



Stimulating and co-ordinating, on an international basis, studies, research, applications, scientific exchange, and communication in the fields of radio science

URSI Newsletter – 2026/Q1

Welcome

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Welcome to this 1st URSI Newsletter in 2026. Let me still take this occasion to wish you all the very best, both in your professional as well as your private life. This may be success in your career, your publications, your research work, but primarily for each of us a good health for yourself and your beloved ones.

In this changing worldwide environment in which we operate as URSI, the collaboration on a scientific basis through projects, conferences and meetings, remains important to advance science for mankind. URSI as an international organisation has the objective to support and stimulate this collaboration and clearly envisages to continue and enhance this in 2026.

Following the very successful URSI AP-RASC 2025, held last August in Sydney, we are looking forward to a great URSI GASS in Krakow in August 2026. The paper submission deadline was extended to 9 February and at the time of writing we can report that we reached a total of more than 1350 submissions.

Our colleagues in Krakow are preparing for welcoming you all to enjoy a very interesting and very extensive technical programme, as well as the many occasions for networking during poster sessions, coffee and lunch breaks. Social events will offer extra opportunities to engage with your peers in a more relaxed environment.

As usual we also report on the activities of our URSI Member Committees and local WIRS (Women in Radio Science) chapters together with reports on events which received financial support from URSI. Due to the rush while preparing the previous newsletter, some contributions were left out, for which we apologize to the submitting Member Committees as well as the submitting organizers of events. We tried to catch up in this newsletter, making it a little bit longer newsletter.

Make sure to continue to follow URSI on social media channels as this is the fastest way to spread news in our community.



We remain at your service, and please feel free to contact us or to submit material which you might think to be interesting to publish here.



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URSI Flagship Meetings

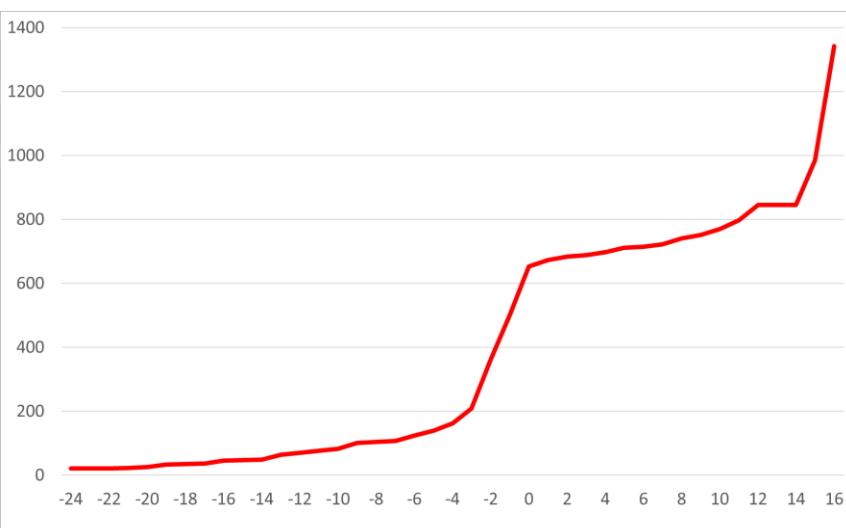
XXXVIth URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (URSI GASS 2026)

The next URSI Flagship meeting is our XXXVIth General Assembly.

The conference will be held from 15 till 22 August 2026 in the ICE - International Congress Centre in Kraków, Poland.

The technical programme will be exciting as we received over 1350 papers. The peer reviewing process has now started, and authors will be notified on acceptance around 15 March 2026.

As usual, for us as organizers, it's a little bit scary to see all the papers coming in at the very last moment, but we are glad you all made it!



The [website](#) has been updated with the most up-to-date information for arranging your participation, so please check and start preparing your participation.

As with all our URSI Flagship Meetings we will run a Young Scientists Programme which, if awarded, provides financial support for attending the URSI GASS. The US National Committee also runs a Student Paper Competition at the GASS 2026. The reviewing and selection process for both has also been initiated and we will keep applicants updated on the outcome.

We look forward to welcoming you in Kraków, Poland

in 2026 for the XXXVIth URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (URSI GASS 2026).





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5th URSI Atlantic Radio Science Conference (URSI AT-RASC)

23 – 28 May 2027, Gran Canaria

The 5th edition of AT-RASC will be held in Gran Canaria from 23 – 28 May 2027.

Be prepared to enjoy this jubilee edition. We are already looking forward to making this a special event for all participants.



8th URSI Asia-Pacific Radio Science Conference (URSI AP-RASC 2028)

20 – 25 August 2028, Toyama, Japan

The next edition of the AP-RASC conference will be held in Toyama, Japan from 20 – 25 August 2028. Make sure to mark the dates in your calendar.



XXXVIIth URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (URSI GASS 2029)

In Sapporo at the occasion of our last General Assembly, URSI Council accepted the proposal from the URSI Committee in Singapore to host the XXXVIIth GASS in Singapore from 11 till 18 August 2029.



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URSI Member Committee Activities

URSI Member Committee – Belgium & URSI Member Committee – The Netherlands

URSI Benelux forum 2025, 23 September 2025, Jaarbeurs Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands

“Progressing science and society with radio waves”

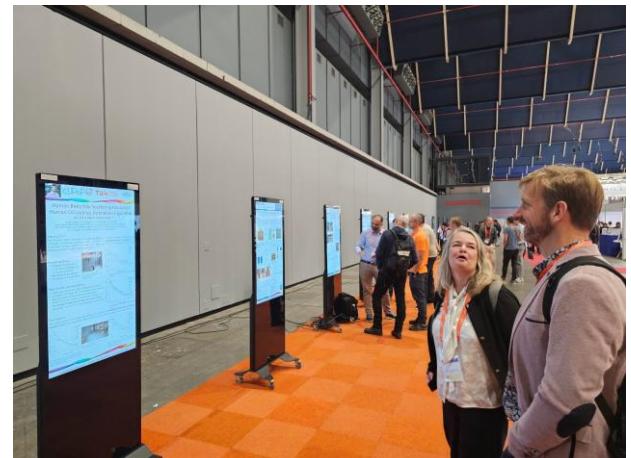
The 30th URSI Benelux Forum was held on 23 September 2025, as a side event of the European Microwave Week (EuMW) in Utrecht, The Netherlands. This time, the theme of the forum was “Progressing science and society with radio waves.” As usual, the program consisted of a plenary session and a poster competition for Young Scientists, both highlighting radio science research in the BeNeLux countries.

After enjoying the opening ceremony of the European Microwave Conference, the forum itself kicked off with the plenary session with presentation by Stefania Monni on active array antennas for radar and communication, Viviane Pierrard on radio observations for space weather and Maarten Paulides on the use of EM waves in health care. It was nice to see that several EuMW attendees also joined our session. The plenary session was concluded by poster pitches by the Young Scientists participating in the poster competition. The posters themselves were on display in the exhibition area of the EuMW alongside posters from the EuMW itself and the exhibitor stands. This certainly helped to increase the visibility of the work by the Young Scientists!

The day was concluded with the announcement of the winners of the poster competition with the first prize going to Leonard Leiner, who presented his work on “Patch Antenna for Microwave Ablation: Numerical Design and Ex Vivo Experimental Validation.”



Winners of the poster competition (from left to right): Leonard Leiner (1st prize), Kashan Aldijan and Ketaki Deshpande (shared 2nd prize).



Poster session in the exhibition hall of the EuMW.

(Communicated by Stefan Wijnholds)

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URSI Member Committee – France

URSI-France national workshop (JS 2025), 10-12 June 2025, Paris, France

The yearly workshop of URSI-France was held on the topic *“Metrology at the heart of today’s technologies”*, focusing on fundamentals, methods and instruments, from RF to optics. Along the tradition of such past workshops, the main philosophy was to have topical presentations on a sub area of radioscience, while being sufficiently open to proposals from the largest possible number of commissions. All that concerns measuring and its quality is relevant, since there is no domain of radioscience that can escape measuring data or physical quantities in some way or another. Concretely, while commission A appeared to be the most directly concerned with the theme of JS 2025, all the other commissions were invited to submit.

Furthermore, 2025 celebrated the 150th anniversary of the “convention du mètre”, a milestone in the history of units that set the basis of the meter as the internationally recognized unit of length. This impacted the definition of many other physical quantities, agreed along the international activities of the “Bureau international des poids et mesures (BIPM)”. Accordingly, two keynote presentations were given, one on the “convention du mètre” by Marc Himbert, a prominent professor at the Centre National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM) of Paris, showing the impact of the international system of units on technology developments, the other one on the evolution of the units involved in radioelectricity, by Luc Erard and François Piquemal from the Laboratoire National des Essais (LNE), the French reference laboratory on metrology.

The workshop was chaired by Joseph Achkar, former chair of French commission A, with the support of 5 co-chairs representative of other commissions. It was technically/financially sponsored by several institutions/entities, including a few companies that also participated to an industrial exhibition

The sessions included invited and oral presentations and covered a variety of topics, such as electromagnetic and optical sensors, dosimetry and exposimetry, high frequency calibration challenges, electromagnetic localization, to name a few.

A Young Scientist Paper Competition allowed starting researchers to present their first results, with the award being attributed to Mathis Melki for his work on crowd monitoring through integrated communication and detection in a leaky wave antenna.

Four other major events of URSI-France took place during the workshop:

- The remittal of the URSI-France medal by Francis-André Wollman, Vice-President of the French Academy of Sciences, to Joe Wiart, for his internationally recognized expertise and contributions to the progress in RF dosimetry and for his chairing contributions to national and international bodies, including URSI and URSI-France.



URSI-France medal is handed out by Francis-André Wollman, Vice-President of the French Academy of Sciences, to Joe Wiart.



The French PhD prize in radioscience is presented by Karl-Ludwig Klein, chair of the awarding committee, to Leslie Vallet in the presence of Emmanuelle Conil, Agence Nationale des Fréquences (ANFR), the French regulator of the use of radio frequencies.

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- The remittal of the French PhD prize in radioscience by Karl-Ludwig Klein, chair of the awarding committee, to Leslie Vallet, for her excellent study of Interactions of EM fields with biological cells and potential therapeutic applications. The prize was co-sponsored by the Agence Nationale des Fréquences (ANFR), the French regulator of the use of radio frequencies, represented by Emmanuelle Conil at the remittal.
- The remittal of a certificate of recognition to Joël Hamelin for his numerous services to the URSI/URSI-France community over many years.
- The general assembly of URSI-France in both physical and remote modes, chaired by Lluis M. Mir as president of URSI-France, which allowed to highlight the activities of the past year and those planned in the coming year, together with the statutory moral and financial votes allowing to support the everyday work of the URSI-France board.

The program of JS 2025 together with the papers/abstracts in open access can be found on [the URSI-France web site devoted to the event](#).

(Communicated by Alain Sibille and Luis Mir)

UNION RADIO-SCIENTIFIQUE INTERNATIONALE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RADIO SCIENCE



*URSI-France a l'honneur d'exprimer sa plus haute reconnaissance à
M. Joël HAMELIN*

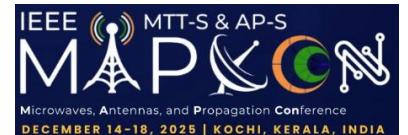
*« En témoignage de la contribution exceptionnelle apportée
en tant que secrétaire général du CNFRS de 1996 à 2012, et
des nombreux services rendus sans discontinuer depuis lors »*

Alain Sibille
Secrétaire général d'URSI-France

Lluis M. Mir
Président d'URSI France

URSI Member Committee – India

URSI India was present at the MAPCOM meeting held in Kochi, Kerala, India held from 14 till 18 December 2025.



IEEE MAPCON 2025 is the IEEE Microwaves, Antennas and Propagation Conference and offered a comprehensive international platform for the symbiotic sharing of cutting-edge research and technologies in the fields of electromagnetics, microwave engineering, and antenna and propagation. The event brought together leading researchers, engineers, technocrats, and practitioners from around the world sharing their knowledge and expertise.

The URSI Member Committee in India was involved in the event and participated with a booth at the exhibition.



From left to right:

- Prof. Paulraj Rajamani
(Official Member for Commission K of India)
- Prof. Ari Sihvola
(URSI President)
- Prof. Nuno Borges Carvalho
(past president of IEEE MTT Society)
- Prof. Branislav Notaros
(past-past president of IEEE AP Society)
- Dr. Subhradeep Chakraborty
(YS Awardee in GASS 2023)

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URSI Member Committee – Italy

On 6 February 2026, the URSI Member Committee in Italy held a symposium “Beyond the Spark: New Frontiers in Radio Science” which was also the Inaugural Day of the Italian Society of Radio Sciences.

The inaugural day of the newborn Italian Society of Radio Sciences (Società Italiana delle Radio- Scienze – URSI Italia A.P.S.), supported by the Marconi 150 Committee, explores the new frontiers of electromagnetic science: from advanced communication systems to innovative materials, from space technologies to biomedical applications. Marconi’s legacy continues to inspire research on waves and their infinite languages, beyond the spark that first made them possible.



From left to right: Prof. Ari Sihvola (URSI President), Prof. Guglielmo Giovannelli Marconi (Guglielmo Marconi's grandson), Princess Elettra Marconi Giovannelli (Guglielmo Marconi's daughter), Giulia Fortunato (President of Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi), Prof. Peter Van Daele (URSI Secretary General)

URSI Italia A.P.S. aims to promote research activities in Italy in all areas of radio science, in close coordination with the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) and its ten scientific commissions. The multidisciplinary environment that characterizes URSI, at both national and international level, fosters the development of research with a broad scientific scope. Furthermore, URSI places particular emphasis on young researchers, investing in them to promote their integration into the international scientific community.

The symposium was also part of the celebrations on the 125th anniversary of the 1st transatlantic link set up by Guglielmo Marconi on 12 December 1901 between Poldhu (Cornwall, UK) and St. John's (Newfoundland, Canada) and was supported by the Fondazione Guglielmo Marconi and addressed Marconi's Legacy & Innovation. The symposium was also attended by Princess Elettra Marconi Giovannelli, daughter of Guglielmo Marconi.

URSI Member Committee – Japan

2026 URSI-Japan Radio Science Meeting – JSR, 2 – 3 March 2026 Chofu, Tokyo, Japan

The URSI-Japan Radio Science Meeting (URSI-JRSM) is the URSI conference organized by the Japan National Committee of URSI (JNC-URSI). The URSI-JRSM provides a regional scientific forum for radio scientists and engineers in Japan and the Asian region. The objective of the Meeting is to review current research trends, present new discoveries, and make plans for future research and special projects in all areas of radio science, and a particular emphasis is placed on enhancing the visibility of URSI in the Asian countries and encouraging young scientists to contribute to various URSI activities.

The “2026 URSI-Japan Radio Science Meeting” (URSI-JRSM 2026) is the fifth URSI-JRSM and will have a scientific program consisting of Keynote Lectures and Invited Talks by outstanding scientists, Oral Sessions and a Poster Session for contributed papers. The topics of the Meeting cover all the 10 URSI Commissions.



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URSI Member Committee – Spain

The 40th edition of the Spanish URSI Symposium was held in Tarragona from 3 to 5 September 2025. This was in fact the 46th edition if we include the meetings of Commission B, which alternated with the National Symposium during the 1980s. The event once again brought together the Spanish radio science community in an atmosphere of high-quality scientific, technological, and human exchange.

The program included a total of 46 sessions, distributed as follows: 13 regular sessions (some of which actually consisted of multiple parts), 19 special sessions, 8 tutorials and demonstrations, and 2 plenary sessions, as well as an industrial roundtable, the Women in Radio Science (WIRS) session, the Annual Assembly of URSI-Spain, and the 3MT competition.



We would like to express our special thanks to Professors Lluis Jofre and Lluis Mir for their inspiring plenary lectures, reflecting a lifetime dedicated to research. Prof. Lluis Mir, who is also President of URSI in France, took the opportunity to share valuable insights into the structure and activities of URSI in our neighboring country.

A total of 205 contributions were received and reviewed by 319 experts. There were 80 applications for the URSI-Spain Young Scientists Awards (co-funded by URSI International), with 8 finalists presenting their work in dedicated sessions. Likewise, there were 16 applications for the Indra Awards, of which 10 were selected as finalists. The WIRS Chapter also presented its Awards for the Best Initiatives Promoting Female Vocations in Radio Science. In the 3MT competition, 10 young researchers faced the challenge of explaining their work in just three minutes.

The Symposium reached a total of 314 registrations — the highest number in recent years — including 154 senior participants, 140 students, 10 accompanying persons, and 10 institutional representatives or collaborators. The regional distribution showed broad representation across Spain, with Catalonia, Andalusia, Madrid, and the Valencian Community standing out as the most active regions, in that order.

As a historic milestone for URSI in Spain, during the General Assembly it was decided to formally establish ourselves as a legal association, reflecting the current strength and commitment of the Spanish community to URSI as an organization and to radio science.

The Tarragona edition would not have been possible without the support of local institutions, the organizing team, the reviewers, and especially the sponsors and collaborators, whose continued commitment to Spanish radio science remains essential. During the Symposium, an industrial roundtable, a commercial exhibition fully integrated with the attendees, and a dedicated sponsor presentation session were held.

The next Spanish URSI Symposium will be held in La Laguna (Tenerife), from 2 to 4 September 2026.
(communicated by Mikel Laso)



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URSI Member Committee – Sweden

The Swedish National URSI Committee SNRV (Svenska Nationalkommittén för RadioVetenskap) held its annual meeting at the [World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station Site](#) near Varberg at the Swedish west coast on 20 May 2025. We celebrated the 100 years anniversary of this wireless global communication facility. The high-tech site served first for the transatlantic communications between Sweden and the USA, later even communication to submarines. In 2004 it got the status of World Heritage from UNESCO, and it is the last “working” Alexanderson transmitter in the world – it still transmits a few times per year, e.g. on Christmas Eve. The Swedish American engineer Ernst Alexanderson from GE and RCA got in 1905 a patent for a high-frequency-alternator working at high power and with a continuous wave form. The Grimeton VLF radio station provided a backup for the vulnerable Atlantic undersea cables, and it also enabled a more than twofold increase in the Morse code data rate. In 1936 it transmitted about 10 megabytes to RCA’s Radio Central on Long Island, New York.



Historic technology is very interesting, and the technology solutions are large, beautiful and very well taken care of at the Grimeton World Heritage Site.

(communicated by
Asta Pellinen Wannberg)

The meeting at Grimeton attracted 32 participants from different radio science application areas and parts of the country. The SNRV Chair Daniel Sjöberg and Secretary Joakim Johansson on his right-hand side are sitting in the middle of the back row with laptops. The annual meeting following the customary agenda took place in the transmitter hall with the massive 50-ton equipment as background. After the meeting and the lunch (in sunny spring weather outside the beautiful transmitter hall), we got a chance to walk around and finally a very noisy demonstration of the transmitter working. This moment inspired the enthusiastic participants to many questions.



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URSI Member Committee – USA

52nd Annual National Radio Science Meeting

6 – 9 January 2026, Limelight Boulder Hotel

The United States National Committee for URSI (USNC-URSI) welcomed over 400 attendees to the 52nd annual National Radio Science Meeting (NRSM) in Boulder, CO from 6 – 9 January 2026. For the first time, the NRSM was held at the Limelight Boulder Hotel, a beautiful new venue with excellent space for the NRSM to hold technical sessions, business meetings, a plenary session, a student paper competition, a welcome reception, a student mentoring luncheon, a Women in Radio Science (WIRS) reception, and a Hans Liebe Lecture.

The NRSM's plenary session opened with a message from both the president of URSI, Prof. Ari Sihvola, and the president of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (AP-S), Dr. CJ Reddy.



Dr. Ari Sihvola, President of URSI, provides an overview of URSI during the plenary session.



Dr. CJ Reddy, IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society President, discusses the rich history of collaboration between IEEE AP-S and URSI during the plenary session.

Prof. Jamesina Simpson, the Chair of USNC-URSI then introduced the two plenary speakers:

- Dr. Mickey Batson, a program manager at the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA), with a plenary talk entitled, “Remote Observation and Sensing of ElectroMagnetic Anomalies (ROSEMarry);” and
- Dr. Paul Ransom, Acting Chief of the Strategic Planning Division in the Office of Spectrum Management with a plenary talk, entitled “Unlocking the Spectrum: How Policy and Innovation Can Deliver Spectrum Access for All.”

During the plenary session, the USNC-URSI award recipients for the 2023 – 2025 triennium were also recognized:

- The Chair's Award was presented to Christina Patarino
- the Distinguished Radio Science Award to Prof. John L. Volakis
- the Outstanding Educator Award to Prof. David Jackson, and
- the Impact Award to Prof. Susan Hagness

Five student finalists provided oral presentations during the student paper competition of the NRSM, with:

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- 1st place going to Mason Matrazzo
- 2nd place to Joseph Gedney, and
- 3rd place to Brenna Royersmith.

Subsequently, all students were invited to a student mentoring luncheon, with the two plenary speakers and Prof. Susan Hagness serving as panelists to answer student questions relating to career options, career trajectories, etc. On the last day of the conference, this year's invited Hans Liebe Lecture was delivered by Dr. Juan Pardo, entitled "It all started with Hans Liebe's MPM: 30 years measuring the atmospheric MM/SMM spectrum from high and dry astronomical sites."



Dr. Hagness, Dr. Batson, and Dr. Ransom serve as panelists during the Student Mentoring Luncheon.



The Welcome Reception of the NRSM.

We are very thankful to the many people and organizations that contributed to the success of the NRSM. This was the first NRSM that was organized by the US Foundation for Radio Science (USFRS), which was established in 2025 to assume the financial responsibilities for these meetings from the US National Academies. The IEEE AP-S is also a long-time, technical co-sponsor of the NRSM. The financial sponsors of the NRSM were Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society, MITRE, the University of Utah Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, the University of Colorado Electrical, Computer, and Energy Engineering, and URSI.

We invite you to attend the 53rd Annual NRSM, which will be held in January of 2027 in Boulder, CO. Aside from the NRSM events, excellent opportunities for skiing and sightseeing are available both before and after the conference.

(communicated by Jamesina Simpson)

Meetings with financial support by URSI Commissions

Beacon Satellite Symposium (BSS) 2025

10 – 14 November 2025, Rome, Italy

The Beacon Satellite Symposium (BSS) 2025 was successfully held from 10 – 14 November 2025, in the historic city of Rome. Hosted by the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV) at the Aula Magna of the Roma Tre University (Ex-Mattatoio), the event brought together a diverse international community of scientists to discuss the latest advancements in ionospheric research and radio propagation.



The symposium saw a significant turnout, with approximately **150 participants** representing more than **35 countries** across six continents. A defining feature of this edition was the strong representation from developing regions,

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particularly Africa and South-East Asia, supported by grants from Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), the URSI and the Boston College (BU). This geographical diversity enriched discussions on low-latitude ionospheric irregularities and the expansion of global monitoring networks.



The scientific program was extensive, featuring over 65 oral presentations and two dedicated poster sessions. The symposium opened with a focus on "Space and Ground-based Ionospheric Techniques and Measurements", highlighting new methodologies such as wide-area scintillation monitoring using GOES and topside ionosphere observations via LEO satellite constellations. A significant portion of the early week was dedicated to "Theory, Modeling, and Measurements of Ionospheric Scintillations and Irregularities" where researchers discussed non-Gaussian features in scintillation and the impact of electron density spectra.

Mid-week sessions pivoted toward high-latitude phenomena and the dramatic effects of space weather on GNSS. Notably, many presentations provided retrospective analyses of the historic May 2024 geomagnetic superstorm, offering new insights into thermospheric recovery and polar cap patches. The latter half of the symposium explored "Monitoring Natural Hazards", showcasing how ionospheric signatures can be used for near-real-time assessment of earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, such as recent activities at Mt. Etna.

The symposium also looked toward the future with a strong emphasis on "Data Science and Machine Learning". Researchers presented innovative applications of neural networks for predicting scintillation and automating anomaly detection in ionospheric data. Emerging topics included the use of modern radio telescopes for ionospheric gradient measurements and the development of national space weather services.

Beyond the technical sessions, the BSS 2025 fostered collaboration through a pre-symposium workshop on GNSS applications and social events that highlighted the cultural heritage of the Testaccio district. The symposium remains a vital forum for URSI Commission G and the broader beacon satellite community, reinforcing the importance of global cooperation in understanding the complex coupling between the Earth's atmosphere and satellite-based technologies.

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12th VERSIM Workshop (VLF-ELF Remote Sensing of the Ionosphere and the Magnetosphere)

7 – 11 September 2026, Sopron, Hungary



The working group on VLF/ELF Remote Sensing of the Ionosphere and Magnetosphere (VERSIM) is an international group of scientists interested in studying the behaviour of the magnetosphere and ionosphere by means of ELF (300 Hz - 3 kHz) and VLF (3-30 kHz) radio waves, both naturally and artificially generated.

The group was set up in 1975 by IAGA (International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy) and URSI (International Union of Radio Science), as described in the working group history. Originally the emphasis was on probing of the magnetosphere by whistlers, but later the scope became somewhat broader.

The group aims to promote research in this field by facilitating the exchange of ideas, information and experience between active research workers and other interested scientists. This is done through regular meetings at IAGA and URSI Assemblies, a regular VERSIM community workshop, and via the circulation of a newsletter. The group has also been active in sponsoring scientific symposia at IAGA and URSI Assemblies, in areas relevant to its field of interest, and in coordinating observational campaigns.

At present the main subjects of interest include Plasma structures and boundaries - morphology and dynamics, Wave-particle and wave-wave interactions, Wave-induced particle precipitation, Wave propagation in magnetosphere and ionosphere, Sprites and the effects of lightning on the ionosphere.

There are currently over 100 scientists from about 26 different countries on the VERSIM mailing list.

Check the [VERSIM website](#) for updates and practical information about the upcoming meeting.

URSI WIRS – Women in Radio Science

WIRS Chapter Sweden

WIRS Chapter Sweden held together with the annual meeting of the Swedish National URSI Committee SNRV (Svenska Nationalkommittén för RadioVetenskap) at the [World Heritage Grimeton Radio Station Site](#) near Varberg at the Swedish west coast on 20 May 2025. Even though the degree of equality is high in Sweden in general, it is not the case within radio science applications. We were however happy to gather seven participants. Now we had the chance to start the discussions on how to form a program to attract girls to technology and a system of mentors to support young women to stay interested all the way through their studies to employment in the field. Afterwards we continued the discussions at a pizza dinner in downtown Varberg.

On the right: Asta Pellinen-Wannberg, WIRS Chair, Honorary Delegate of the Swedish URSI, emerita at Umeå University and Swedish Institute of Space Physics in front of the six 127 m high Grimeton antenna towers extending two km further away.



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Women in Radio Science (WIRS) in Sweden from left: Maria van Zijl, Mathesis AB, Hana Dobsicek Trefna, Chalmers University of Technology, Mariana Dalarsson, WIRS Secretary, Royal Institute of Technology, Nina Catharina von Krusenstierna, The Swedish Energy Agency, Sabine Alexandersson, The Swedish Defence Material Administration, Jonna Wilén, WIRS Vice-Chair, Umeå University and Asta Pellinen-Wannberg, WIRS Chair, Honorary Delegate of the Swedish URSI, emerita at Umeå University and Swedish Institute of Space Physics.

(communicated by Asta Pellinen Wannberg)

WIRS Chapter USA

URSI-WIRS USA hosted a business meeting during the URSI National Radio Science Meeting (NRSM) 2026 in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

National Radio Science Meeting (NRSM) was held 6 - 9 January 2026 in Boulder, CO at [The Limelight Hotel](#). This meeting is sponsored by the U.S. National Committee (USNC) for the [International Union of Radio Science \(URSI\)](#). The USNC-URSI is a committee appointed by the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#), and it represents U.S. radio scientists in URSI. The NRSM is also technically co-sponsored by the [IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society](#). The NRSM includes scientific sessions, a plenary session, an invited Hans Liebe Lecture, commission meetings, workshops / short courses, exhibits, a **Women in Radio Science (WIRS)** reception, a student paper competition, and a student mentoring luncheon. Authors have their choice of submitting either one-page abstracts or two-page summaries and having them archived on IEEE Xplore.

Right to left— Ari Sihvola (URSI President), Ming Li (vice-chair of the WIRS USA), Ananya Nandikanti (membership-chair of the WIRS USA) Michael Newkirk (USNC-URSI Immediate Past Chair).



As a highly authoritative and influential academic event in United States radio science field, the NRSM offers a focused environment where attendees can interact with other researchers who are passionate about their work relating to applied electromagnetics. Many program managers attend the NRSM, so researchers can meet with them to discuss potential funding opportunities and research ideas, and they can also invite the program managers to their presentations. The NRSM is also one of the few conferences that encourages works in progress, allowing researchers to receive feedback at an early stage. Additionally, students are provided extensive support by the USNC-URSI to attend the NRSM in the form of travel support, a mentoring luncheon, a friendly atmosphere, etc.

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WIRS Leadership

- **Chair** – Cristina Fernandes – Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel MD
- **Vice-Chair** – Ming Li - University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder CO
- **Membership Chair** – Ananya Nandikanti - Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Houston TX
- **Secretary** – TBD (those that would like to volunteer please come and see us after the WIRS Meeting)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

WIRS

The panel discussion was organized by Dr. Anthea Coster, Principal Research Scientist and Assistant Director emeritus at MIT Haystack observatory. Four prominent female scientists in radio science area were invited as guest speakers, they were

- Dr. Zoya Popovic - Professor, Electrical, Computer & Energy Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder
- Prof. Jade Morton - Professor, Aerospace Engineering Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder
- Prof. Sigrid Eischot – Professor, Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University
- Dr. Romina Nikoukar - Senior Scientist, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL)

Each was given the task to answer two questions:

- *How has their career path deviated from the traditional linear path*
- *What is the one piece of advice they want to share with new scientists, engineers here.*

Dr. Zoya Popovic shared her non-linear career journey and the barriers she faced early on. When she was younger, she was told that electrical engineering was “not appropriate” for women. Despite that, she pursued radio science with strong interest and talent, and ultimately built a successful academic career. She is now a tenured professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, and she spoke warmly about balancing multiple identities—scientist, mother, and grandmother—while staying true to herself. **Her message to younger scientists was direct and encouraging: when opportunities come, take the chance and try—there is often far more to gain than to lose.**

Dr. Jade Morton described how her early curiosity about radio began in Shanghai in the 1970s, when listening to radio broadcasts was one of the few ways she could “see” radio science in everyday life. She remembered wondering how such a small device could receive signals traveling long distances. That curiosity motivated her to pursue the field, eventually completing her PhD at The Pennsylvania State University. She also reflected on early language challenges as an international student in the U.S., and how she pushed herself to communicate in English with her advisor, colleagues, and friends—learning through practice and persistence. Now a distinguished professor in Aerospace Engineering Sciences at CU Boulder, **she emphasized that women can bring distinctive insights to technical fields, and encouraged students to speak up confidently and not be afraid of expressing their ideas.**

Among these highlights, the “Woman in Radio Science (WIRS) Business Meeting” – a core session of the meeting – was successfully held in conference room “Flatiron 1” in January 8 at 12:10-13:10 (MST). Supported by USNC URSI and NRSRM, the WIRS Business Meeting was hosted by three WIRS -USA officers.

The WIRS Business Meeting covered a topic “*Beyond the Linear Career Model - Curves and Detours to Success*” in the panel discussion. In today’s world all of us live with uncertainty. Now more than ever we need to be flexible and adaptive to our changing world. This panel discussion highlighted the many non-linear career paths that others have taken and the challenges they have overcome.



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Prof. Sigrid Eischot shared a personal and inspiring story about balancing an ambitious career with family life. She noted that during her PhD years, she was told by her advisor that earning a faculty position would be extremely difficult. However, she never gave up on radio science, and she remained confident that becoming a professor was the right path for her. With strong support from colleagues and family, she built both a fulfilling personal life and a successful research program. She is now a Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the founding director of the Space Environment and Satellite Systems Laboratory. She has received several major honors, including the NSF CAREER Award, the DoE CAREER Award, and an Outstanding Mentor Award. **Her advice to the next generation was heartfelt: if you believe a path is right for you, follow it with commitment—keep your heart in it and continue moving forward.**



Dr. Romina Nikoukar focused on adaptability and resilience as foundations for building a long-term career. She traced her journey from her home country to the United States in pursuit of a PhD, followed by two postdoctoral appointments and her current role at JHU/APL, highlighting the distinct challenges she encountered at each stage. She discussed how she temporarily stepped away from her scientific field of heliophysics to work on several engineering projects, and how her persistence and leadership experiences during this period ultimately enabled her professional growth and a successful return to science. **Her key advice to early-career scientists was to focus on what they can control and to continuously strengthen practical and analytical skills, especially as circumstances change and new demands arise.**

Global Perspective Empowers, Showcasing the Supporting of USA Young Underrepresented Group

After the panel discussion, vice-chair of WIRS USA, Research Scientist, Ming Li from University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder CO, and membership chair of WIRS USA, and Ananya Nandikanti, PhD candidate, acting as organizers, reviewed the WIRS history, membership, progress and 2026 meeting schedule of the international Union of Radio Science (URSI). They highlighted that since the official approval and establishment of the URSI WIRS Chapter in 2019, the organization has adhered to the mission of "create a community for all underrepresented groups in radio science and those who support them. All are welcome!"



It has formed a core committee of covering 50 female scientists. In terms of international cooperation, the organization has successfully participated in and hosted 7 special forums on "Women in Radio Science" at NRSM. It has also recommended young scientists to deliver plenary reports at URSI

Conferences, supported young scientists in applying for the URSI Young Scientists Program, and helped showcase the achievements of female research teams on international platforms. These efforts have not only opened a

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"green channel" for international academic exchanges for young early career scientists but also demonstrated their research capabilities and innovative vitality in the radio wave propagation field to the world, laying a solid foundation for enhancing voice in international radio science.

(communicated by Sana Salous)

URSI as a partner with other International Organisations

IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S)

As was already the case with the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (IEEE AP-S), URSI has also set up a Memory of Understanding (MoU) with the IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S).

The purpose of this MOU is to act as a support framework for collaboration between MTT-S and URSI. This MOU is intended to establish a foundation for joint activities and to act as a common reference for the Parties and their respective stakeholders. The overall goal behind this MOU is to open a wide and long-term cooperation in activities that will bring clear benefits to both Parties. In practice this will include mutual promotion and participation of

events and technical co-sponsorship of conferences, opening extra possibilities for proceedings of URSI Flagship meetings and conferences to be submitted to IEEE publication channels.

The signature of the MoU, by Goutam Chattopadhyay (2025 IEEE MTT-S President) and Ari Sihvola (URSI President), was carried out on 15 December 2025 at the occasion of the IEEE MAPCOM Conference held in Kochi, Kerala, 14 - 18 December 2025



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