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Program of the Antarctic Syowa MST/IS Radar

Kaoru Sato[1*]

[1]The University of Tokyo

We have been promoting a project to introduce the first MST (Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere) /IS (Incoherent Scatter) radar in the Antarctic, which is a VHF pulse Doppler radar (Program of the Antarctic Syowa MST/IS Radar, PANSY), to Syowa Station (39E, 69S), as an important station observing the earth's environment with the aim to detect the climate change signals that the Antarctic atmosphere shows. The scientific importance of PANSY has been discussed and resolved by international research organizations of IUGG, URSI, SCAR, SCOSTEP and SPARC. After nearly 10 years of feasibility study the project has been approved just recently and the radar system will be constructed at Syowa in FY2010. The operation period of the PANSY radar will be about 13 years covering one solar cycle.

Keywords: Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, MST/IS radar, Atmospheric Sciences