

Summary - The PolarDARN Radar for Clyde River

A large international group of scientists have united to use radars to study high-altitude weather ("space weather") and its effects upon satellites, astronauts and humans in space, as well as upon the low-altitude weather and normal human activity at the ground. This international project is known as SuperDARN (Super Dual Auroral Radar Network), with funding and/or participation from 10 countries (Canada, USA, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Japan, Australia, South Africa, China, and Russia). The consortium has constructed 25 radars, 15 in the northern hemisphere (more are planned in the near future) and 10 in the southern hemisphere (including five in Antarctica).

Most of the SuperDARN radars are located so as to examine the "auroral zone" (the zone of bright northern or southern lights). There was, however, a gap in the coverage over regions near the poles. The north magnetic pole lies near Eureka, Nunavut. To view the entire "north polar cap" region centered around this pole, two new SuperDARN radars (the "PolarDARN" radars) were installed, one at Inuvik and one at Rankin Inlet. These radars are operated by a Canadian team (led by Drs. Kathryn McWilliams and Jean-Pierre St.Maurice) with headquarters in the University of Saskatchewan's Institute of Space and Atmospheric Studies (ISAS).

The SuperDARN radars measure the high-altitude "space weather" maps (which are voltage maps, because at high altitudes, the winds are motions of electrically charged particles, and these electrically charged particles are driven into motion by high and low voltage systems, whereas near the Earth the neutral particles in the atmosphere are driven by high and low pressure systems). The voltage maps are available on the internet (<http://superdarn.jhuapl.edu/>) with only a few minutes delay. Satellites fly in this high altitude weather. Satellites are extremely important to the north because they transmit most communications signals (telephone, TV, internet, navigation). There are about 800 satellites involved in telecommunications of various types (e.g. most international banking is done using satellite links), amounting to an investment of about \$160 billion (each satellite is about \$200 million). Recently, scientists have found an increasing number of connections between high-altitude "space weather" and low-altitude normal "meteorological" weather. The PolarDARN observations will help greatly in reaching and understanding of such connections.

The PolarDARN and SuperDARN radars measure that part of the Sun's energy that flows to the Earth in the solar wind. Because the solar wind is connected directly along the nearly vertical "open" magnetic field lines to the polar regions, these are very important regions to study for an understanding of the input of energy from the solar wind to the Earth. We are very fortunate that the NWT and Nunavut provide much easier access to the northern polar regions than Antarctica provides to the south polar regions. The Clyde River, Inuvik and Rankin Inlet PolarDARN radars will be the only northern hemisphere SuperDARN radars to look primarily into the high-latitude "polar cap" region, which is a special region around the Earth's magnetic pole, located near Eureka. These radars will also provide strong support for the National Science Foundation \$45 M AMISR (Advanced Modular Incoherent Scatter Radar) project, which has seen US radars built both at Poker Flat, Alaska, and at Resolute Bay, Nunavut. In 2012 an Canadian-led radar will be constructed at Resolute Bay. These ISRs (Incoherent Scatter Radars) are \$22.5 M radars that are capable of very sensitive measurements of many properties of the ionosphere. The Canadian radar at Resolute Bay is known as RISR-C, and it will be strongly supported by the PolarDARN measurements.

In addition, to the ground-based radars, several upcoming satellite missions, namely ePOP and SWARM will involve close cooperation with the SuperDARN/PolarDARN radars, which are part of the large ground-based Canadian instrument network known as the Canadian Geospace Monitoring (CGSM) Network. CGSM involves three government agencies (Canadian Space Agency, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Geomagnetism Division, and the Dominion Radio Astronomical Observatory in Penticton), plus five university teams at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Alberta, Calgary, Western Ontario, and New Brunswick.

On the international side, the entire SuperDARN community will be involved, because there is a SuperDARN Principal Investigator's agreement that all SuperDARN data are shared. In fact, the

University of Saskatchewan is home to the SuperDARN data Copy and Distribution Facility, which distributes the DVDs of all SuperDARN data to the entire SuperDARN community. Without listing individual scientists, there are SuperDARN teams at the national Institute for Polar Research (Japan), NICT (Japan), University of Alaska Fairbanks (USA), Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (USA), University of Leicester (UK), Virginia Tech (USA), British Antarctic Survey (UK), CNRS Laboratoire pour Physique et Chimie de l'Environnement (France), University of Kwazulu-Natal (South Africa), Italian Space Research Institute (Italy), LaTrobe University (Australia), the Finnish Meteorological Institute (Finland), the Polar Research Institute of China (China), and the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia).

