

Progress in the Dual-Frequency Scatterometer for GCOM-W2

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As QuikSCAT approaches its 10th anniversary, the need to continue and improve on its climate data record and forecasting inputs, and to complement the temporal sampling provided by ongoing programs, such as ASCAT, is evident. During the last year, there has been significant progress on defining the Dual-Frequency Scatterometer (DFS), a proposed instrument to be developed in collaboration between NOAA and JPL/NASA. The DFS is hoped to be included as part of the JAXA GCOM-W2 mission, which will be nominally launched in 2016 and will include coincident measurements by AMSR instrument. In this talk, we review the progress in defining the DFS instrument and characterizing its predicted performance. The last few months have also seen the definition of the science requirements and goals for the DFS mission, resulting in a preliminary science requirements document that will be summarized here. In order to validate and refine the scientific and operational goals for the mission, a small working group with members from JAXA, NOAA, and NASA has been formed and held its first meeting in Tokyo on April 20-21. In this talk we will also report on the status and recommendations of this Research and Operations Users Working Group (ROUWG) and the plans for the coming year, including ways in which the OVWST may support this effort.