

# 1. Introduction and Executive Summary

In the fall of 1987, responding to the serious ozone depletion reported in Antarctica, the Division of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation called for the establishment of an Ultraviolet (UV) Monitoring System in Antarctica. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, this network is the longest operating, high-resolution UV scanning spectroradiometer network in the world. It has been operationally successful in the harshest environments of Antarctica and the Arctic and is continuously returning data to researchers studying the effects of UV radiation on terrestrial and marine biological systems. In addition, data are used by atmospheric scientists investigating the influence of atmospheric constituents such as ozone and clouds on UV levels at the ground. These studies helped to quantify the impact of ozone depletion, to analyze the variability of UV radiation on time-scales from hours to years, and to develop and verify models describing the transfer of solar radiation through the atmosphere.

Spectroradiometers of type SUV-100, manufactured by Biospherical Instruments Inc., are at the heart of the network. Systems were installed at four locations between February and November 1988; a fifth instrument was established at Barrow, Alaska, in December 1990. The San Diego system was installed in November 1992 and is also used for training of system operators and testing of upgrades to the instruments. Table 1.1 lists the locations of network sites.

**Table 1.1. NSF UV Monitoring Network Sites.**

ID #	Site	Longitude	Latitude	Established	Normal Season
1	McMurdo, Antarctica*	166°40'E	77°50'S	March 1988	August – April
2	Palmer, Antarctica	64°03'W	64°46'S	May 1988	Year-round
3	South Pole, Antarctica	-	90°00'S	February 1988	September – March
4	Ushuaia, Argentina**	68°19'W	54°49'S	November 1988	Year-round
5	San Diego, California***	117°12'W	32°46'N	November 1992	Year-round
6	Barrow, Alaska****	156°41'W	71°19'N	December 1990	January – November

\*Located at Arrival Heights, approximately 3 km north of McMurdo

\*\*Located at the Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas (CADIC), Argentina

\*\*\*Collocated with Biospherical Instruments Inc.

\*\*\*\*Located at the Ukepagvik Inupiat Corporation (formerly) Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (UIC/NARL)

The SUV-100 spectroradiometer is based on a temperature-stabilized, scanning double monochromator coupled to a photomultiplier tube (PMT) detector. Measurements of global spectral irradiance between 280 and 605 nm are conducted quarter-hourly when the sun is above the horizon. The instrument has internal wavelength and irradiance calibration lamps for daily automatic calibrations at programmed intervals.

Between 2001 and 2003, moderate-bandwidth, multi-channel radiometers (models GUV-511 and GUV-541, manufactured by Biospherical Instruments Inc.) were added to the network sites at McMurdo, Palmer, South Pole and San Diego. These instruments provide measurements at four approximately 10 nm wide UV bands centered at 305, 320, 340, and 380 nm. A fifth channel either measures radiation at 313 nm (GUV-541) or Photosynthetically Active Radiation (GUV-511).

All network sites are also equipped with pyranometers (model PSP from The Eppley Laboratory Inc.) and broadband UV-A detectors (model TUVR from The Eppley Laboratory Inc.). For additional information on network hardware see Chapter 2.

Data from the GUV radiometers are made available in near real time via the “Updates” link at the project’s web site at [www.biospherical.com/nsf/](http://www.biospherical.com/nsf/). Data from the SUV-100 instruments are processed on a weekly basis and a subset of data in numeral and graphical form can also be accessed via this web page. These data still have to be regarded preliminary and are subject to revision. Investigators are encouraged to contact Biospherical Instruments before drawing any final conclusions from these data or using them in a publication. Final data are made available on an annual basis and are distributed via the “Data/Report” link on the project’s website, and on CD-ROM. Final data are also known as “Version 0”. To produce Version 0 data, all available calibration information has been used. This includes data collected during

annual visits to the network locations. During these visits, on-site standards of spectral irradiance are compared with traveling standards traceable to the U.S. National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). Version 0 data have further been screened for instrument drifts, instrumental malfunctions, and other events that may affect the accuracy. A detailed report on quality control can be found in Chapter 5.

Version 0 data have not been corrected for the cosine error of the SUV-100 spectroradiometer. A new cosine-corrected data set is currently being prepared and is named "Version 2". Version 2 data also include additional data products such as total ozone column, effective albedo, and cloud optical depth calculated from the SUV-100 measurements. Every measured spectrum is complemented with a model spectrum calculated with the radiative transfer model UVSPEC/libRadtran. Version 2 data are not discussed in this report. For further information, see the Version 2 website at [www.biospherical.com/NSF/Version2](http://www.biospherical.com/NSF/Version2). As Version 2 data are more accurate than Version 0 data, we encourage researchers to use this new data set.

This report complements Volume 13.0 Version 0 data from the NSF Polar Programs UV Radiation Monitoring Network, encompassing the years 2003 and 2004. The published data set includes:

- Solar global irradiance spectra in full spectral resolution between 280 and 605 nm measured by SUV-100 spectroradiometers. Each spectrum is stored in a separate file in ASCII comma separated value (CSV) format.
- Databases in ASCII format providing measurements of global spectral irradiance at selected wavelengths extracted from the full-resolution irradiance spectra from SUV-100 spectra. These databases provide an easy way to analyze time series over extended periods of time.
- Databases with spectral integrals (e.g., UV-B and UV-A) and weighted spectral irradiances ("dose rates") calculated from SUV-100 spectra. A total of six biological action spectra have been implemented, including the CIE action spectrum for erythema (McKinlay and Diffey, 1987) and the action spectrum for DNA damage (Setlow, 1974).
- Databases with daily doses that have been calculated by integrating spectral integrals and dose-rates over 24 hour time periods.
- Databases with data from GUV radiometers including spectral irradiance at selected wavelengths, integrals, and dose rates for a large number of action spectra.
- Ancillary measurements from Eppley PSP and TUVR radiometers.
- Databases with system parameters, which are helpful for quality control.

Over the years, this network of instruments has provided data for the support of several research programs, the details of which may be found in the following references (Appendix A2): Anav et al. (2005); Anderson et al. (1993); Bais et al. (2001); Benavides et al. (1994); Bernhard et al. (2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005); Bojkov et al. (1995); Booth et al. (1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1997); Cullen et al. (1992); Day et al. (1998); DeFabo et al. (2004); Díaz et al. (1990, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003); Frederick et al. (1988, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2005); Frederick and Liao (2003); Gurney (1998); Herman et al. (1999); Holm-Hansen et al. (1993, 1994, 1997, 1998); Kalliskota et al. (2000); Karentz et al. (1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2004); Lakkala (2005); Lantz (2002); Lewis (1997); Liao and Frederick (2005); Lubin and Frederick (1989, 1991, 1992); Lubin et al. (1989, 1992, 1995); Madronich (1993, 1994); Malloy (1997); McKenzie (1994); Nichol et al. (2003); Ricchiazzi et al. (1995, 1996); Rowland (1989, 1996); Seckmeyer et al. (1995); Smith et al. (1989, 1991, 1992); Sobolew (2000); Stamnes (1993); Stamnes et al. (1990, 1991, 1992); and Thompson et al. (1997); Zerefos et al. (2001).

This report is structured as follows: Section 2 provides a detailed description of instrumentation used in the network. In Section 3, the network sites are described, including prevailing atmospheric conditions. Section 4 discusses system operation as well as calibration and data processing methods. Section 5 discusses the calibration standards used to process Volume 13 data and gives results of the quality control procedures applied. Section 6 describes the contents and format of the published data, including database structure. Section 7 provides examples of network data for each of the sites. In this section, Volume 13 data are contrasted with UV measurements of previous years.