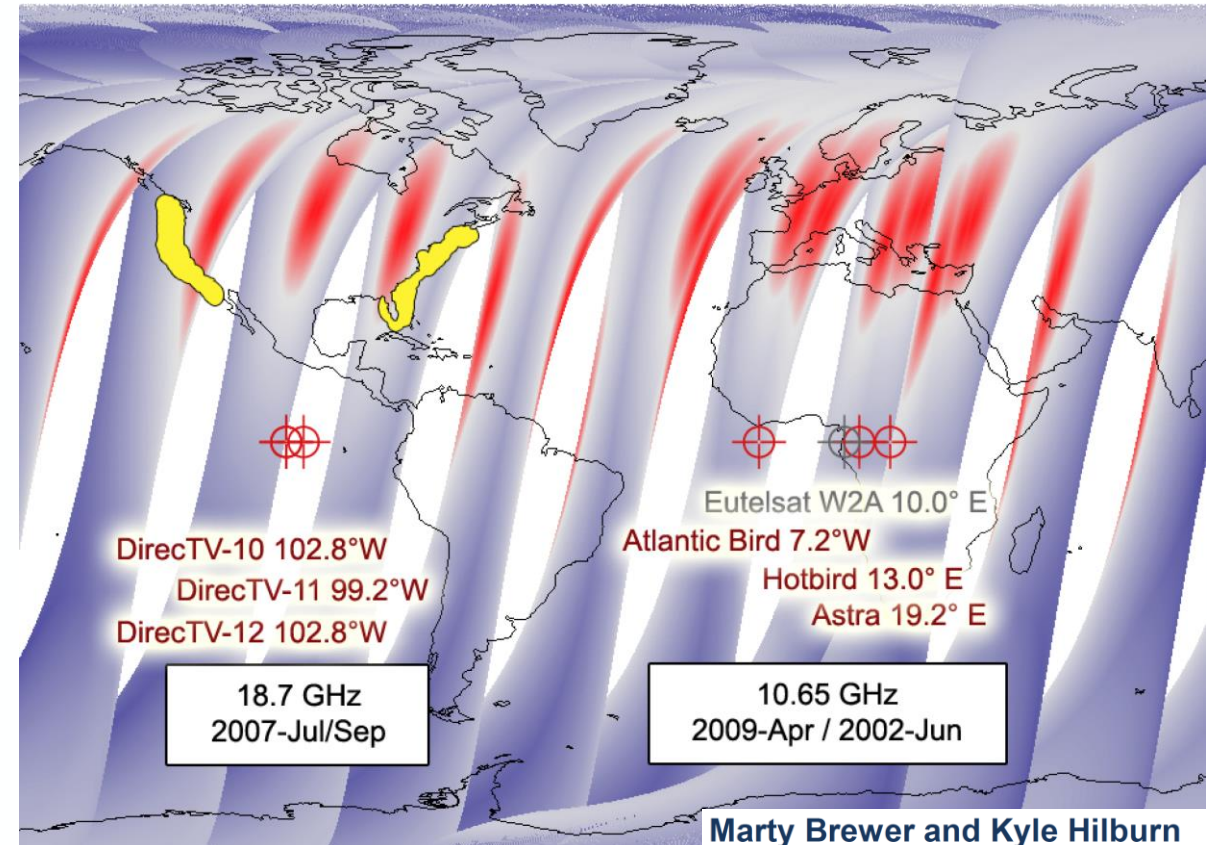
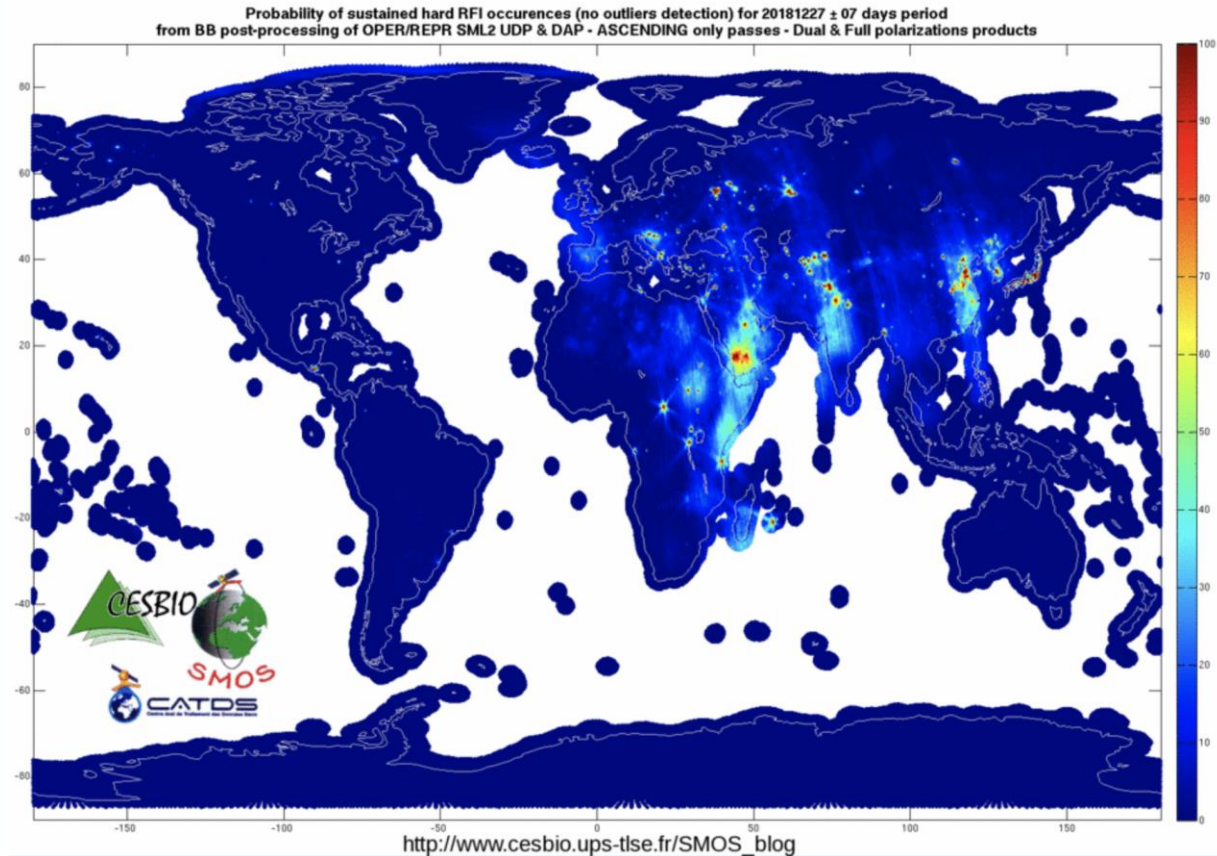
https://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/EarthObservation/CIMR-MRD-v4.0-20201006_Issued.pdf



CIMR Radio Frequency Interference



The SMOS experience has been a great lesson learned



Marty Brewer and Kyle Hilburn
Frank, Carl, Chelle, et. al.
Remote Sensing Systems
AMSR Science Team Meeting
Portland, Oregon, 2012.Sep.11-12

http://www.cesbio.ups-tlse.fr/SMOS_blog/smos_rfi/?q=image/3-latest-global-15-days-asc

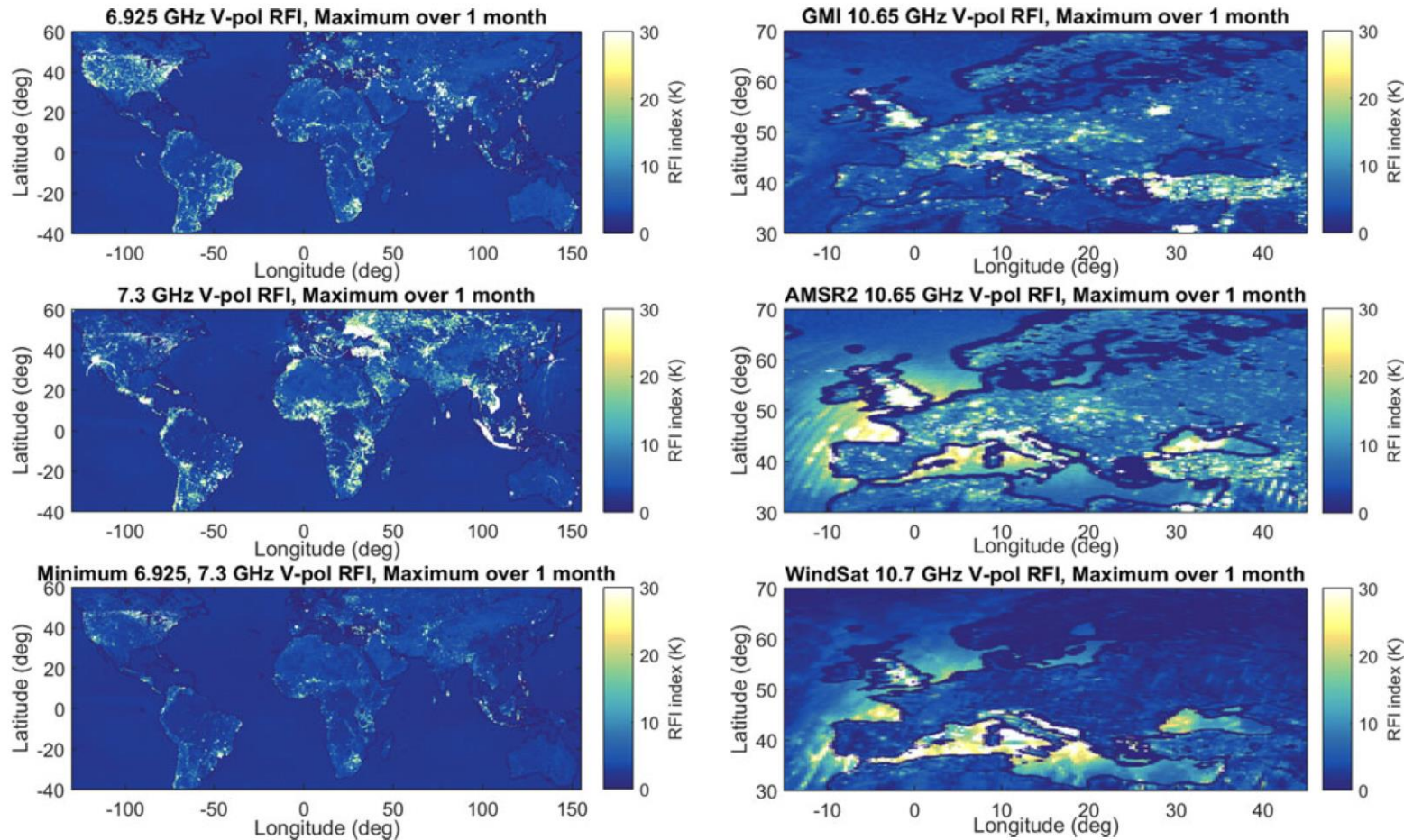


Fig. 7. RFI Mitigation effectiveness for AMSR2 the C-Band Channels. Top: Maximum RFI index over a month for the 6.925 GHz V-pol channel. Middle: Maximum RFI index over a month for the 7.3 GHz V-pol channel. Bottom: For each measurement over the month, the minimum RFI index of the two frequency bands is chosen, and the maximum result over the month is shown. AMSR2 data taken from October 2017.

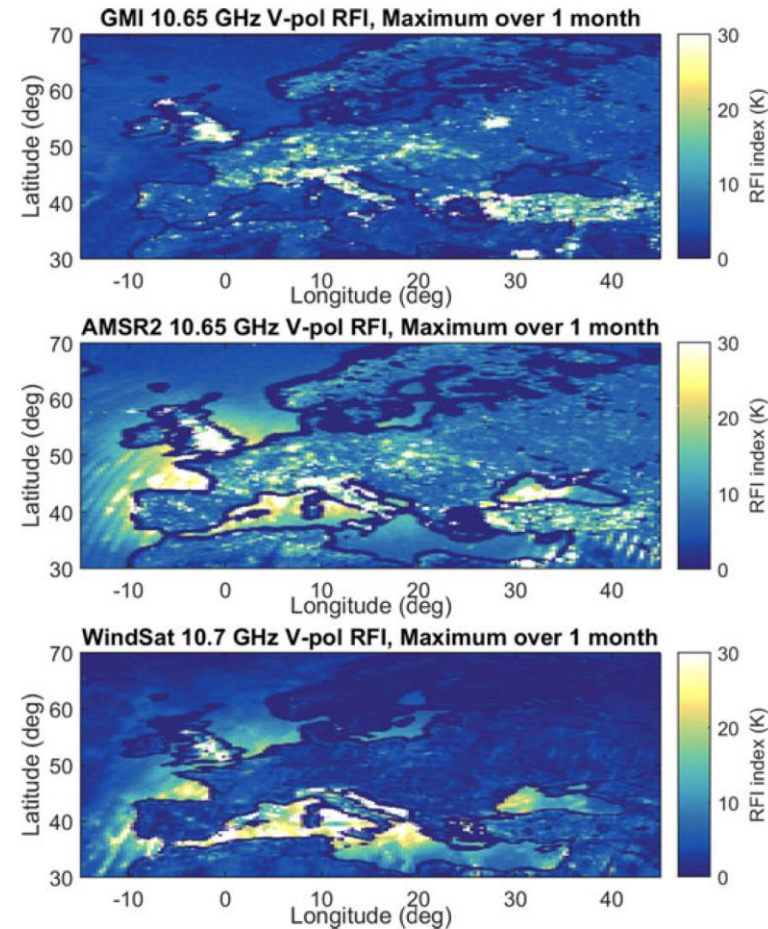



Fig. 8. 10.65–10.7 being in the protected band, GMI (top) does not exhibit reflected RFI around Europe but does pick up substantial RFI over land. AMSR2 (middle) is also in the protected band, but does see reflected RFI. WindSat (Bottom) whose bandpass is in the nonprotected satellite transmission band exhibits significant interference. GMI and AMSR2 data are taken from October 2017 and WindSat data are taken from September 2014.

- RFI is a fundamental issue for CIMR
- It must be addressed holistically if the Mission is to reach specified performance

IEEE JOURNAL OF SELECTED TOPICS IN APPLIED EARTH OBSERVATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING, VOL. 11, NO. 6, JUNE 2018 1913

Radio Frequency Environment for Earth-Observing Passive Microwave Imagers

David W. Draper , *Member, IEEE*

Drivers: Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

5G Could Interfere With Weather Satellites, Scientists Warn

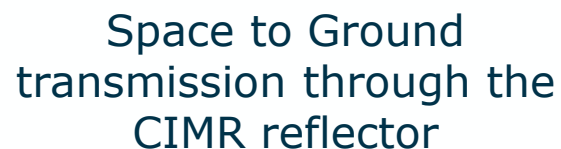
The future comes with some difficulties.

Big issue for C-band and likely X-band



RFI: ITU issues and approach

- **L-band:** Important to have a very well defined channel selectivity (bandpass and receiver) centered in the Earth Exploration Satellite Service(EESS) passive band 1400-1427 MHz (SMOS/SMAP experience show RFI from strong radars in adjacent bands).
- **C-band:** *EESS(passive) is weak and we cannot claim protection (5G issues coming?).* AMSR-xx shows significant RFI
- **X-band:** heavily used by the GEO/NGEO Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) on a primary basis and European video links (*5G issues coming?*)
- **K-band:** sharing regulatory constraints of EESS(passive) and the FSS downlinks. FSS (s-E) has allocation in the range 17.3 to 21.2 GHz, allocation to EESS(passive) falls in the middle.
- **Ka-band:** Powerful RADARS (e.g. KREM) operating in the lower adjacent band. can blind, even damage, the receiver. The FSS(downlinks) operate above 37.5 GHz and are target for development of future LEO mega-constellations.
- **Solutions:**
 1. Protect from damaging RFI
 2. Detect and mitigate using on-board processors in NRT3 Hours (Channel selectivity is important)
 3. Reprocess using on-ground data tools and techniques



RFI name	Operative frequency [MHz]	Power Level at RCA Input [dBm]	CIMR Impacted Band [MHz]
# LEO C	6875 ÷ 7075	-128	C [6775 - 7075]
# LEO D	6875 ÷ 7055	-115	
# LEO F	6875 ÷ 7075	-117	
# GSO C	10700 ÷ 10950	-167	X [10600 - 10700]
# GSO-VX	10700 ÷ 10950	-125	
# GSO F	18550 ÷ 18800	-105	
# BUSINESS VSAT	18550 ÷ 20200	-102	
# FSAT			

**Transparent mesh
at High frequencies
so we receive RFI
from behind the
reflector from other
satellites**


List shows list of satellites that are important

All RFI well attenuated
– below the levels
from ground – but still
to be considered




RFI 2022

RESEARCH FOR INNOVATION



ECMWF


EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
MEDIUM-TERM WEATHER
FORECASTS



Megaconstellations of Telecommunication Satellites and their Potential Impact on Remote Sensing

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 Joel T. Johnson⁽³⁾ and Steen Savstrup Krinstensen⁽⁴⁾**

(1) NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA
 (2) University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA
 (3) Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA
 (4) Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark




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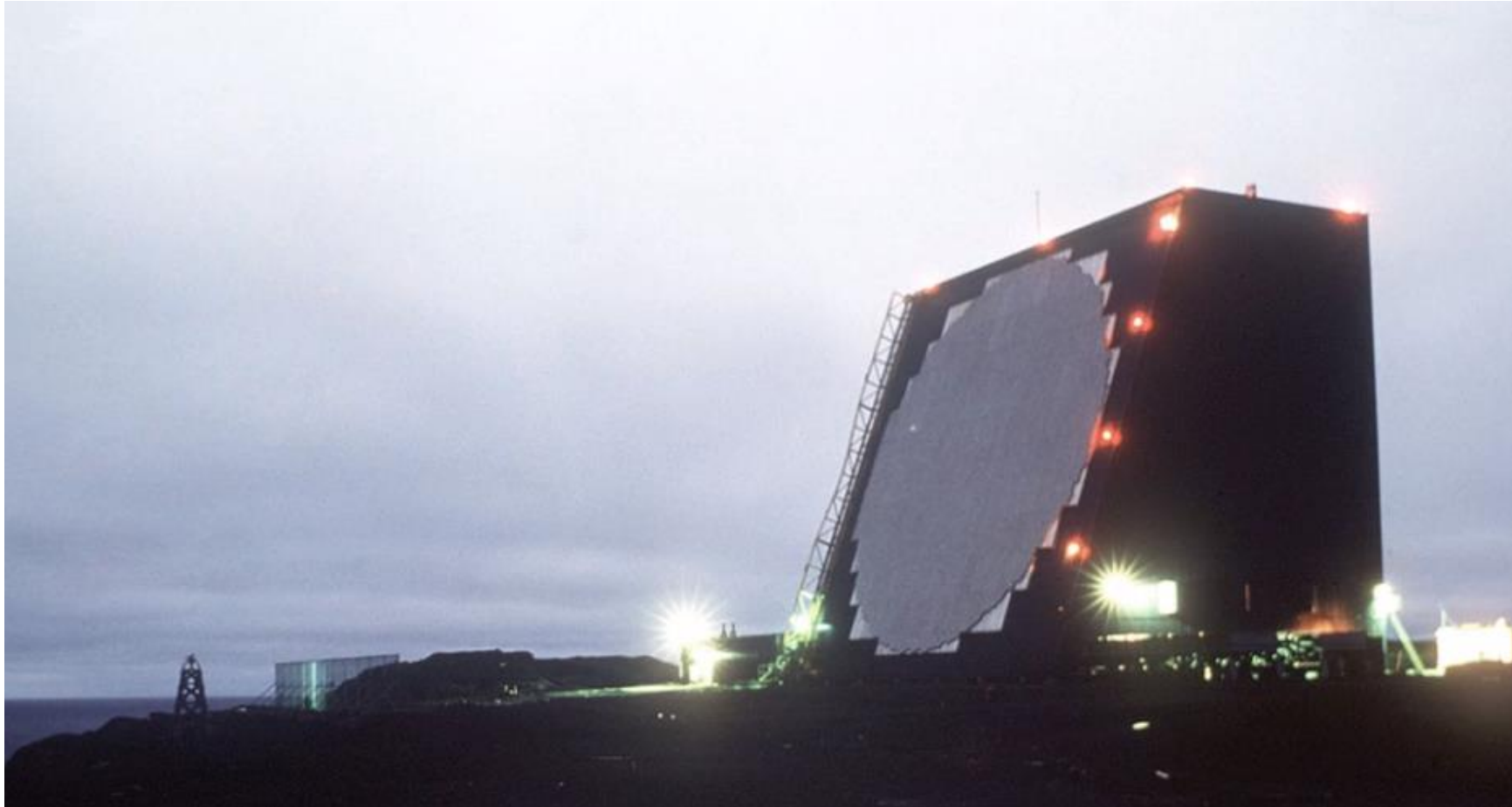
Megaconstellations of Telecommunication Satellites and their Potential Impact on Remote Sensing

RFI 2022 Workshop / 14-18 February 2022



DTU

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cobra_Dane#/media/File:Cobradane.jpg

RFI Name	CIMR Band	Frequency Range [MHz]	Frequency Distance [MHz]	Power Level at RCA Input [dBm]
SMOS RFI	L	-	In Band	-63,92
Radar A	L	1175 ÷ 1400	1	31,63
Radar A	L	-	In Band	22,7
ASR 4	L	1215 ÷ 1400	1	-6,78
FSS GES	C	5725 ÷ 7075	In Band	-64,2
Military Uplink (L)	C	5850 ÷ 6450	325	-24,02
Radar L	C	5350 ÷ 5850	925	1,23
Deep Space Station	C	7145 ÷ 7190	70	31,25
SBX	X	9000 ÷ 10000	600	26,61
Unknown (X)	X	9200 ÷ 10400	200	39,85
Haystack	X	9300 ÷ 10300	300	26,53
FSS GES	X	10700 ÷ 11700	0	-47,35
FSS GES	Ku	-	In Band	-100,31
BSS GES	Ku	17700 ÷ 18400	200	-63,53
Unknown (Ku)	Ku	17200 ÷ 17300	1300	20,67
FGAN	Ku	15900 ÷ 17500	1100	-5,43
KREMS	Ka	34000 ÷ 36000	350	25,3

- RADAR-A (Cobra Dane) **should be filtered**. This radar type may operate up to 1400MHz (edge of CIMR L-band channel), and even inside the CIMR band outside of Europe
- For the L-band channel, the operational characteristics of Radar A means that a **limiter diode** needs to be inserted in the receiver chain prior to the first amplification chain
- For C, X, K and Ka band, **filters will be employed to protect the receiver channels** from strong out of band RFI sources
- Note, C-band is TBD. A **limiter diode may be used instead/in combination with filters** in order to optimise mass/losses prior to the first amplification stage in order to optimise sensitivity of the receiver chain.
- **But...Filters add mass – and loss** so we may consider limiters as a mass saving solution (TBD)
- KREMS should be **filtered** as we have some separation

At the Receiver we can withstand ~13 dBm for L- and C-band

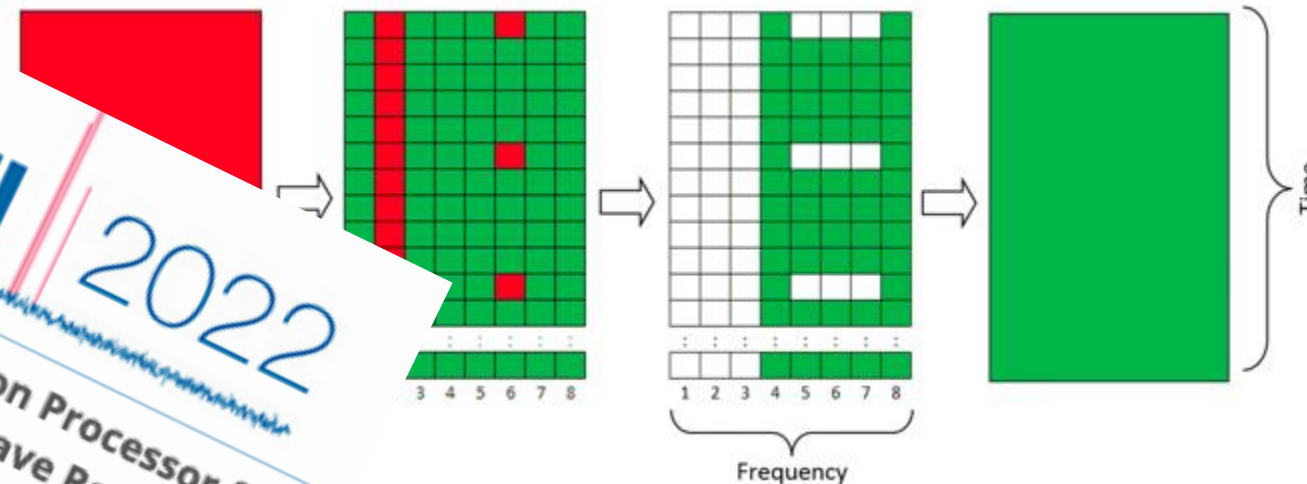
- 31

- For in-band interference, a **dedicated RFI** range of algorithms, glitch, polarization

- ## CIMR architecture design algorithms and more/new algo

- Sub-banding to allow identification and removal of RFI and reconstruction of a useful measurement: **Increase in data rate**
- Note: When RFI is mitigated by removing a sub-band **NeDT increases.**
- Additional tests using **Kurtosis requires computation of Full Stokes**

- When RFI is detected the intent is to **send as much information to ground as feasible** (limit is the throughput of our rotating between the instrument and spacecraft and X-band downlink).

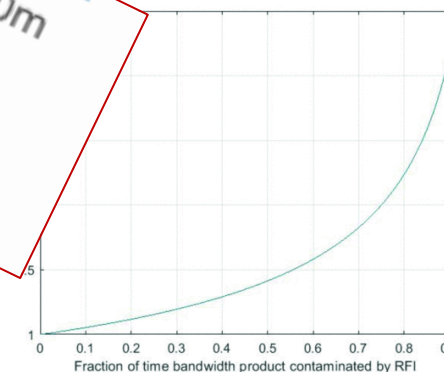


* for the Next Generation Satellite Radiometers



Savstrup Kristensen ; Sten Schmid

~~Their Application to Future~~



- **Normal mode:** Operation Mode: RFI detection and mitigation on-board using DTU approach (next talk).
 - Output: **Native original data and RFI mitigated data sent to ground + number of removed time-frequency matrix cells** as an indicator of # sub-bands removed
 - But don't know which ones have been mitigated so we have challenges to reconstruct NeDT
- **Diagnostic mode:** initiated by T/C (configurable for 1 feed horn of one frequency both H&V):
 - **Continuously** send_full_RFI_time_frequency_matrix_to_ground
 - Limited data take at this time...
- **On-Event Mode (OEM):** initiated by T/C (configurable for 1 feed horn of one frequency, both H&V):
 - IF (RFI) THEN
send_full_RFI_time_frequency_matrix_to_ground

CIMR Band	L	C	X	Ku	Ka
Accumulation Time [ms]	0,545	0,7	0,685	0,504	0,736
Rate [Hz]	1835	1429	1460	1984	1359
#Sub-Bands	18	215	72	143	215
#Time Bin	20	4	4	2	1
#Feed	1	4	4	8	8
#Parameters	6	6	6	6	6
Feed Id [bits]	8	8	8	8	8
Parameters Data Size [bits]	16	16	16	16	16
T-F bin Id [bits]	16		16	16	16
Spare [bits]	16	16	16	16	16
Single Feed Data Rate [Mbps]	3,96	36,87	12,61	34,06	35,06
Band Data Rate [Mbps]	3,96	147,47	50,46	272,50	280,50
Total Data Rate [Mbps]	754,89				

Data rate is obtained from Time-Frequency Matrix division:
 Accumulation time: time length of a time bin
 #Sub-bands: number of sub-bands of in a Band
 Transferred data must include also Kurtosis parameter (KH, KV)

Final configuration and data type/flags/quantities (TBC) all being studied now in Phase B2.

Ideal scenario is On Event Mode

- The On-Event Mode could be triggered **by the detection of an RFI in flight** (assumes well calibrated algorithms):
 - When RFI is detected, all sub-bands related to the relevant time bin are downloaded;
 - We have data to **reconstruct NeDT** securely;
 - We can **monitor the evolution of RFI**
 - We can **decide if/when to update on-board RFI algorithm parameters** (changing RFI environment) based on data;
 - We have **evidence of RFI for Regulatory compliance** tasks
 - We can **reprocess data on ground** using updated RFI processing algorithms
- Currently studying how to optimize transfer of data across the CIMR rotating joint further
 - In principle, the RFI Event can involve more than one Time Bin – **how likely is this in general across all channels?**
 - We have data rate limitations across the CIMR rotating joint...

The number of 'events' that can be handled assuming that only 1 feed of 1 band is involved in the detection with current data rates

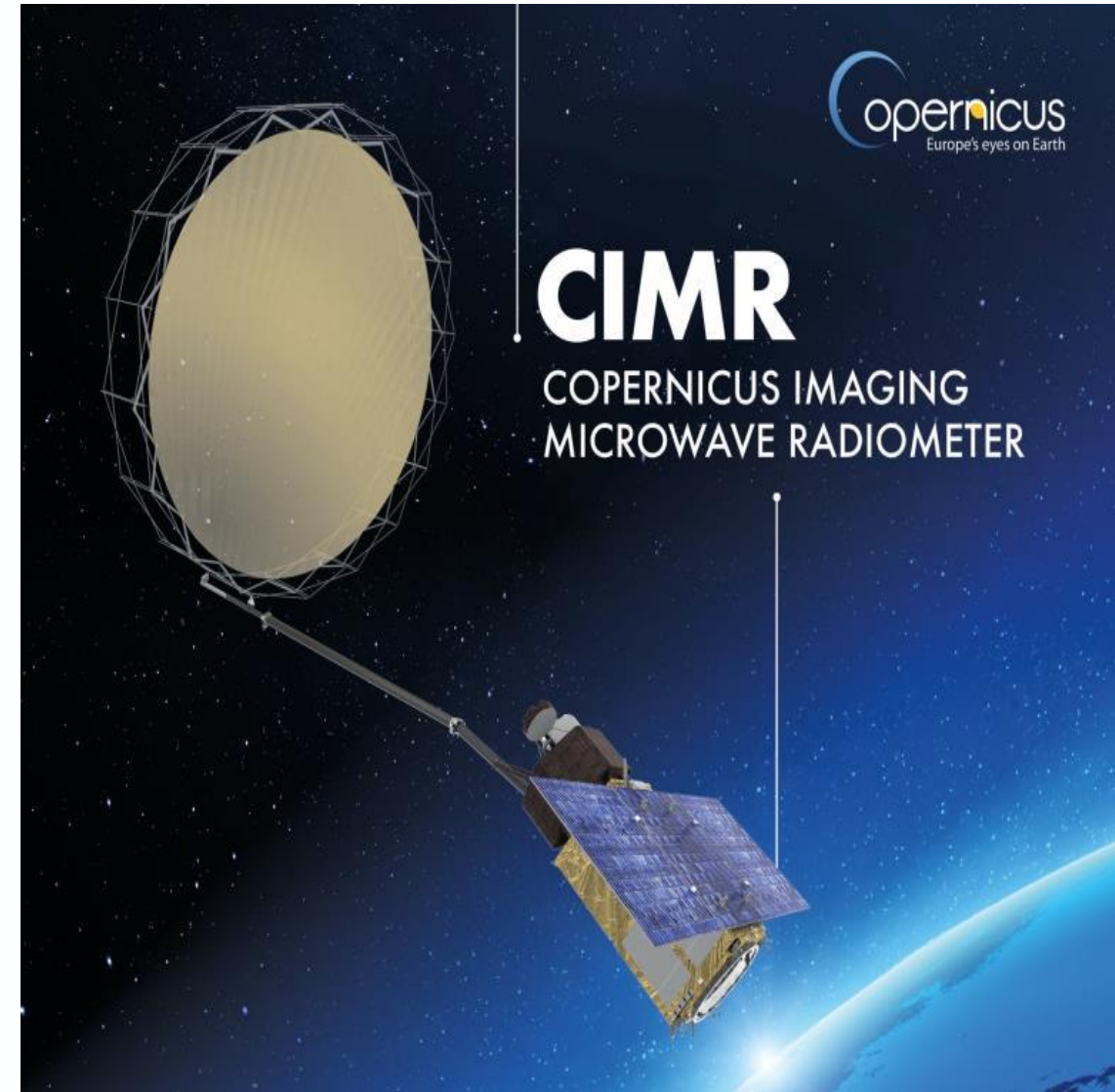
CIMR Band	Single Feed Data Size [kbit]	Maximum No of events per band per second
L	1,73	6019
C	20,64	504
X	6,91	1505
Ku	13,73	758
Ka	20,64	504

Scientific Data computed from on-board processors includes four measurements in all time-frequency matrix bins:

- PH, Power of H channel;
- PV, Power of V channel;
- P3, 3rd Stokes parameter;
- P4, 4th Stokes parameter;

Launch of CIMR-A in 2028+ (CIMR-B few years later)

We are addressing RFI issues as a core design element





Thank you
Any Questions?

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