



A NEW METEOR RADAR OPERATING AT SANTA MARIA, BRAZIL (29.7°S, 53.7°W)

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The purpose of this presentation is to inform the appropriate community that a new meteor radar is now operating at Santa Maria, Brazil (29.7°S, 53.7°W). The radar was installed in May 2004, but initial problems delayed routine data acquisition until December 2004. The radar is a SKiYMET all-sky system with a 12 KW transmitter and 5 crossed dipole receiver antennas in the form of an interferometric array. About 5000 meteors are detected per day making it possible to determine winds from 80 to 100 km with a height/time resolution of 3 km and 1 hour. This is the third SKiYMET meteor radar to be installed in Brazil: the other two are at Cachoeira Paulista (22.7°S, 45.0°W) and São João do Cariri (7.4°S, 36.5°W). The Cachoeira Paulista radar has been providing continuous winds data since April 1999 and the São João do Cariri instrument has been operating since June 2004. All three radars belong to the Brazilian National Space Research Institute (INPE). The Santa Maria and Cariri radars are operating in cooperation with the Federal University of Santa Maria and the Federal University of Campina Grande respectively.