

# Update on the Activities of the IEEE GRSS Frequency Allocations in Remote Sensing (FARS) Technical Committee



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#### **Mission**

The Frequency allocations in Remote Sensing Technical Committee goal is to interface between GRSS and the radio-frequency regulatory world by

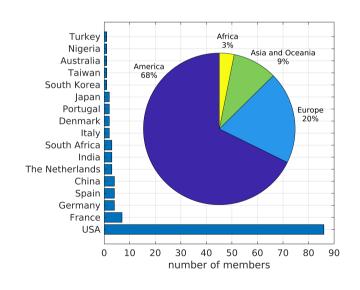
- educating the remote sensing community on spectrum management processes and issues
- promoting the development of radio frequency interference detection and mitigation technology
- organizing technical sessions at conferences, workshops, etc. on the above processes, issues and technologies
- providing spectrum managers and regulators with technical input and perspective from remote sensing scientists and engineers
- fostering the exchange of information between researchers in different fields, such as remote sensing, radio astronomy, telecommunications, etc., with the common scope of minimizing harmful interference between systems

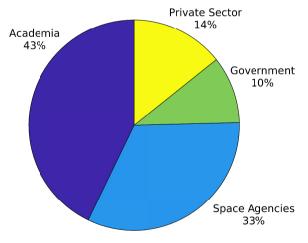


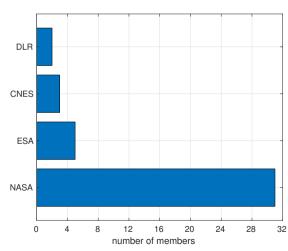


# **Membership**

- 130 members from 17 countries
- majority is from USA, working in academic institutions and space agencies
- more involvement needed from Asia
- more members from less represented space agencies sought





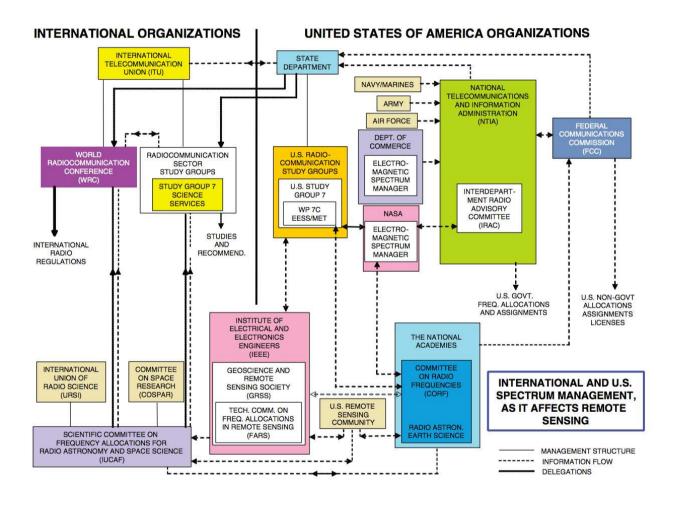








# **FARS-TC** and Other Organizations



Source: Handbook of Frequency Allocations and Spectrum Protection for Scientific Uses, National Academies Press, 2007.





# **Types of FARS Technical Committee Activities**

- academic/educational
  - giving presentations and/or planning technical session at scientific conferences writing technical papers to educate the remote sensing community about spectrum management and RFI issues
  - writing technical papers to educate the remote sensing community about spectrum management and RFI issues
  - organizing conferences, tutorials, etc.
- participation in spectrum management meetings
- interaction with space agencies to report interference and related issues







#### **IGARSS 2019**

- the International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) is the main annual GRSS conference
- the 2019 edition will be held in Yokohama (Japan), from July 28 to August 2, 2019
- FARS-TC has organized:
  - three technical oral session and a poster session on interference and RFI detection techniques in both passive and active sensors
  - a tutorial on spectrum management RFI detection and mitigation in microwave remote sensing
- the FARS-TC annual membership meeting is held during IGARSS



http://www.igarss2019.org







# RFI 2019 Workshop

- follow-on to a successful RFI 2016 Workshop held in Socorro, NM
- cooperation between remote sensing and radio astronomy community
- opportunity for scientists and engineers affected by RFI to meet, report and discuss recent achievements and developments in instrumentation, methodology and applications to tackle this problem
- RFI 2019 will take place in Toulouse, France on September 23-26, 2019

http://www.rfi2019.org









# **FARS TC Chapter in China**

- creation of new chapter that will act as a liaison between the main FARS TC leadership and the Chinese technical/scientific community
  - widespread RFI observed over China and the large number of new remote sensing instruments planned by China in the near future provide good motivation
  - goal is to raise awareness of RFI and spectrum management issues within the local scientific community and enabling it to more effectively initiate change from within China itself
  - inauguration planned for August 2019 with a one-day seminar with lectures on various RFI and spectrum management issues with particular attention to the local national situation







# International Spectrum Management Role of FARS-TC

- GRSS is an international society
- as a result, FARS-TC is in the unique position of representing only the remote sensing community without having to compromise its position with other interests
- FARS-TC spectrum management focus is more on international involvement:
  - ITU-R Study Groups
    - GRSS can participate under IEEE
    - as society of IEEE GRSS/FARS-TC has started attending meetings in Geneva in 2018
  - Space Frequency Coordination Group
    - IEEE GRSS is an observer, as society of IEEE
    - number of contributions have been increasing over the years
    - FARS-TC will attend SFCG-38 in Berlin, Germany, in July 2019







#### **Other Recent Presentations**

- CSSMA-SFCG Workshop
  - in Washington, DC, on May 10, 2019
  - hosted by the Commercial Smallsat Spectrum Management Association (CSSMA)
  - focus on coordination and interaction between CSSMA and SFCG included speakers from the Space Frequency Coordination Group (SFCG) and a presentation from IEEE GRSS
- National Spectrum Management Association (NSMA)
   Annual Conference
  - in Arlington, VA, on May 14-15, 2019
  - FARS-TC was invited to make a presentation

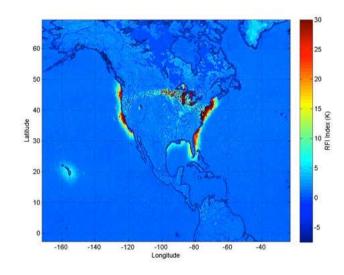






# **ITU-R Study Groups Contributions**

- contributions have focused on interference issues at 18.6-18.8 GHz
- WP7C May 2018: document is on WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.5 (Earth Stations in Motion)
- WP4A July 2018: contribution on draft CPM text for Agenda Item 1.5
- WP7C September 2018: modifications to draft report on "Analysis of reflected RFI caused to EESS (passive) in the 18.6-18.8 GHz band"
- WP3J/M May 2019: contribution on Model for reflections from water surfaces in the 18.6-18.8 GHz band
- WP7C May 2019: further modification to draft report on RFI caused by reflections in the 18.6-18.8 GHz band"









# **RFI Observations and Frequency Allocations Tools**

#### Motivation:

- to increase awareness for the increasingly tight regulations for remote sensing bands and allowable interference levels, along with the actual interference observed in those bands
- to pinpoint regulation enforcement for different regions and countries and allow a free exchange of information between remote sensing scientists and engineers regarding potential interference hazards
- to be used by a community broader than IEEE GRSS
- to aid local authorities in mitigation of non-primary interfering sources globally







# **RFI Observations and Frequency Allocations Tools**

- The online interface currently under development includes two distinct tools:
  - a searchable database of interference observed by some remote sensing instruments
  - a display system for frequency allocations, with particular focus on remote sensing (EESS) bands
- hosted on the GRSS website at
  - http://www.grss-ieee.org/fars-tools/

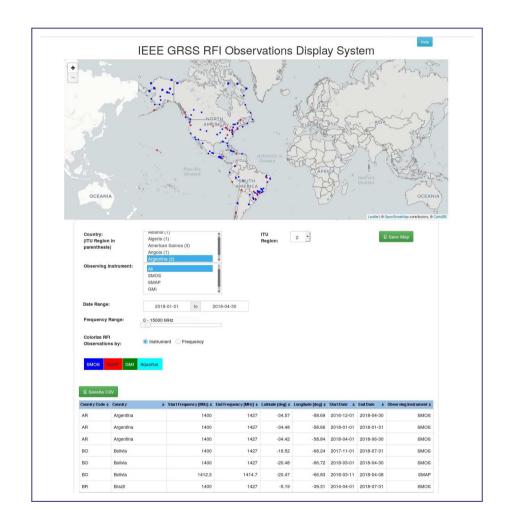






#### **Database of RFI Observations**

- online repository of RFI observations by remote sensing instruments
- RFI data can be selected by:
  - observing sensor
  - country or ITU region
  - frequency
  - time range
- RFI locations are shown on a map and listed in a table
- currently contains SMOS and SMAP data, GMI RFI coming soon
- available on the GRSS website at http://www.grssieee.org/rfi\_observations.htm

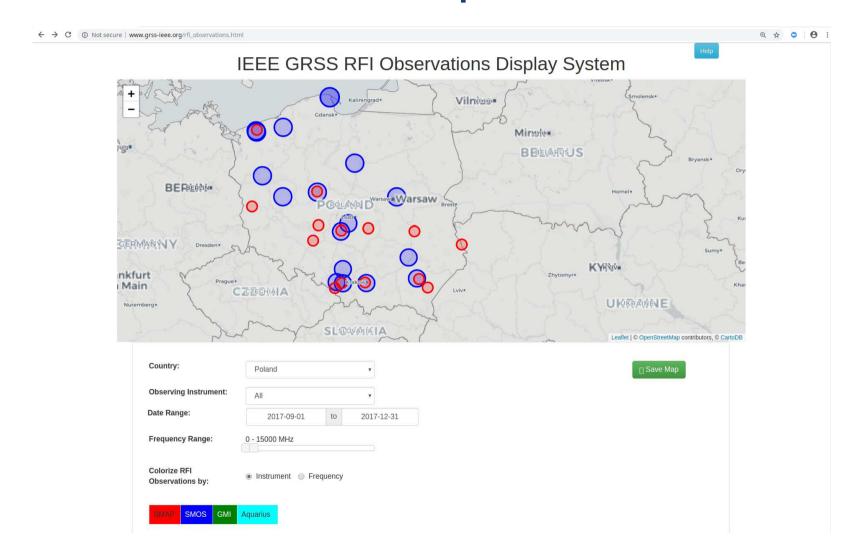








# **RFI Observations: Graphic User Interface**



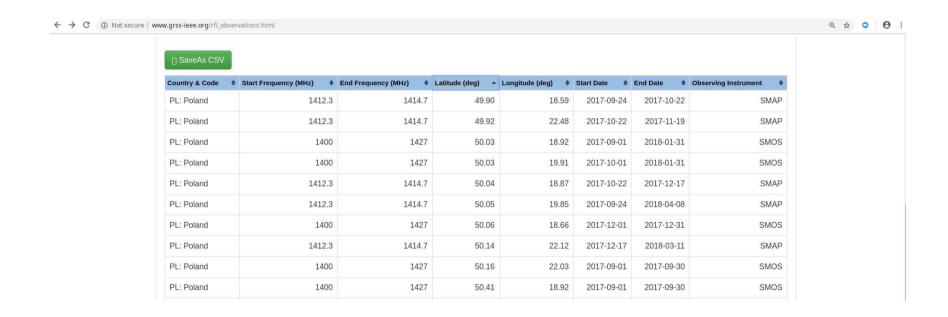






#### **RFI Observations: List of Locations**

- table can be ordered by column content
- list can be saved as a CSV file



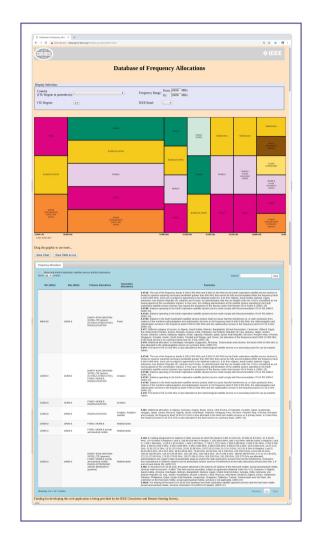






# **Frequency Allocations Tool**

- displays and lists frequency allocations from the Radio Regulations
- selection is possible by:
  - ITU region
  - frequency range
- footnotes are also included
- option to see only EESS band with adjacent allocations
- available on the GRSS website at http://www.grss-ieee.org/frequency\_allocations.htm



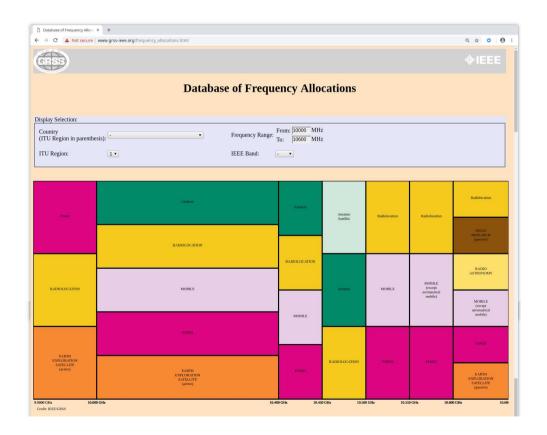






# **Frequency Allocations Chart**

- new graphical display for allocation bands
- chart can be saved as an image file

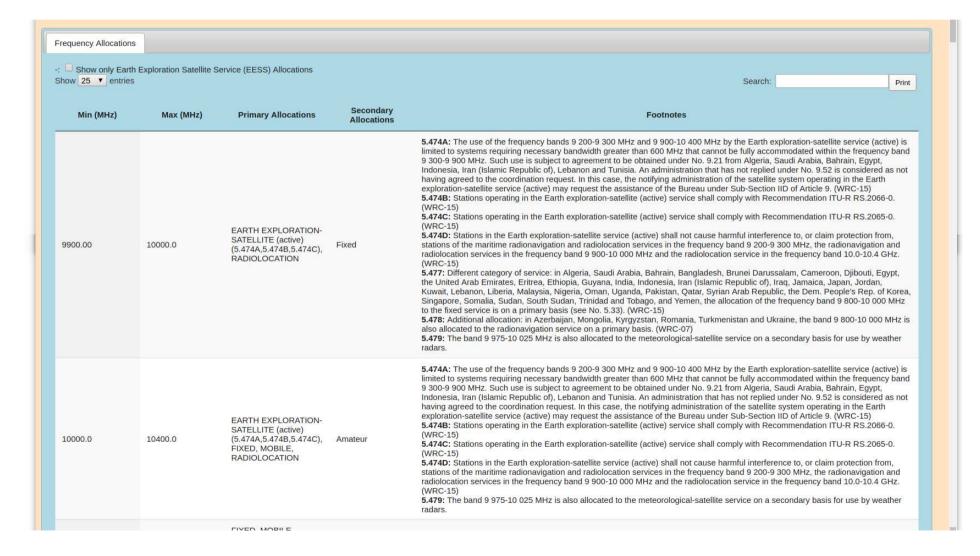








# **Frequency Allocations Table View**









# Frequency Allocations for EESS

 option to show only EESS bands with information on allocation of neighboring bands

