

## WInSAR newsletter, June 2013

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### Do you want data?

This newsletter provides new information on what UNAVCO and WInSAR are doing to provide data access to the U.S scientific community. If you have questions about any material presented here, please email [winsar@unavco.org](mailto:winsar@unavco.org) and the WInSAR Chair (Matt Pritchard: [pritchard@cornell.edu](mailto:pritchard@cornell.edu)). General (older) information on data access to all satellites for WInSAR members is available at:

<http://www.geo.cornell.edu/eas/PeoplePlaces/Faculty/matt/AccessToData.html>

0.0 The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has established agreements with several space agencies for data at selected areas to be available to registered users. Some of these sites are within the US (Hawaii, Los Angeles, Seattle) and include data that is not easily available through portals other than the GEO Supersites portal. A complete list of sites, data availability, and how to register can be found at:  
<http://supersites.earthobservations.org/index.html>

1.0 TSX, launched by the German Space Agency (DLR) in 2007, is currently providing the most recent SAR data for U.S. scientists, and the mission has enough fuel to last another 3-5 years. In the following, we describe how WInSAR members can access these data. UNAVCO has established procedures to maximize the scientific use of the data while adhering to the terms of the data agreements:

1.1 After logging in with their WInSAR credentials at <https://winsar.unavco.org/portal/>, all registered full and adjunct WInSAR members can view all TSX proposals (with PI name) whose TSX data are stored at UNAVCO. You can also use the SAR Archive GUI to see the spatial extent of each collection:  
<http://facility.unavco.org/SarArchive/flexweb/SearchSarScene.html> However, only co-investigators from US institutions on projects approved by DLR can download the data associated to these projects, as directed by DLR data use agreements. Interested data users can be added to the list of co-investigators by contacting the PI on a given project. The number of co-investigators is limited (~10), so please only request access if you will actually use the data. Additionally, the data must be used to study topics that fall within the original

scope of the data proposal.

If you have past or current TSX proposals that you'd like to store at UNAVCO, please see the How-To instructions here:  
<https://winsar.unavco.org/portal/proposals/info>

1.2 Normally, if you have an approved “general science” project from DLR, TSX data cost 200 euros per scene for tasking and delivery. However, DLR has given WInSAR a quota (currently about 500 scenes) to task the satellite at no cost. Tasking refers to the acquisition of a scene on a future pass. To actually order the data, you must submit a proposal to DLR and pay the costs associated with delivery (see item 1.4). The site (<https://winsar.unavco.org/portal/>) lists current tasking requests. If your area is not being tasked right now, you can submit a tasking request and justification, which will be reviewed by the WInSAR Executive Committee – instructions:

[http://winsar.unavco.org/tasking\\_tsx.html](http://winsar.unavco.org/tasking_tsx.html). **Requests made by July 8 will receive first consideration.** Please note that our tasking requests have lower priority than those paying full price – only about 50% of our requests are successful.

1.3 Tasking for volcano crisis and post-seismic deformation (Supersites users)

The Geohazard Supersites initiative has received a background acquisition account from the DLR that includes satellite tasking in the case of volcanic unrest and to image post-seismic deformation. Please inform UNAVCO about unrest or events that should be observed. UNAVCO will post the information about the tasked imagery on the Supersites website. As this is a background acquisition account tasking requests will be overwritten by requests using regular accounts. For really important data users are encouraged to use their own accounts to ensure image acquisitions. If there are significant earthquakes within the WInSAR study area of North America, we can use the WInSAR quota for tasking TSX mentioned above (so use the site to make a tasking request: <https://winsar.unavco.org/portal/>). Again, this is for tasking only -- to order the data, you must submit a proposal to DLR and pay.

1.4 At the present time, WInSAR and UNAVCO do not have funds to purchase TSX data under the “general science” cost of fulfilling user requests (COFUR) price of 200 euros/scene.. All TSX data in the UNAVCO data portal were purchased by the individual PI's or provided under the Supersites or other previous projects, including the TSX Archive AO that was closed last year. The WInSAR Executive Committee is considering future proposals to purchase TSX data. But in the near term, individual PI's can continue to purchase data and make it available through the UNAVCO data portal. DLR may also have another open solicitation for data proposals within the next year. We suggest that PI's include the following language in their data management plans to NSF, NASA, or other funding agencies to let reviewers and program officers know that the data will be made as openly available to other U.S. scientists as

allowed by the data policy of DLR: “We propose to purchase data from the German Space Agency (DLR). Based on the data usage agreement, we can share this data with other collaborators at US institutions. Information on the data we have purchased will be made available at the UNAVCO data portal where the available data can be viewed:

(<http://facility.unavco.org/SarArchive/flexweb/SearchSarScene.html>)

Scientists interested in downloading the data can contact the PI to become official collaborators on the project – this just requires signing a data use agreement and sending it to DLR.”

2.0 ALOS-2 is scheduled to be launched by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in 2014. Late in 2012, JAXA issued a call for access to ALOS-2 and other JAXA-owned SAR data, and several WInSAR members wrote successful proposals with UNAVCO listed as a co-investigator. We are investigating whether JAXA will allow the data to be stored in a password protected area at UNAVCO for other co-investigators (in an arrangement similar to how we are managing TSX data). If you would like to join one of the approved projects, please contact the PI listed on the following website (although there is no rush to do so):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Av9I6a5QDLOddEIJdzBGFVFCQnFQaUVkZXZocVdjd3c#gid=1>

3.0 Sentinel-1A is scheduled to launch in 2014 and although the data policy is still to be finalized at ESA, UNAVCO staff are in contact with ESA about ways to facilitate WInSAR access.

4.0 There are currently no formal agreements (yet) between WInSAR/UNAVCO and the missions Radarsat-2 (Canadian Space Agency) and CosmoSky-Med (Italian Space Agency). The Canadian Radarsat Constellation Mission (RCM) is planned to launch in 2018 and the NASA L-band SAR mission (sometimes known as DESDynI-R) is going toward a 2021 launch.