



Coordinated Incoherent Scatter Radar operations to advance STP System Science

Tony van Eyken (1), Craig Heinselman (1), Esa Turunen (2), and Ingemar Häggström (2)

(1) SRI International, Menlo Park CA 94025, USA, (2) EISCAT Scientific Association, Kiruna, Sweden

A careful development of operational procedures allowing extended operations by multiple incoherent scatter radars culminated in an unprecedented year-long operation during the IPY with continuous observations by the EISCAT Svalbard Radar (ESR) and the Poker Flat Incoherent Scatter Radar (PFISR) and significant further observations by three other facilities. In the light of extensive plans for future instrumentation and collaborations, and using illustrations drawn from the IPY experience, we will discuss the observational requirements for future extended collaborations (including the expected next solar maximum), the roles and locations of instruments, and the data distribution challenges presented by such data sets.