

SESSION: Space Physics

MARS Themes:

Title:

How blue skies auroral research at SANAE created and saved billions

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Abstract:

Blue skies research into the auroras at SANAE-III in the 1980s gave both authors the skills necessary to develop a world-leading wildfire detection product called ForestWatch®. Rapid detection of wildfire smoke plumes is a similar image processing challenge to studying the auroras. EnviroVision Solutions is a South African company which now employs 100 people, has saved many billions in commercial forests and prevents CO2 emissions worth many billions. It proves that blue skies research has high economic and societal value, but one cannot know in advance what it may be.

Format:

Oral presentation

Keywords: (add ; between keywords)

Research to Operations; Space Physics; Antarctica; Economics