

EC telecon - 2013-11-01

Participants: Matt Pritchard, David Schmidt, Shimon Wdowinski, Franz Meyer, Paul Vincent, Eric Fielding, Scott Baker, Christopher Crosby, Chuck Meertens.

Minutes by Shimon Wdowinski, edited by Matt Pritchard

Called to order at 11:05 pm EDT

0) Review of action items from last meeting (/9/27/2013) Most issues have been addressed, but a few are still outstanding:

Matt: Contact Chris Wauthier about her TSX tasking request

Franz: Contact ASF working group to see if WInSAR can help them draft a white paper to increase access to RSAT data

1) Update from Shimon from the ASAR meeting about access to foreign space agency data, with help from Franz and Eric.

ALOS-2 – Scheduled to be launched before 4/1/14. Next PI meeting will take place 18 months afterward, ~10/2015. Data will be available for science (20,000 per year) will be distributed to ~400 PIs. Each PI will be allocated 50 scenes per year. There will be most likely a possibility to form PI groups to collect and share a larger pool of data.

TSX – The next mission will be TSX-NG (Next Generation), which will use a new digital technology – WSHR (Wide Swath High Resolution). However, funding for the mission is still not secure.

CSK – A new call for data proposal should be announced toward the end of the year.

Sentinel-1 – Scheduled to be launched between March and May 2014. After 6 months of cal/val period, data will be available for all but only on ESA's cloud. Eric indicated that Craig Dobson of NASA is negotiating with ESA to have a parallel Sentinel-1 archive in the US. Acquisition will be in TOPS mode, which is still problematic for interferometry. However, ESA people are working to find a solution for that.

PAZ – A Spanish satellite, identical to TSX that its launch is scheduled to 2014. It will have the same orbit as TSX. A portion of the data will be allocated for scientific projects. It is not clear when a call for proposals will be announced.

2) Planning for the Annual WinSAR business meeting (see proposed agenda below, which is revised based on the discussions of the WInSAR EC). We discussed who on the EC and from UNAVCO was likely to attend the lunch (Franz, David, Paul, Chris, Scott and Chuck) and the various reports that should be given to the membership. It was noted that since there is a limited time for presentations (there is less than 1 hour because food

needs to be distributed at the beginning and we need to end promptly at 1:30 as sessions restart at 1:40), so we should ask people if they could send David a few slides to present instead of having multiple speakers. Instead of giving full blown demonstrations, we could encourage folks to visit the UNAVCO and ASF booths to learn more about SSARA, etc. – maybe even Scott could have “office hours” at the booth when he would give a demonstration?

Proposed Agenda for annual WInSAR business meeting
(Dec. 11, 12:30-1:30 -- Marriott Salons 5-6, confirmed)

1. Introduction and welcome

David Schmidt (on behalf of Chair Matt Pritchard who can't attend)

WInSAR activities in 2013
updates on data access to foreign satellites,
ASF update (or separate presentation?)
NI-SAR update (or separate presentation?)
supersites update (or separate presentation?) – there is supposed to be a separate supersites meeting at AGU
ISCE processing software (or separate presentation?)

2. Update on Funding and data availability from UNAVCO
Chris Crosby

3. Demonstration of SSARA, new TSX data portal or other tools
(very brief, point people to UNAVCO booth)
Scott Baker

4. Discussion of new opportunities for WInSAR. Key topics:

Should WInSAR make MERIS Full Resolution data available? Someone from UNAVCO will help address the pro's and con's.

Potential partnership between WInSAR and NGA

Ways to increase access to foreign data

Proposals for funding WInSAR activities – what do we need?

3) Should WInSAR make MERIS Full Resolution data available? MERIS data is very useful for removing atmospheric noise. But it is our understanding that users can only download from ESA using quotas from their approved Category 1 projects. If the PI's provided their MERIS products to UNAVCO, this would be less of a drain on resources. MERIS was not included in Eric's OSCAR project. What is the demand for the MERIS products among the membership – ask them at the business meeting. How many resources would it require to make MERIS available at UNAVCO? What opportunities would we give up by devoting resources to this? Chris and/or Scott will look into these questions to present at the WInSAR business meeting.

4) Management of TSX-data for non-WInSAR PI's as part of supersites. Chuck is asking NASA for permission to use ACCESS grant funds for this task – he will update on the status of his request.

5) update on partnership with NGA. We ran out of time to discuss this in detail, but UNAVCO says that there are no potential red flags and so we can continue to pursue this. We will bring up the topic for discussion at the business meeting.

6) proposal writing plan for 2014. Brief history of WInSAR funding. The currently UNAVCO funding (GAGE proposal funded by NSF until 2018) includes some funds to support WInSAR activities – about 1 FTE/year, but no funds to purchase data. The GAGE proposal does not include any NASA funds for SAR activities at UNAVCO. Many years ago, NSF, NASA and USGS all put in \$50k per year for UNAVCO SAR activities. Then, there was an NSF and NASA funded Earthscope proposal that has almost expired that funded SAR data collection and infrastructure. There was also a proposal (about \$50k) to fund supersites activities. The SSARA proposal (funded by the NASA ACCESS proposal that is almost expired involves ASF, JPL and UNAVCO). Thus, it is time to assess the funding needs for WInSAR and supersites (beyond the continuing but limited funding from GAGE) and develop a 3 year plan to address those needs. How will the WInSAR community continue to access data for foreign space agencies? UNAVCO has developed good working relationships with the foreign space agencies in Europe and it would be unfortunate to lose these connections and momentum. Plans for use of Sentinel data are developing, but what about the other satellites? Where will additional proposals be submitted and to what agencies? Should/could continued funding for OSCAR be part of these future proposals? These questions should be discussed at the WInSAR business meeting, and no resolution was reached during the telecon.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm

Action items:

Chris and/or Scott: Prepare answers to the following questions for the WInSAR business meeting: How many resources would it require to make MERIS available at UNAVCO? What opportunities would we give up by devoting resources to this?

Matt:

- 1) Contact Chris Wauthier about her TSX tasking request
- 2) With Franz, David, Paul, continue discussions with NGA about partnership
- 3) Contact potential speakers at the WInSAR business meeting if they need time to talk or could send slides for David to present: Craig Dobson, Paul Rosen, Scott Arko, David Sandwell, Falk Amelung
- 4) Arrange telecon with Chuck, Craig Dobson, and others to prepare for discussion of future proposals at the WInSAR business meeting.

Eric (or someone else?) could you send full resolution MERIS data to Scott so he can better understand the data format?

Franz: Contact ASF working group to see if WInSAR can help them draft a white paper to increase access to RSAT data