
COCONet EAR 1042906/9 Quarterly Report

October 2010 - December 2010 (Q1)

SUMMARY

This quarterly report covers project activities for EAR-1042906 for the time period October, November, December 2010. The COCONet grant was awarded to UNAVCO on September 14, 2010 and a collaborative grant (EAR-1042909) awarded to J. Braun, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. The project is under the direction of M. Meghan Miller, Eric Calais, Guoquan Wang, Michael Jackson, and John Braun.

The majority of efforts during this reporting period include project startup activities such as establishing financial and project management controls and PI's and operational staff attended the Geophysical Hazards and Plate Boundary Processes in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean meeting in Costa Rica. The Costa Rica meeting was used as an opportunity to highlight the COCONet project to the meeting participants and advertise and recreate participants for the COCONet workshop in February 2011. Other activities that occurred this quarter include refining the COCONet budget to meet NSF funding requirements, establishing financial and schedule tracking, and creating a hiring plan for staffing COCONet.

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

COCONet Workshop

A majority of the effort this quarter was devoted to the inception and planning of the COCONet Workshop: Community Science, Station Siting, and Capacity Building (see <http://www.unavco.org/community/meetings-events/2011/coconet/coconet.html>). The primary workshop goals are to refine the overarching science goals for the network, refine the new GPS station siting plan, gain consensus on the list of existing stations in the Caribbean for inclusion in COCONet archiving and processing, and to define and prioritize additional science experiments that can capitalize on this investment in a pan-Caribbean infrastructure. A meeting organizing committee was established that includes:

Tim Dixon (Chair), University of Miami
Richard Robertson (Vice Chair), Seismic Research Centre, The University of the West Indies
John Braun, UCAR
Eric Calais, Purdue University
Mike Jackson, UNAVCO
Rob Kursinski, University of Arizona
Glen Mattioli, University of Texas, Arlington
M. Meghan Miller, UNAVCO
Hector Mora-Paez, Ingeominas
Rajul Pandya, UCAR
Guoquan (Bob) Wang, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

This committee has been active in establishing and refining the overall goals of the workshop, recruiting participants, creating an agenda, fund raising, and dealing with the details of putting on a large meeting. At present there are over 130 registrants (see: <http://achaja.unavco.org/public/meetings/2011/coconet/registrants.asp>) with strong representation from key Caribbean and Latin American countries.

The UCAR/COSMIC program is participating in COCONet under support from NSF grant (EAR-1042909). Efforts related to this project primarily consist of participation in the planning of the community kickoff meeting scheduled in February, 2011. UCAR has also used this support to maintain the current atmospheric analysis of GPS data coming from distributed sources in the Caribbean. Currently UCAR is producing hourly and daily precipitable water vapor (PW) products from more than 20 stations in the Caribbean. These data are included in the standard Suominet analysis (www.suominet.ucar.edu). UCAR also prepared data products for the National Hurricane Center (NHC) so that they could be included in the 2010 storm reports for hurricanes Alex, Matthew, and Richard.

UNAVCO COCONet Management Plan

The COCONet project will take advantage of UNAVCO's existing project management structure and field engineering expertise found within the Plate Boundary Observatory and the UNAVCO Facility. The performance of the PBO network and will not be compromised since additional PBO engineers will be hired to backfill positions as required. UNAVCO Facility personnel will contribute as schedule and project commitments allow.

The management structure for the COCONet project is shown in the table below. The management structure follows the basic management plan outlined in the COCONet proposal, with some modifications to take advantage of incorporation into the current PBO management structure and synergies with the UNAVCO Facility. The key personnel in this management plan are the GPS operations manager, regional engineer, and field engineers. The following table shows a breakdown of responsibilities and estimated time allotted for each of the key personnel in the project:

Position	Name	Primary COCONet Responsibilities	Expected Time Charged To COCONet
GPS Operations Manager	Karl Feaux	Project management, project monitoring & tracking, reporting	25%
Regional Engineer	Barrett Friesen	Logistics, station design, scheduling, leads reconnaissance and installation, assists project manager	80%
Field Engineer	To be hired	Station reconnaissance, installation, maintenance	100%
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COCONet Financial

As of the end of November \$36,838 of COCONet budget was expended. The month of November has not yet officially closed in accounting so these numbers may change slightly. The spending supported the upcoming COCONet Community Workshop (February 2-4), and the initiation of procurement of long lead material and supplies.

Project management, E&O, permitting, participant support, travel, material and supplies, and subwards are open with the majority of charges supporting the upcoming workshop and long lead materials and planning.

The NSF approved budget was \$127,440 less than proposed for the first two years. The following tasks in the proposal were reduced to meet this reduction.

Task Description	Task No.	Reduction
Permitting Coordinator	0104	\$39,476
Field Engineering Support	0501	\$67,710
Shipping	0506	\$1,820
Purdue University	030305	\$18,434
Total Reduction from Proposal		\$127,440

The reduction of the permit coordinator was justified by a delay in the start to substantial permitting activity until after the Community Workshop in February 2011. This justification was also used for a delay in hiring of field engineering support. The PI for the Purdue Subaward agreed to not charge for the first year of the project. We also forecast reduced shipping expenses due to a post-February start of field activities.

As part of the project controls for COCONet, UNAVCO will establish an earned value baseline for the COCONet construction and implementation. This detailed baseline planning will be heavily influenced by the decisions made at the upcoming COCONet Community Workshop.

PROJECT CONCERNS

No concerns at this time