

WinSAR Executive Committee Telecon, September 30, 2015

On the call:

Zhong Lu (Chair)

Franz Meyer (Vice-chair)

Christelle Wauthier

Ingrid Johanson

Matt Pritchard (Ex-officio)

Gareth Funning

Scott Baker (Unavco)

Chris Crosby (Unavco)

Notes taken by Gareth Funning

Meeting called to order at 3 pm MDT

1) Chair's update:

Zhong and Matt Pritchard wrote a two-page white paper for the NSF workshop on future facility needs called "Roles of WInSAR in 2018 and beyond".

Zhong attended the InSAR processing training course at Unavco: a full house, well received by participants, Zhong is still in contact with several of them on potential projects.

Our WInSAR TSX tasking operations have almost exhausted the quota that we received from our original proposal. Zhong contacted them, and the good news is that, DLR have agreed to increase our quota by 500 products.

2) Terrasar-X data issues

In some cases (Scott Baker: actually the majority of cases), PIs who have requested tasking of TSX data have not subsequently ordered the data they tasked. We would like to encourage them to do so. Once the data has been acquired, it is possible to write an 'archive proposal' to get it for free. This should be the preferred route for most people.

The number of PIs involved is small (Chris Crosby distributed the list to the EC). Zhong will contact them directly to encourage them to order their data.

3) ESA data

Wolfgang Lengert at ESA is very supportive of our attempts to share WInSAR archive data more widely. However final approval needs to come from his boss, Henri Laur, and we haven't heard

from him yet. We anticipate that he will say yes – after all, he approved the Virtual Archive-4, which fulfills a similar role.

Scott is trying to simplify the process of archive access by having institutional reps sign the data agreements on behalf of their institutions.

Sentinel news: The agreement between the US and Europe on Sentinel-1 archiving is upcoming, due to be signed in early October. ASF have communicated with NASA and are poised (and have permission) to distribute archived Sentinel-1 data as soon as the ink is dry on the agreement. The archive is going to be open to anybody – you only have to create an account (a similar to gaining access to data direct from ESA). If you already have a login to the ASF system, you don't have to do anything extra to get access to the Sentinel data.

ASF have communicated with Unavco about archiving the orbital information, and are doing so.

Zhong mentioned that Juliet Biggs (Bristol University) has reported that data from the Aleutian Arc volcanoes are being acquired but they don't seem to be a high priority to be processed to SLC format. Is there anything we can do to encourage it? Franz replied that ESA have said that they will process all interferometric wide-swath (IW) data to SLC, and according to their acquisition plan the Aleutians should be a priority zone. But ESA are behind with their processing, and it's not clear right now when they will catch up. Extended wide-swath data, on the other hand don't seem to be a priority for SLC processing, and we don't (Franz doesn't) know when that will happen. This is mostly an issue for nontectonic zones, such as permafrost areas and coastal plains.

60% of the raw data acquired over the lifetime of the mission has been processed to SLC so far. Most of those scenes are in Europe, it seems. The US seems to be a lower priority – we are getting a RAW deal.

FRINGE has been postponed until 2017, due to a clash with the Living Planet symposium next May. The Living Planet abstract deadline is October 16th. It was recommended that WInSAR should submit an abstract to it. Zhong will put one together. Of the EC members, Christelle and Gareth are considering going to the symposium.

4) Unavco data product working group

The Unavco Geodetic Data Services Advisory Committee met recently and recommended formation of a Unavco Data Product Working Group. Chuck Meertens at Unavco is trying to ensure the InSAR community is involved – maybe an EC member could be co-opted onto that committee. The committee's role would be to discuss services that Unavco could supply and products that researchers might want – time series, data viewers, etc. Gareth Funning volunteered to be the EC member on that committee. Franz pointed out the likely synergy between ASF and Unavco as providers of products and recommended having someone from

ASF on the committee, too (e.g. Franz or Scott Arko). The committee felt that this was a good idea.

5) The WInSAR meeting at AGU

There are 2½ months to go till AGU. It is time to start planning the WinSAR meeting that is held annually at AGU on the Wednesday lunchtime. Zhong recommended that the committee should start thinking about an agenda, who we want reports from, the room booking, etc.

Matt Pritchard (who is getting an award this year from the Geodesy Section – congratulations!) offered to distribute the agenda from last year's meeting, which could be used as a template. It was pointed out that we do not currently have any of the documents from last year's meeting up on the WInSAR website, so anything else the past EC might provide us would be useful.

The committee will have another telecon before AGU, and we will firm up our plans at that time.

6) TerraSAR-X data

Zhong talked with Scott and Chris at the InSAR training course about the TSX data issues raised at the previous EC telecon, namely the issue about the apparent conflict between the DLR and NSF policies on data. These have not yet been resolved, but Zhong plans to work on it in the next few weeks.

7) ALOS-2 proposals

It was recommended that we ask the membership to update the existing online spreadsheet with proposals from the recent announcement of opportunity (RA-6). Maybe this can wait until the end of October, which is when JAXA have said they will make their announcement. There was also a request to ask PIs to put their proposal IDs from the previous opportunity into the WInSAR system. Scott has a script that scraped some of the information on successful projects from the JAXA website. There seems to be diminishing participation from PIs at every step from getting a project approved, to adding the proposal information to the WInSAR system, and actually putting the data in WInSAR...

8) Other business

Matt raised the possibility of sending out a WInSAR newsletter. It served well in the past as a mid-year reminder to people, on any InSAR-related news that has arisen.

One such news topic could be a formal announcement of the new WInSAR product archive – at present it does not seem to be widely used or known about, only JPL seem to be using it. One valuable feature is that DOIs are now available for uploaded data products. Scott plans to work on making that announcement once he knows the details of his AGU presentation, which will be

on the same topic. Chris says that Unavco can take the lead on disseminating that announcement.

Update on funding from Unavco: Unavco with Matt Pritchard's help. made a successful supplemental request to the NSF and NASA for \$100K, to cover several core WInSAR functions that are not part of (that were cut from) the GAGE request. Russ Kells from NSF further advised that there were EarthCube funds that may be available for imaging proposals, and another supplemental award for \$50K was made. The EC was charged with coming up with a list of desired features and/or products that could be developed through WInSAR with these funds. Chris will disseminate the list that was used as part of the original proposal as a seed for that discussion, which can be held in the next telecon.

Zhong noted that the GMTSAR training in San Diego, hosted by David Sandwell was also a great success. Franz also highlighted that the ASF also had a training workshop that same week that also was full to capacity. There seems to be plenty of scope for WInSAR and Unavco to sponsor more training courses in future.

Meeting adjourned at 3.50 MDT