

Planning the CRL's future ground-based project during the next Mid-Term Plan period---what comes after Alaska Project

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Communication Research Laboratory has been conducting Alaska Project, Arctic atmosphere observation and technology development program mainly focused on the middle atmosphere, since 1993. The project is planned to end in FY2005, and we have discussing the next 5-year or 10-year (Mid-Term Plan) project planning to start in FY2006. The 'initial conditions' of the discussion are currently as follows; 1) ground-based experiments, 2) contribution to general society (or the nation) like contribution to climate change research, 3) the new project should not be similar to the current program, 4) 'best or optimal solution' which is consistent with both the academics communities (mainly atmospheric science, aeronomy, atmospheric chemistry) and the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT), 5) we are having difference strategies within CRL, like 'low-latitude or equatorial strategy', 'collaboration or joint work with Okinawa', or 'high-latitude but different engineering research targets', etc. Argument on the future of the current instrumentation in Alaska is searching the way to continue after 2006, or technology transfer.