

**ALASKA SATELLITE FACILITY USER BULLETIN VOL. 9, NO. 4**  
**April 26, 2004**

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## **1. ASF Opens New Forum Online**

ASF has unveiled a new open forum service. The user community and ASF staff can now interact with each other online about technical topics related to ASF data, ASF software tools, SAR applications and other issues. The forum features two posting areas—Support and Discussion.

The Support forum brings together questions and answers, helping users get the most out of their ASF data products. Users can post and answer questions relating to such topics as software tool installation, software tool use, and data product specifications; as well as feedback about integrating ASF data and non-ASF software.

In the Discussion forum, users are encouraged to submit more generalized topics associated with ASF and remote sensing, e.g., SAR theory, SAR applications, future missions, or even Alaska trivia! As the knowledge base held in the forum grows, the frequently asked questions (FAQ) area will include sections addressing the most common issues encountered by users.

ASF invites everyone to take advantage of this new service, hoping you will contribute generously of your knowledge and experience from incorporating SAR data into your research and operations.

Registration is required prior to posting information to the forum, and instructions are found under the registration icon on the main page. The URL for the site is <https://forum.asf.alaska.edu/>.

## **2. ASF Newsletter**

ASF recently published the second issue of the "News & Notes," the new ASF hardcopy newsletter. Both issues of this newsletter may be viewed from the ASF home page ([www.asf.alaska.edu](http://www.asf.alaska.edu)). Users are invited to contribute feature articles to this quarterly newsletter, highlighting some aspect of their research results obtained with SAR data received from ASF. For more details about story length and submission deadlines,

contact User Services at 907-474-6166 or <uso@asf.alaska.edu>. We'd love to hear from you.

Principle investigators of approved ASF projects automatically receive a copy of the newsletter. Anyone else interested in receiving the newsletter should contact ASF User Services via email (uso@asf.alaska.edu) to subscribe. Please include your name and mailing address in the email. If you are an ASF PI and you have not received your copy of the newsletter, please contact ASF User Services to update your contact information.

### **3. DAR Reminder from ASF Acquisition Planning**

DAR Reminder from ASF Acquisition Planning

Plan ahead! New data acquisition requests (DARs) for RADARSAT should be submitted 9-10 weeks in advance of the acquisition start date. Meeting this deadline improves the scheduling success rate at CSA. ERS-2 DARs should be submitted a minimum of 6-7 weeks prior to the desired start date.

All new data acquisitions can be requested via the ASF DARnet site (<http://darnet.asf.alaska.edu:2300/>).

New DARs for acquisitions beginning in Cycle 132 should be submitted for consideration by May 5, 2004. DARs submitted after this date will be handled on a best effort basis.

Dates to remember:

Cycle 128: April 8, 2004 - May 2, 2004

Cycle 129: May 2, 2004 - May 26, 2004

Cycle 130: May 26, 2004 - June 19, 2004

Cycle 131: June 19, 2004 - July 13, 2004

Cycle 132: July 13, 2004 - August 6, 2004 (DAR Submission deadline - May 5, 2004)

Cycle 133: August 6, 2004 - August 30, 2004 (DAR Submission deadline - May 29, 2004)

Cycle 134: August 30, 2004 - September 23, 2004 (DAR Submission deadline - June 22, 2004)

### **4. New Version of DESCw, planning tool for ERS**

DESCW, the ESA planning tool for ERS-2 has been upgraded to extend ERS-2 visibility until 31-December-2004. The newest version, Version 4.4, can be downloaded at: <http://earth.esa.int/descw/>

### **5. Upcoming Events**

May 23-28, 2004 - American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Annual Conference, Denver, Co, <http://www.asprs.org/denver2004/index.html>  
September 6-10, 2004 - ENVISAT and ERS Symposium, Salzburg, Austria, <http://earth.esa.int/salzburg04/>  
September 20-24, 2004 - International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS), Anchorage, AK, <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/grss/igarss.html>

## **6. On-line Bibliography of SAR Related Papers**

ASF has developed a comprehensive bibliography of SAR application materials that were published between January 1999 and December 2001. The ASF Bibliographic Database (<http://asfbd.asf.alaska.edu/>) can be searched by author, journal, subject, and/or title words. Work is ongoing to keep the bibliography up-to-date and to archive older publications.

Reminder: Per the terms outlined in the ASF Research Agreement, NASA requires that approved users submit three copies of all ASF supported research publications and reprints to the ASF User Services Office. All submissions will be indexed and added to the SAR applications bibliography.

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