

ABSTRACT

The NASA Propagation Experimenters (NAPEX) Meeting is convened each year to discuss studies supported by the. NASA Propagation Program. Representatives from the satellite communications (satcom) industry, academia and government who have an interest in space-ground radio wave propagation are invited to NAPEX meetings for discussions and exchange of information. The reports delivered at these meetings by program managers and investigators present recent activities and future plans. This forum provides an opportunity for peer discussion of work in progress, timely dissemination of propagation results, and close interaction with the satcom industry.

NAPEX XX took place in Fairbanks, Alaska, on June 4-5, 1996 and consisted of three sessions. Session 1, entitled "ACTS Propagation Study: Background, Objectives, and Outcomes," covered the results of thirteen station-years of Ka-band experiments. Session 2, "Propagation Studies for Mobile and Personal Satellite Applications," provided the latest developments in measurement, modeling, and dissemination of propagation phenomena of interest to the mobile, personal, and aeronautical satcom industry. Session 3, "Propagation Research Topics," covered a diverse range of topics including space/ground optical propagation experiments, propagation databases, the NASA Propagation Web Site, and plans to revise the NASA propagation effects handbooks.

The ACTS Miniworkshop was held on June 6, 1996 and consisted of a technical session in the morning and a plenary session in the afternoon. The morning session covered updates on the status of the ACTS Project and the ACTS Propagation Program, engineering support for ACTS propagation terminals, and the ACTS Propagation Data Center. The plenary session made specific recommendations for the future direction of the program.