

EUFAR MANAGEMENT

Launch of EUFAR2

EUFAR2 finally kicked off on 1 February 2014, following the signing of the grant agreement in December 2013. Covering the period 2014 - 2018, EUFAR2 is funded by the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme and has a budget of €6m. The EUFAR2 consortium consists of 24 European partner institutions originating from 11 countries, including 12 aircraft operators offering transnational access to 18 instrumented aircraft and 3 remote sensing instruments. Coordination of this project is shared between Météo-France which will continue to coordinate the administrative and management aspects of the project, and the Met Office, which is responsible for the scientific coordination.

New Administrative Assistant

Lilian Diarra, the new administrative assistant was recruited at the end of March 2014 to provide administrative and project management support to the EUFAR Office, and logistical support to the networking activities within the current contract.



EUFAR
Office Team
Météo-France
Toulouse

EUFAR2 Kick-off Meeting

24 - 27 March 2014, Brussels

The EUFAR2 kick-off meeting marked the official launch of the EUFAR2 project, and served to discuss the project's implementation plan for the period 2014 - 2018. The meeting consisted of the General Assembly, Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) and Joint Research Activities 1 & 2 sessions. 40 participants (3 via web-conference) attended the various meeting sessions, representing the 24 EUFAR2 partners and including the EC project officer, invited guests from NASA, and members of the SAC. A special thanks goes out to VITO for organising the logistics of the meeting and to BELSPO for providing the meeting venue.



Photo from the EUFAR2 kick-off meeting
March 2014, Brussels

EUFAR2 Consortium Agreement

The EUFAR2 Consortium Agreement has been in debate for some time now and the last meeting held to resolve outstanding issues, with participation of only objecting partners, took place on 27 August 2014 via web-conference. The revised version of the consortium agreement has been distributed to all 24 partners and hopefully will be agreed on and finalised by October.



TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS (TA) COORDINATION

Since the start of the new contract in February 2014, the open Calls for Transnational Access (TA) Proposals on the EUFAR website have been updated. 10 TA applications have been received in response to the first set of TA Calls for Proposals that relate to hyperspectral imaging applications and the use of small, lightweight aircraft. 9 applications are currently under evaluation and one remains in the pre-review stage. Although the review process has taken longer than expected, 5 independent experts have accepted our invitation to constitute the User Group Selection Panel (UGSP) for hyperspectral and related surface imaging activities and will meet in September to make the final selection. As TA proposals are now being submitted in response to specific Calls for Proposals in related subject areas, it is possible to have different UGSP members for each Call. This will ensure that each UGSP meeting has the correct expertise to effectively assess and prioritise each proposal received.

A second Call for hyperspectral imaging activities has been advertised, along with a broad-ranging Call for in-situ atmospheric measurement topics. The latter also invites applications to use the available polar aircraft. These Calls close at the end of September so there is still an opportunity to submit further proposals to these Calls! We anticipate that if reviews can be obtained promptly a UGSP may be arranged in early 2015. This should allow successful projects to organise flight activities from mid-2015 onwards. Two proposals have already been received in response to the in-situ measurement Call, both of which make good use of the opportunity to cluster projects with existing planned campaigns of their requested aircraft operators.



To purchase the book online, click [here](#).

EDUCATION & TRAINING

EUFAR is currently accepting proposals to host a 1-week to 10-day EUFAR training course (theory and practice) in airborne research with TA flight hours in 2015 until the end of September 2014. Once the proposal to host a EUFAR training course has been approved by the UGSP (in early 2015), it will be announced on the EUFAR website and opened for online applications, targeting both early-stage researchers and university lecturers.

Other EUFAR training opportunities (Join an Existing Campaign, Participate in the Design of a New Flight Campaign and Visit an Aircraft/Instrument Operator) are continuously open for online application on the EUFAR website.

EXPERT WORKING GROUPS (EWG)

New Expert Working Groups

Following the first EWG meeting that was held in July this year via web-conference, it was agreed that there would be a reconfiguration of the expert working groups. Previously 20, the expert working groups will be reduced to 13 in order to be more in line with the expertise demonstrated in the EUFAR handbook, take account of past levels of activity and facilitate easier management. The new working groups with their corresponding leaders will be announced shortly.

The EWG activity will also be a central focus for EUFAR involvement in a second International Conference on Airborne Research for the Environment (ICARE). The venue for ICARE-2 will be agreed with collaborators in the US research aircraft community in November. Look out for announcements on the EUFAR website.

EUFAR Handbook

The EUFAR Handbook on Airborne Measurements for Environmental Research edited by Manfred Wendisch and Jean-Louis Brenguier can be purchased on the Wiley Online Library. With 9 chapters, 641 pages and contributions from 91 experts from 13 countries, the book provides the first comprehensive review of airborne measurement principles covering all atmospheric components and surface parameters. The focus under EUFAR2 will be to develop online supplementary material for the handbook.

STANDARDS & PROTOCOLS (S&P)

Recruitment of Standards & Protocols Engineer

A new Standards & Protocols Engineer, Olivier Henry, has finally been recruited at Météo-France in Toulouse to replace Matt Freer, who previously occupied this post. Olivier Henry, who started his contract on 1 September 2014, will be working closely with the S&P Activity Leader and will be providing technical support to the S&P activity in terms of software developments and management of the in-situ airborne database.

STRATEGY & EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

A sustainable legal structure for EUFAR

One important subject that needs to be addressed within the life of the present EUFAR2 contract is the establishment of a legal self-sustainable structure for EUFAR. A proposal for establishing such a legal structure is currently being drafted by the EUFAR Office in collaboration with the scientific coordinator, Phil Brown, and will be distributed to partners by the end of the year. After examining a number of feasible legal structures, the choice of the form to adopt is leaning strongly towards an International non-profit association under the Belgian law, "AISBL" (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif).

European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures 2015-16 Roadmap Update

The EUFAR project coordinator, Elisabeth Gérard, will be attending the next ESFRI landscape workshop in Trieste, Italy, in the last week of September. The workshop will discuss the evolving landscape of research infrastructures in Europe. A special session on the ESFRI Launch Event of the Roadmap 2016 will be held, which is particularly important for EUFAR, as more information will be shared on how research infrastructures such as EUFAR can contribute to the ESFRI landscape document due in December 2014 and be included in the ESFRI roadmap. The ESFRI Roadmap identifies new Research Infrastructures of pan-European interest to meet the long-term needs of the European research communities, covering all scientific areas.

E-COMMUNICATION

New EUFAR Website

Under the new EUFAR2 contract, the University of Warsaw has been tasked with the development of the new website. The web development committee composed of the development team from the University of Warsaw led by Krzysztof Dudek, the EUFAR Office, the scientific coordinator and activity leaders, has been meeting regularly via web-conferences to discuss the continual development of the website that promises to be a big improvement on the existing website in terms of appearance, user friendliness and functionality. The website will, for example, eventually allow you to submit a Transnational Access proposal or apply for a EUFAR Summer School from your smartphone!

Since we will eventually transfer details of registered EUFAR members to the new website, it is a good idea for you to check your present details and make corrections if necessary. If you have any difficulties with this, please contact the EUFAR Office for assistance.

EUFAR communication materials

New flyers, posters and a postcard have been designed and are currently in stock for EUFAR dissemination. All members who are interested in promoting EUFAR at events are invited to contact the EUFAR Office for materials.



EVENTS



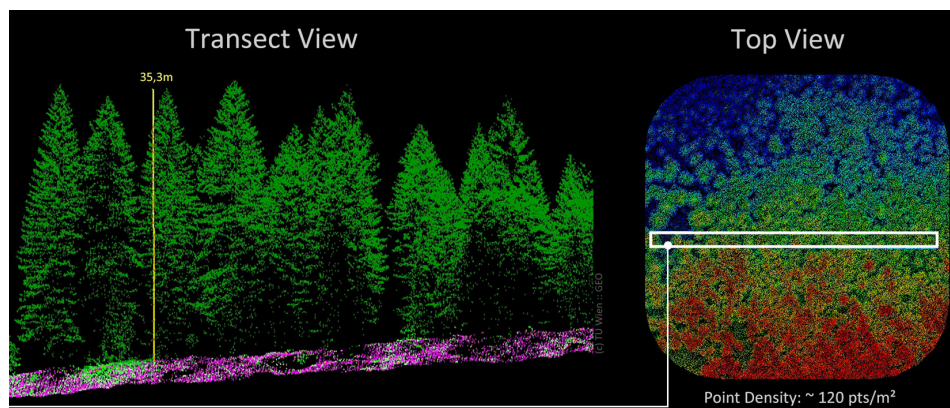
Upcoming events

Nuit européenne des Chercheurs "European Researchers' Night" 26 Sept 2014, Toulouse, France

The 9th edition of the "Nuit européenne des chercheurs" will be held at Cité de l'Espace in Toulouse on Friday, 26 September. The EUFAR Office, together with SAFIRE, one of the aircraft operators offering transnational access within EUFAR, will hold a stand at the event to promote EUFAR and SAFIRE. As this year's theme is "experiments", SAFIRE will display an experiment demonstrating temperature and particle sensors. For more information on the event, visit: <http://www.nuitdeschercheurs-france.eu/PagePrincipale>

Workshop on Airborne Laser Scanning 20 - 21 Nov 2014, Vienna, Austria

VITO, the JRA1 activity leader and TU Vienna are organising a 2-day EWG meeting on ALS software that will be hosted by Prof Norbert Pfeifer and Dr Christian Briese at the premises of TU Vienna in November. The main purpose of this meeting is to bring together developers of software tools for ALS data and experts in processing airborne hyperspectral images, present state-of-the-art in full-waveform ALS processing, and introduce and provide training in ALS software tools. About 15 participants are expected to attend this workshop. For more information contact Ils Reusen at ils.reusen@vito.be



The image above is an example of ALS and illustrates the point cloud of a coniferous forest in the alpine space. The data was acquired with a Riegl LMS-Q680i and shows a point density of approx. 120 pts/m². Image credit: TU Vienna

Past events

European Geosciences Union (EGU) 28 April - 2 May 2014, Vienna, Austria

The EUFAR Office held an exhibition stand at the EGU 2014 in Vienna, Austria, in the last week of April. More than 12,400 participants from over 106 countries attended the various sessions, discussions and presentations at the EGU, which served as a great opportunity to disseminate materials, raise awareness about EUFAR and get public feedback.



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