



STAR – An EU program for support of tropical atmospheric research

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The EU STAR project, which started in April 2004, is a joint effort of European, Surinam and Japanese research groups to establish an atmospheric observatory in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname at the northern coast of South America at 5.8N and 55.2W. Paramaribo station is operational since 1999, and is located on the premises of the Meteorological Service of Surinam (MDS). Although the observatory lies on the southwestern edge of the city, it is still in a relatively pristine environment with the Atlantic Ocean directly to the North and the Amazon forest to the South.

The STAR project facilitates access of European and other research groups to the observatory, enhances the technical capabilities of the site, builds capacity for global change research and monitoring in the tropics, and improves the conditions for the execution of a long-term observational program.

Within the framework of STAR a measurement campaign took place in Paramaribo from September to November 2004 and was very successful. It will be followed by second campaign in February and March 2005. The instruments involved are: a FTIR spectrometer, a MAX-DOAS instrument, a Raman Aerosol LIDAR, a sun photometer, UV spectral radiometer. Frequent ozone soundings were made with a payload that included a chilled mirror sensor to obtain accurate humidity profiles in the upper troposphere. An overview of the measurements will be given. Results of the different instruments will more extensively discussed in other presentations in this session