



WMO/IOC/UNEP/ICSU
GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING
SYSTEM (GCOS)

Doc. 6.02
(5.III.2014)

**6th GRUAN Implementation-
Coordination Meeting (ICM-6)**

Session 6

Greenbelt, USA

10 March – 14 March 2014

GRUAN Station Report for Beltsville

(Submitted by Belay Demoz)

Summary and Purpose of Document

Report from the GRUAN station Beltsville for the period Feb 2013 to Feb 2014.



GRUAN Station Report for Beltsville, Howard University

Reporting for the period Feb 2013 to Feb 2014

Date: 28-Feb-2014

Primary author: Belay Demoz
(email: bbdemoz@howard.edu)

Overview

While data RS92 has been collected routinely at the site once a week, RsLaunchClient is just starting to work. This has been mainly due to lack of manpower at the site but is now rectified. A postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Ricardo Sakai, has started working on earnest and all data will be submitted going back to 2010. All the RS92 data stream will be submitted.

Change and change management

A recent incident, complete fire damage, of the launch facility has forced the site to re-group and use temporary facilities at the site. A full recovery of the instrumentation and data as well as impact study is planned in the future. This has been communicated to the GRUAN WG. Data stream (GPS and RS92) have continued using the mobile NASA system, ALVICE (David Whiteman).

Resourcing

Howard University site is run through a proposal-based funding, and graduate student run operation. It is closely aligned with the Sterling Test site of the NWS. Funding and personnel changes are routine; the university has made extensive commitments to atmospheric research as is evident in the recent fire incident. However, the site and its non-operational structure has a larger capacity for input into GRUAN than is occurring. This is mainly limited by manpower issues.

Site assessment and certification

The site should be ready to do the certification in 2014 – as soon as recent changes in Howard University management that are responsible for research and resource decisions are settled.

GRUAN related research

The site is actively involved in the Sites task Team (TT6; Belay Demoz), the ancillary measurements task team (Dave Whiteman). Site personnel are contributing and leading work in the Trend analysis work (Whiteman and Vermeesch), co-location paper (Demoz) and the 1st-principle Raman lidar calibration work (Whiteman, Walker, Venable). The site is also targeting its launches to be co-located to satellite overpass – at night and analysis of that work will be made soon.

WG-GRUAN interface

A formal letter to the Howard University from WMO would be appreciated. But, this needs to be coordinated with Howard Diamond, the GRUAN US-lead and substantial funding supporter.

Items for ICM-6 plenary discussions

Uncoordinated changes in the reference sondes (e.g. RS92 recent changes) and the consequences and impact on sites data management and resource needs to be thought of carefully. This could be a drain in funding and unnecessary stress to management.

Future plans

The site is geared for substantial engagement and upgrade in instrument management changes. It is engaged with advising NWS with a ceilometer-network and plans to submit and complete data

stream to GRUAN and stay current. In a month, it will start launching CFH/monthly and has secured resources to do that for the next 2-years.



GRUAN Station Report for Beltsville (BEL), 2013

Reported time range is Nov 2012 to Oct 2013

Created by the Lead Centre

Version from 2014-02-20

1 General GRUAN station information

Info	Value
Station name	Beltsville
Unique GRUAN ID	BEL
Geographical position	39.0500 °N, -76.8800 °W, 53.0 m
Operated by	HOWARD Howard University
Main contact	Demoz, Belay
WMO no./name	-
Operators	current 11, change +0 / -0
Sounding Site	1
GNSS	1

1.1 General information about GRUAN measurement systems

System	Type	Setups	Measurements	As scheduled
BEL-GN-01	GNSS	0	0	not scheduled
BEL-RS-01	Sounding Site	1	0	not scheduled

1.2 General comments from Lead Centre

1.2.1 General

As of November 2013 the data flow has not yet started.

2 System: GNSS Site DCHU (BEL-GN-01)

Info	Value
System name	GNSS Site DCHU
Unique GRUAN ID	BEL-GN-01
System type	GNSS (GN - GNSS)
Geographical position	39.0541 °N, -76.8775 °W, 25.3 m
Operated by	HOWARD Howard University
Instrument contact	Demoz, Belay
Started at	-
Defined setups	-
Possible streams	-

2.1 Lead Centre comments

No comments available from Lead Centre.

3 System: Radiosonde Launch Site (BEL-RS-01)

Info	Value
System name	Radiosonde Launch Site
Unique GRUAN ID	BEL-RS-01
System type	Sounding Site (RS - Radiosonde)
Geographical position	39.0520 °N, -76.8775 °W, 52.0 m
Operated by	HOWARD Howard University
Instrument contact	Demoz, Belay
Started at	-
Defined setups	1 (RESEARCH)
Possible streams	CFH, ECC, RS92

3.1 Lead Centre comments

No comments available from Lead Centre.