

SDR

makerspace

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FOSDEM 2019



European Space Agency



Libre Space Foundation

About me...



Development engineer at Cobham Satcom

- First contact with open-source in 1995
- Hamradio (OZ9AEC) since 1991
- Playing with SDR since 2007
- Space geek since forever
- Libre Space since 2016
- @csete on Twitter



Libre Space Foundation



SDR makerspace

Claim Space, the Libre Way

Free and Accessible Space for all

Creating Open Source space technologies



SATNOGS

A global network of satellite ground stations, designed as an open source participatory project.



UPSAT

The first open source hardware and software satellite in the world.



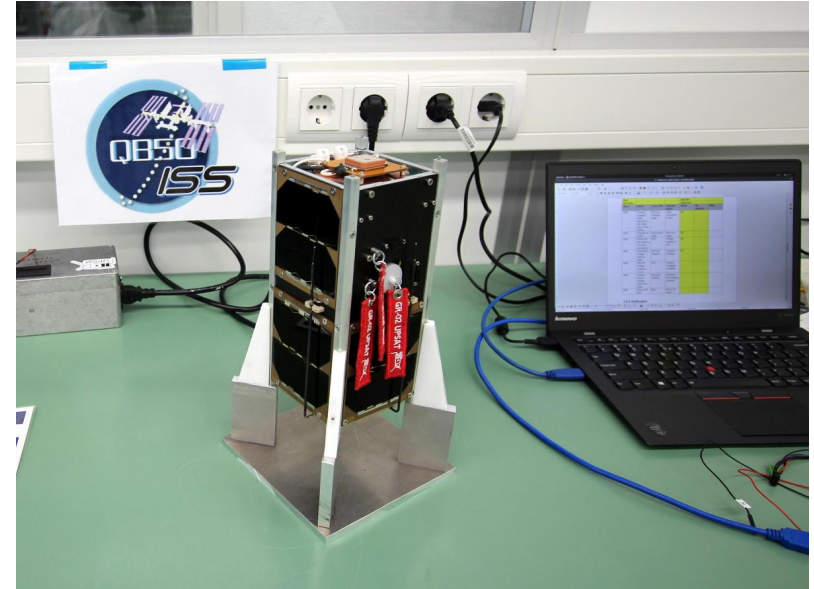
ROCKETRY

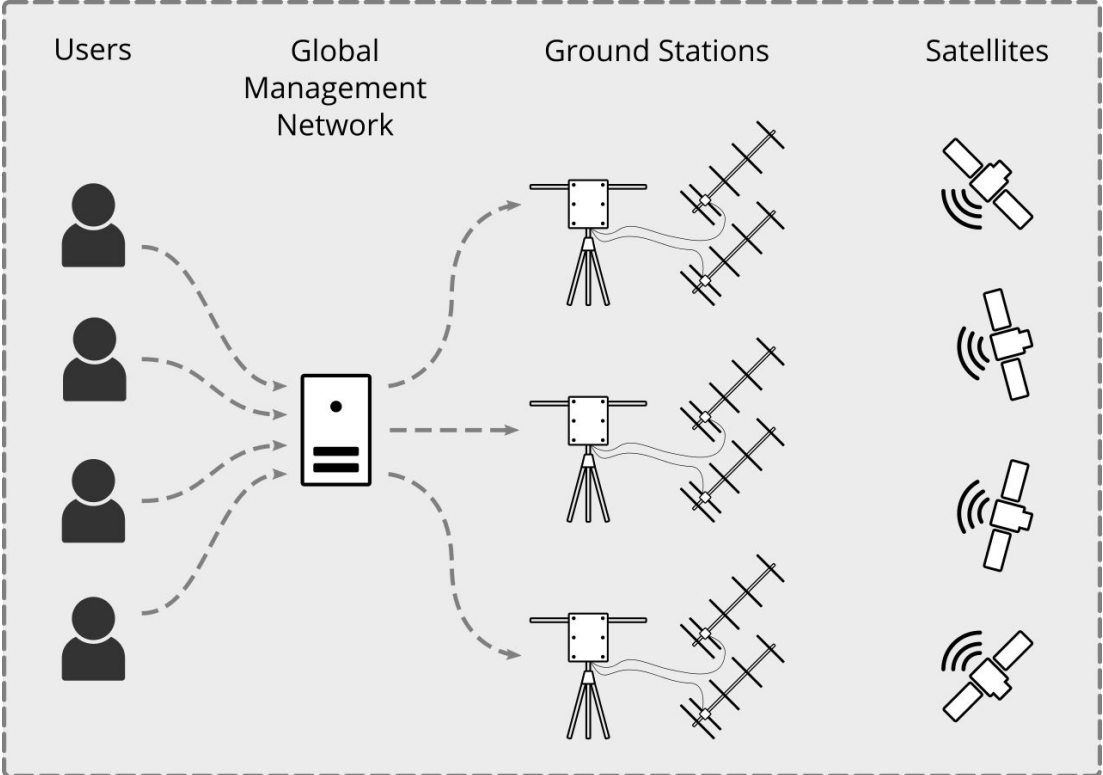
Full telemetry and ground segment system for High Power Rocketry

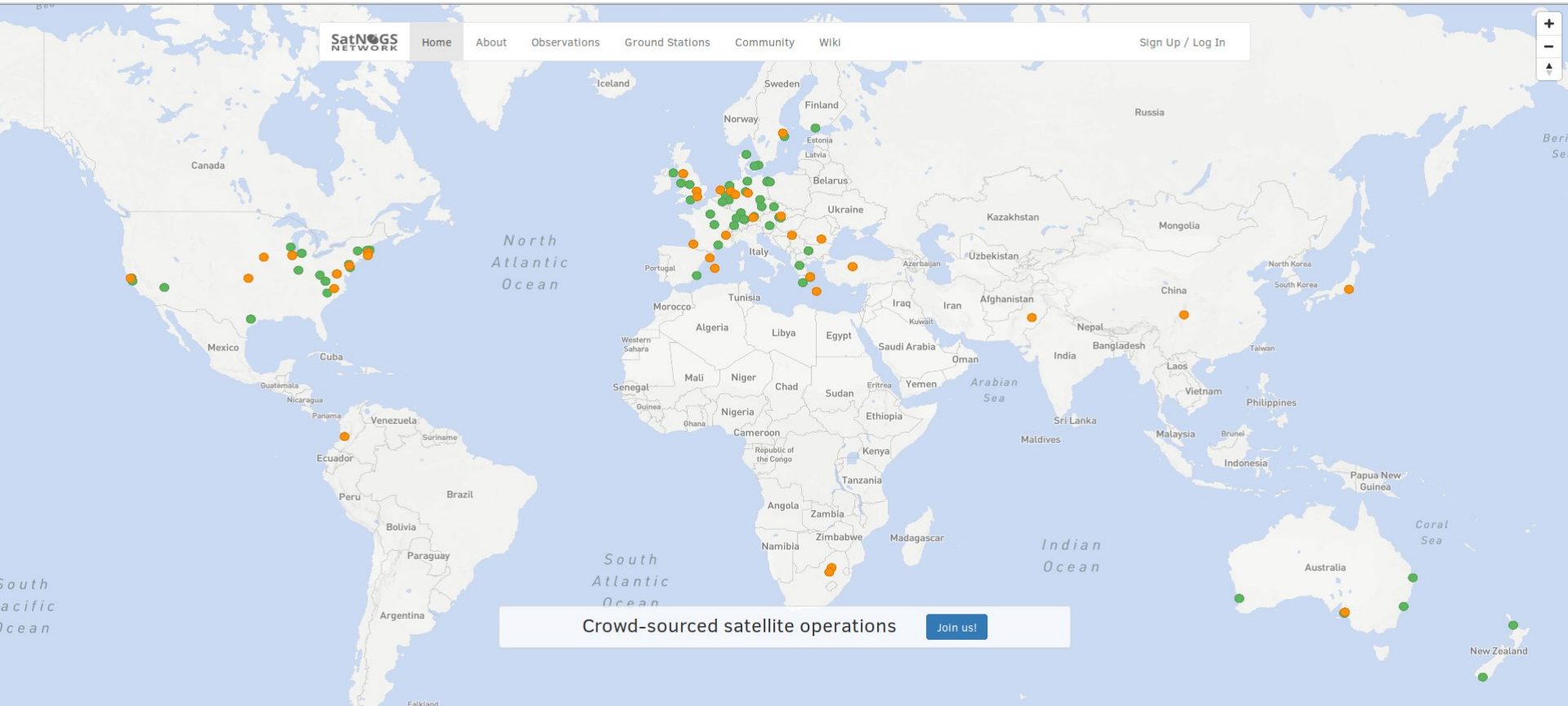
UPSat

First open-source cubesat

- Launched in 2017
- Part of the QB50 project
- Libre Space Foundation
- University of Patras







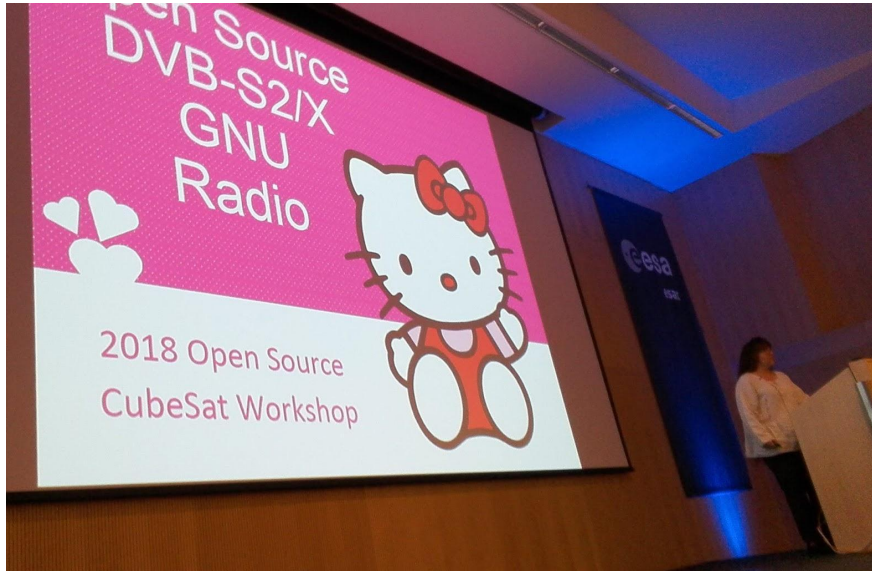
Crowd-sourced satellite operations

[Join us!](#)

Open Source Cubesat Workshop



Open Source Cubesat Workshop



Cubesat activities at ESAC: Ground Station



SDR Makerspace



Space is hard and so is SDR. Trying to use SDRs in space missions without sufficient understanding can add unnecessary risks to the mission.

SDR Makerspace aims to bring open-source SDR technology to the space industry, focusing on the practical aspects of satellite communications.

SDR Makerspace



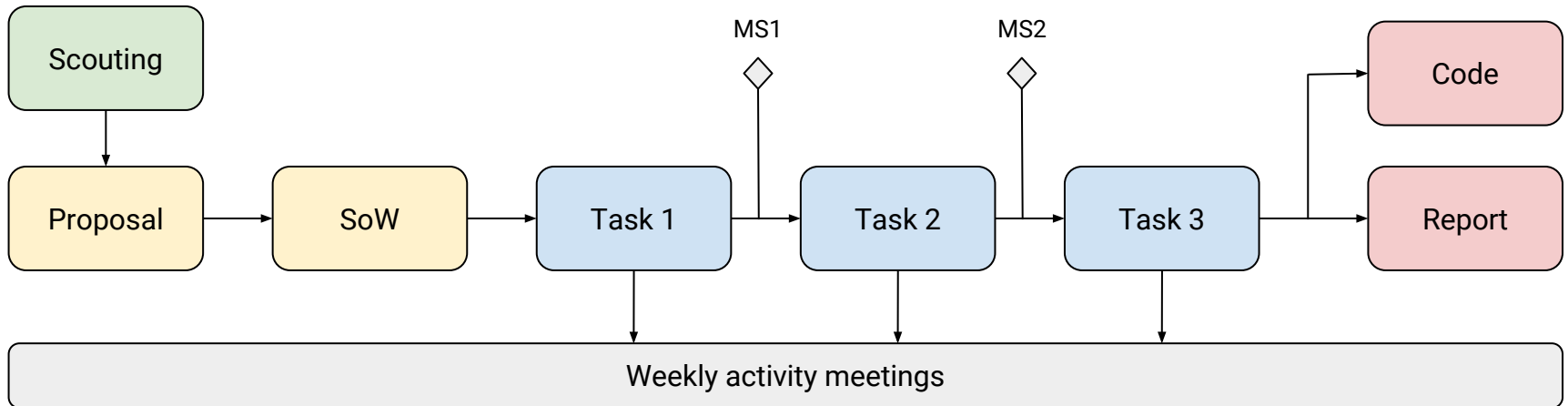
Investigate the use of SDR technology in space applications

- Collaboration between ESA and LSF
- 500 k€ budget over 14 months
- Open-source HW and SW projects running up to 3 month
- Bring some “maker culture” into the space industry
- Focus on satcom
- Activities at various TRL levels

How?

Many sub-activities, each running for up to 3 months

- LSF scouts for potential implementers
- Implementers send in proposal and carry out the work
- Use online collaboration tools like Gitlab



Subactivities



GNU Radio:

- gr-soapy
- gr-leo
- gr-ccsds
- IQ storage

Testing:

- SDR hardware
- SDR software
- FPGA toolchains
- Radiation tests

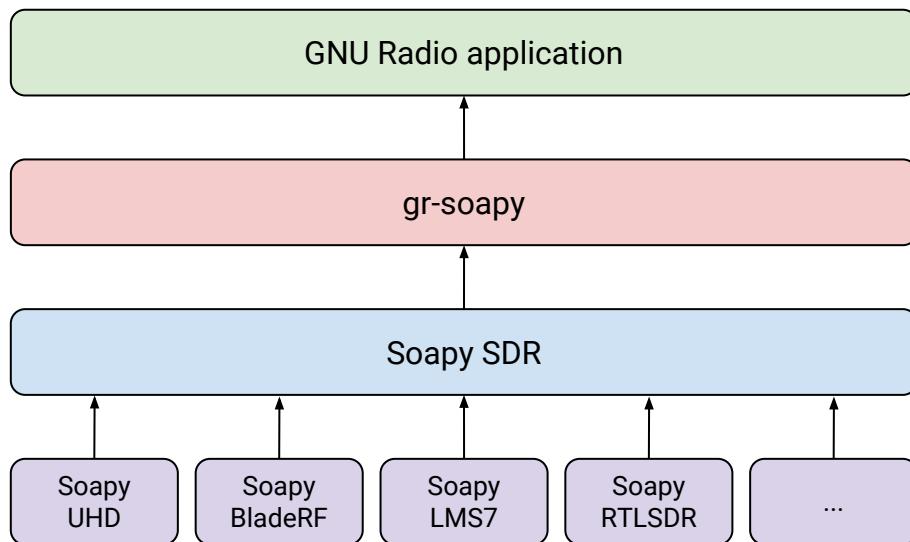
R&D:

- LDPC SIMD
- Direct sampling
- AI, ML, DNN
- FPGA in the cloud

More to come!

gr-soapy

Similar to gr-osmosdr but using plugins as back-ends



gr-soapy

soapy_test.grc - /data/sdr - GNU Radio Companion

File Edit View Run Tools Help

Options
ID: soapy_test
Generate Options: QT GUI

Variable
ID: sample_rate
Value: 10M

Variable
ID: center_freq
Value: 101M

Variable
ID: lna_gain
Value: 5

Variable
ID: mix_gain
Value: 5

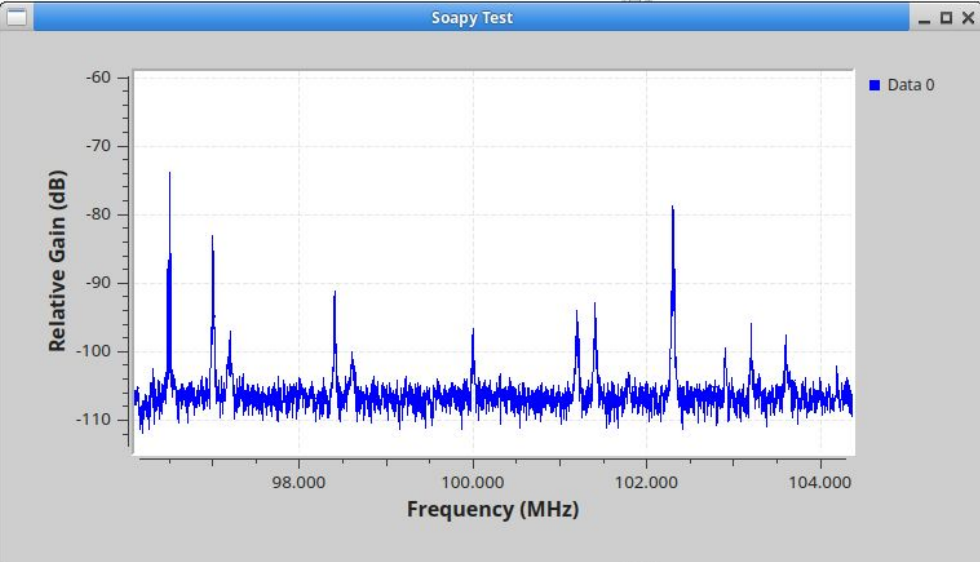
Variable
ID: vga_gain
Value: 5

- ▶ Measurement Tools
- ▶ Message Tools
- ▶ Misc
- ▶ Modulators

Soapy Source
Device: driver=airspy
Sampling Rate: 10M
Ch0: Center Freq (Hz): 101M
Ch0: LNA Gain Value: 5
Ch0: MIX Gain Value: 5
Ch0: VGA Gain Value: 5

QT GUI Frequency Sink
FFT Size: 4.096k
Center Frequency (Hz): 101M
Bandwidth (Hz): 10M

Soapy Test



Relative Gain (dB)

Frequency (MHz)

■ Data 0

```
Executing: /usr/bin/python2 -u /data/sdr/soapy_test.py  
[INFO] Using format CF32.  
>>> Done  
Generating: '/data/sdr/soapy_test.py'
```

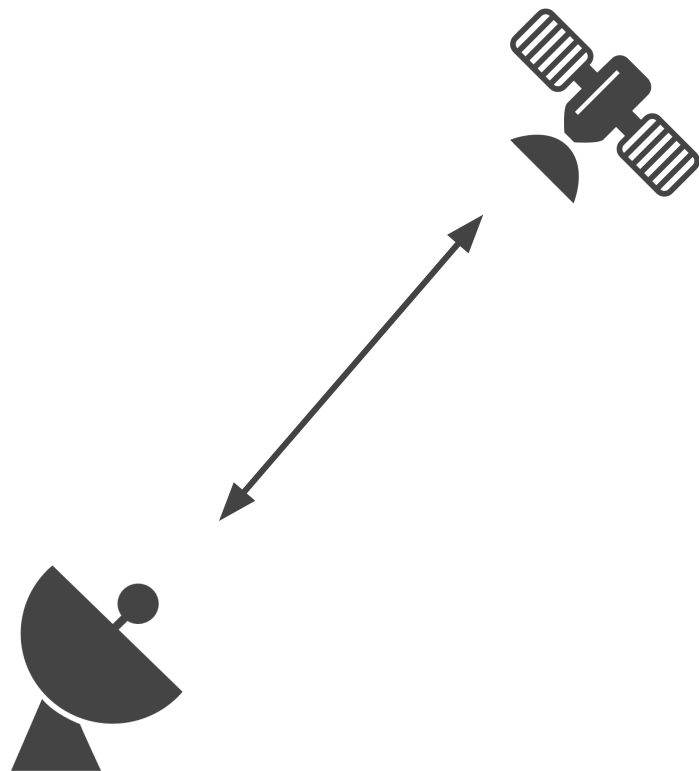
Id	Value
Imports	
Variables	
center_freq	101e6
lna_gain	5
mix_gain	5

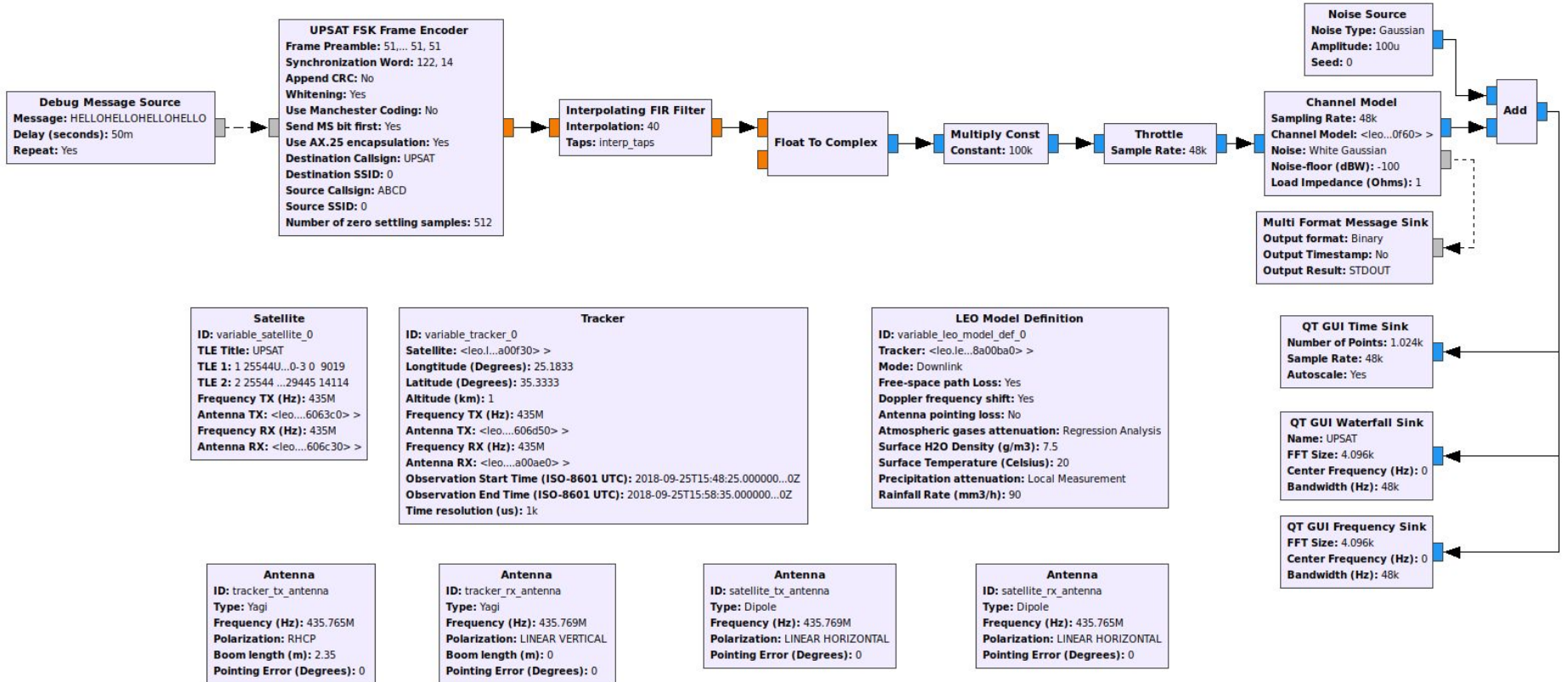
- soapy
 - Soapy Sink
 - Soapy Source

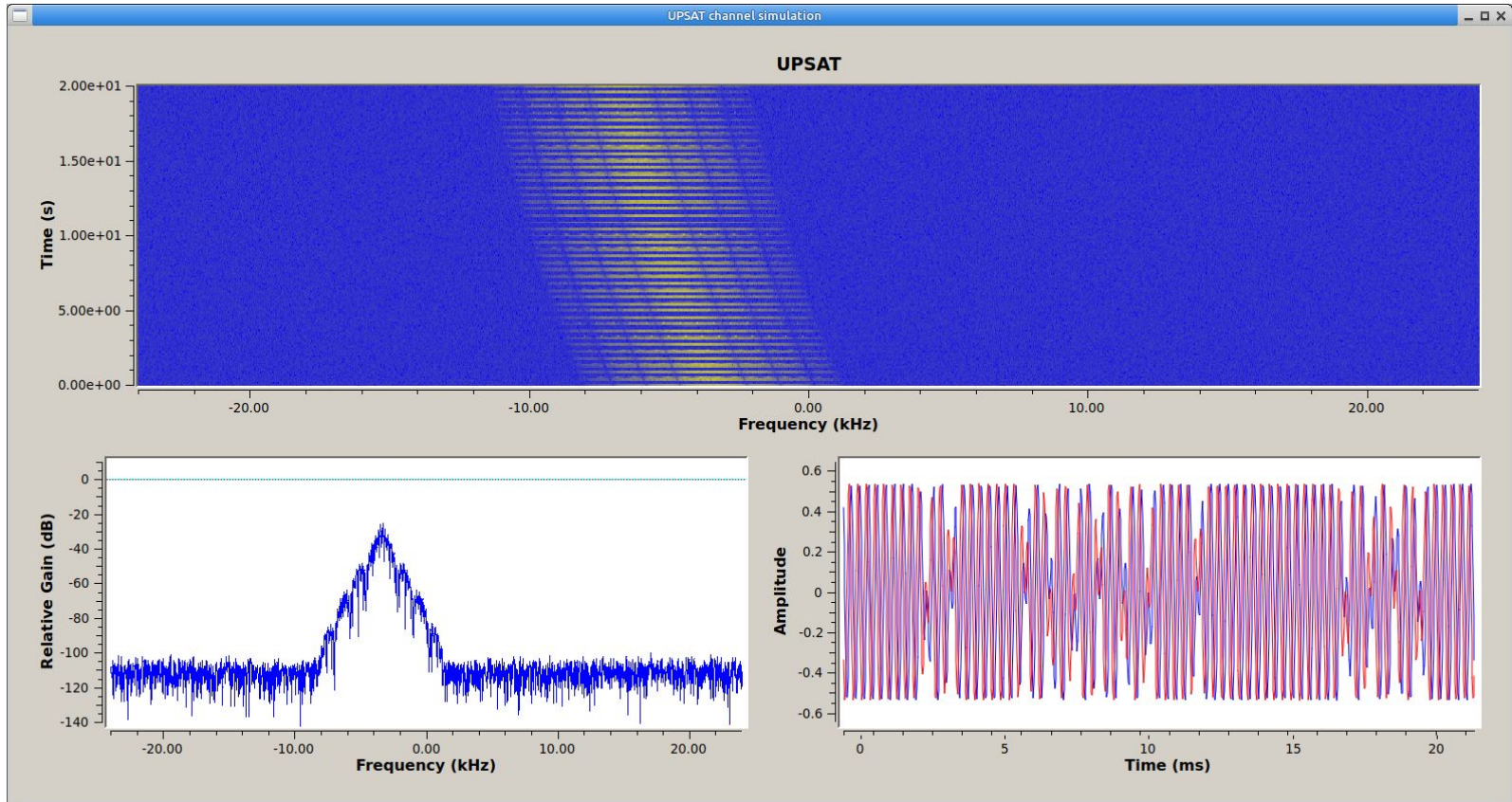
gr-leo

Satellite communication channel simulator

- Free space loss
- Atmospheric gasses attenuation
- Rainfall attenuation
- Doppler shift
- Pointing losses
- Models from ITU-R P.xxx







gr-leo

Simulation with hardware in the loop

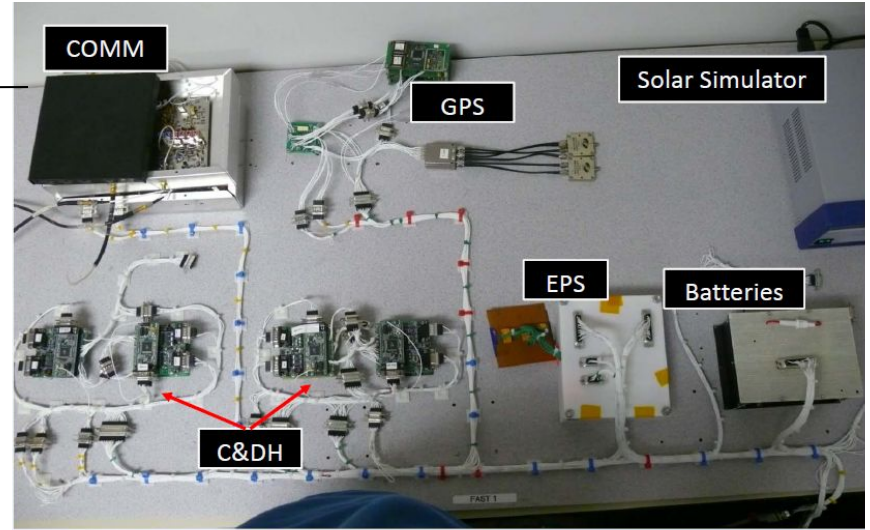
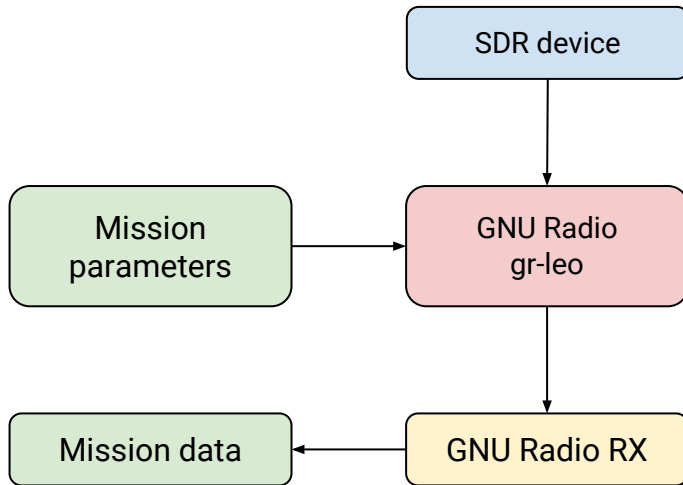
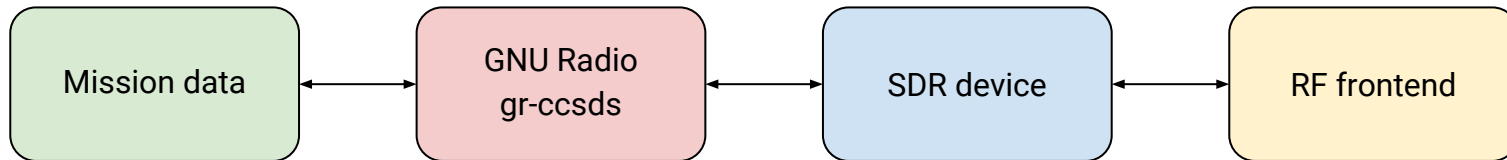


Image: Flatsat by FASTRAC

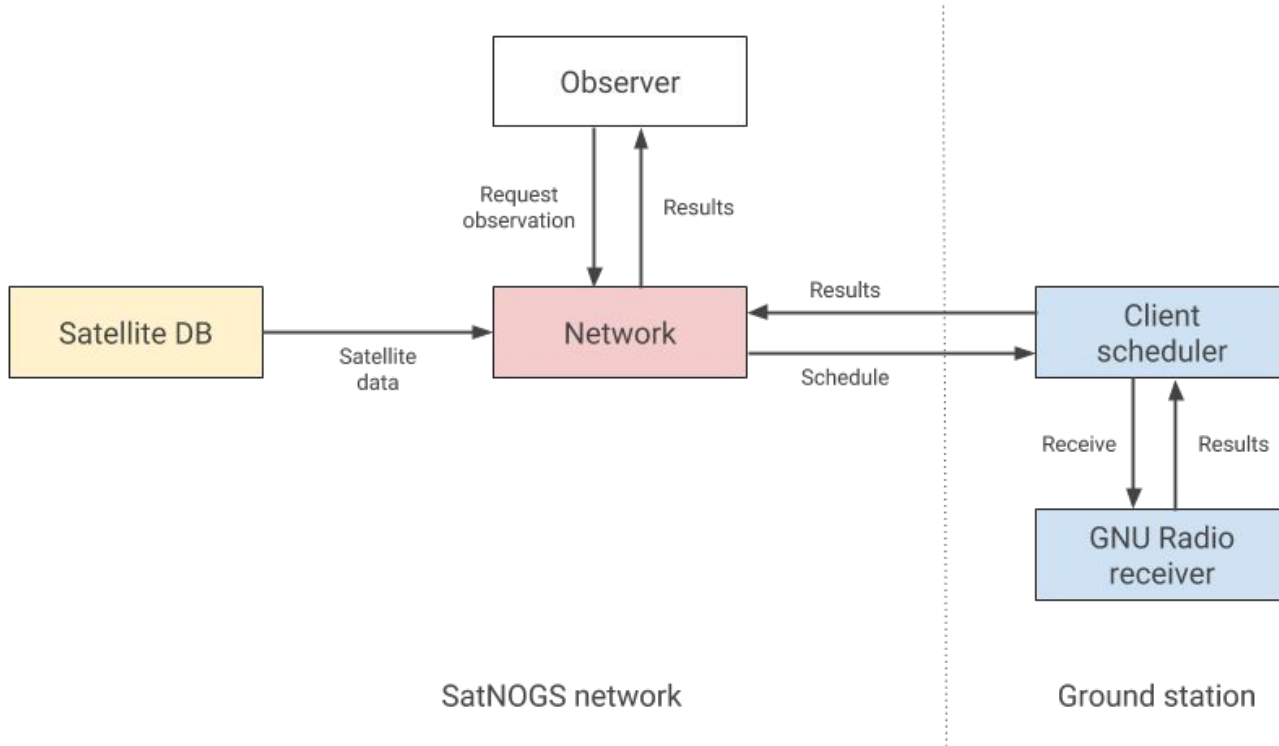
SDR transceivers implementing the CCSDS standards:

- CCSDS 131.0: Telemetry
- CCSDS 231.0: Telecommand
- CCSDS 401.0: RF and modulation



IQ database

Investigate IQ data compression and storage



Tests and evaluations



Survey and tests of SDR hardware and software

- Performance under realistic conditions
- Radiation testing of selected devices
- FPGA toolchains
- Complexity
- Open-source friendliness



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