


ICAR CONGRESS 2024

THESSALONIKI - GREECE
15-20 OCTOBER 2024

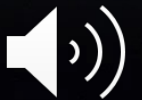
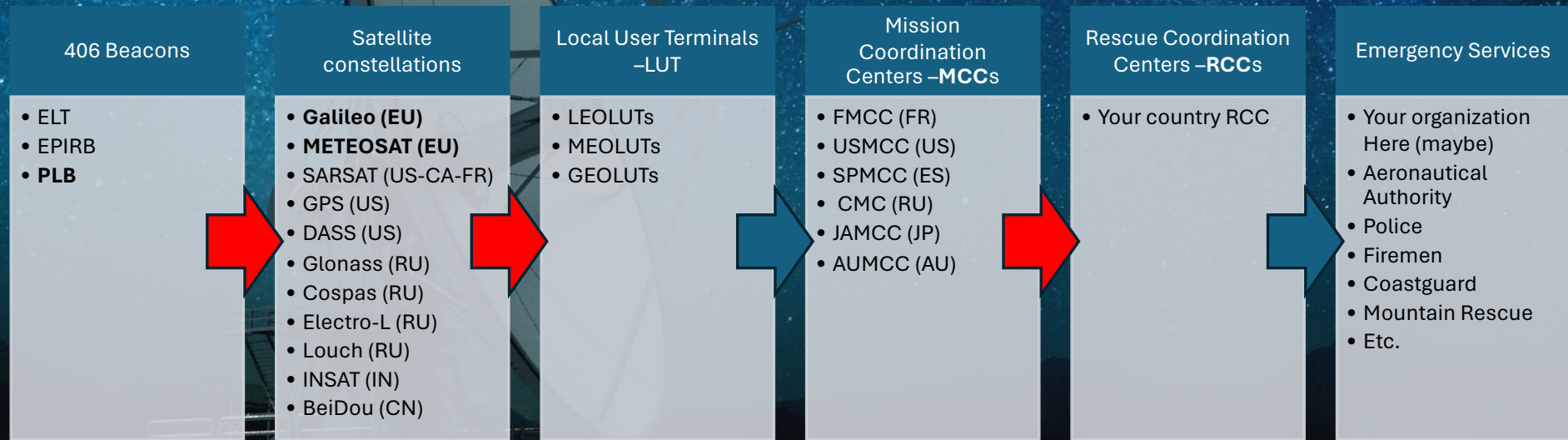
GALILEO, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE IN PLBs



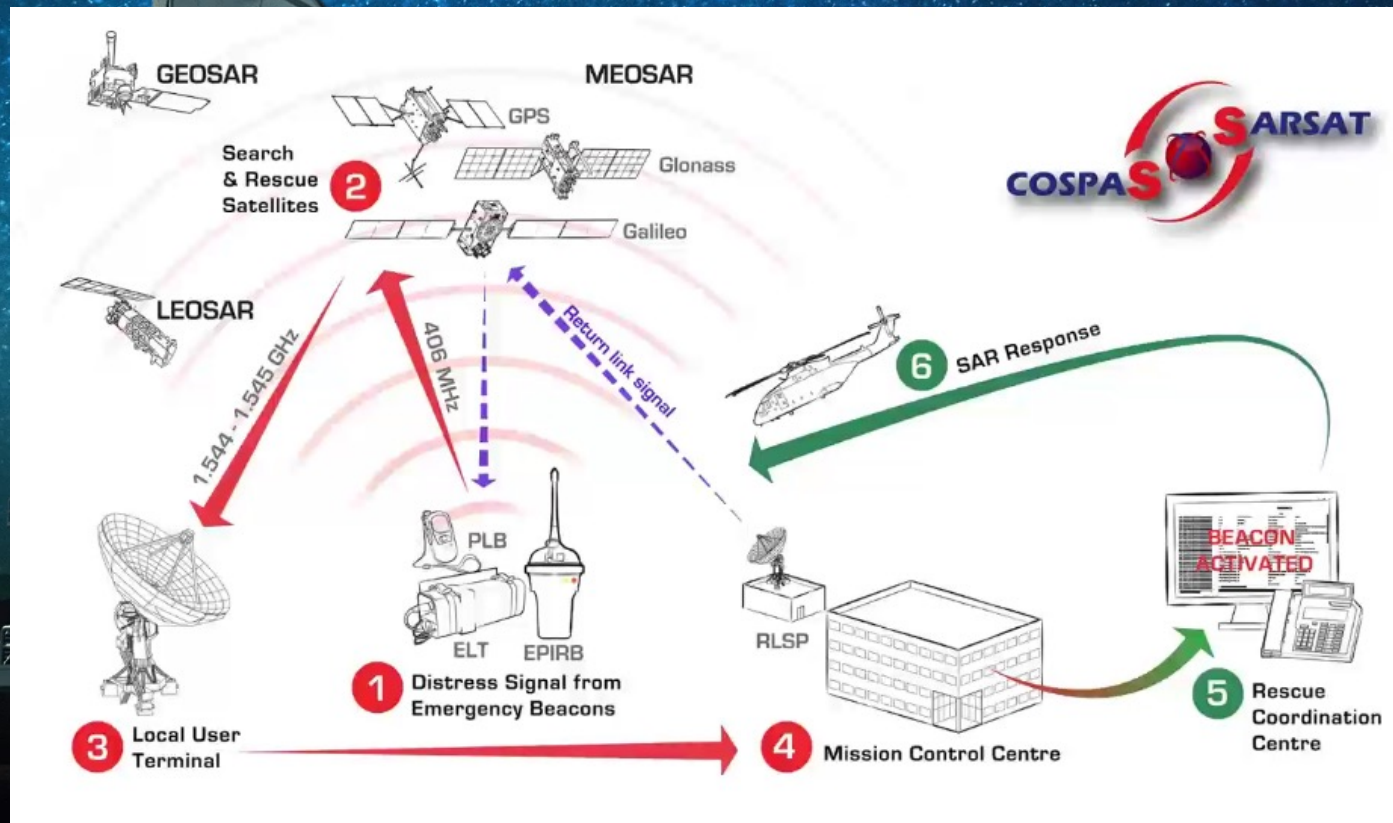
HUMBERTO HINESTROSA
RESCUE INTERNATIONAL
THE NETHERLANDS



SARSAT-COSPAS CURRENT STATE



SARSAT-COSPAS CURRENT STATE



BEACON TYPES



ELT

(Emergency Locator Transmitter)



Source: Rescue International

EPIRB

(Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)



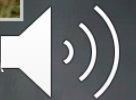
Source: NOAA

PLB

(Personal Locator Beacon)



Source: NOAA



BEACON TYPES



ELT

(Emergency Locator Transmitter)



Source: Acrartex

EPIRB

(Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)



Source: Ocean Signal

PLB

(Personal Locator Beacon)



Source: Ocean Signal



PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



Not to be confused with satellite tracking and messaging devices such as:

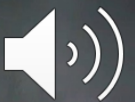
**SPOT (Globalstar)
InReach (Iridium)
Bullit
iPhone
Etc...**



PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



	406 Beacons	Commercial Messengers
Legal	ICAO/IMODoc.9731 IAMSAR	Depends on local laws and local SAR
Functions	Distress signal and return link only	SOS function, messenger, tracking
SOS transmission (1)	Continuous until switched off or until battery dead	Until message burst ends, in SOS goes tracking
SOS transmission (2)	RF continuous transmission and/or GNSS	Needs GNSS position first, then transmits that position
Homing frequency	Yes, AM121.5MHz (analog)	No
Battery	Average 7yrs.	Needs to be charged/Batt is used while performing other functions
Service	Free and unlimited	Paid and limited to subscriptions
Message	Received by RCC	Received by operator and family/friend



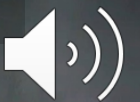
PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



Beacons may be subject to legal obligations in 193 countries: A State must have the domestic legal framework in place to implement a national SAR system **to meet its international SAR commitments (Doc 9731-1 6.4.2)**

ICAO's Annex 12 and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue requires availability and response times to beacon distress signals

- **Doc 9731-1, 6.5.2:** All SAR incident aspects must be **sensitive to timeliness**, i.e. alerting, planning transit, location and rescue. Information derived from survival data and incidents involving fatalities indicates that two (2) hours is generally the average critical time within which persons in distress must be rescued in order to survive. **Initial action should begin within FIVE MINUTES of initial notification of a distress incident.**
- **Doc 9731-1, 6.5.6:** **Transit time must be minimized.** SRUs **should get under way** and arrive at the distress location, or in the search area if the actual location is not known, **WITHOUT DELAY.**



PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



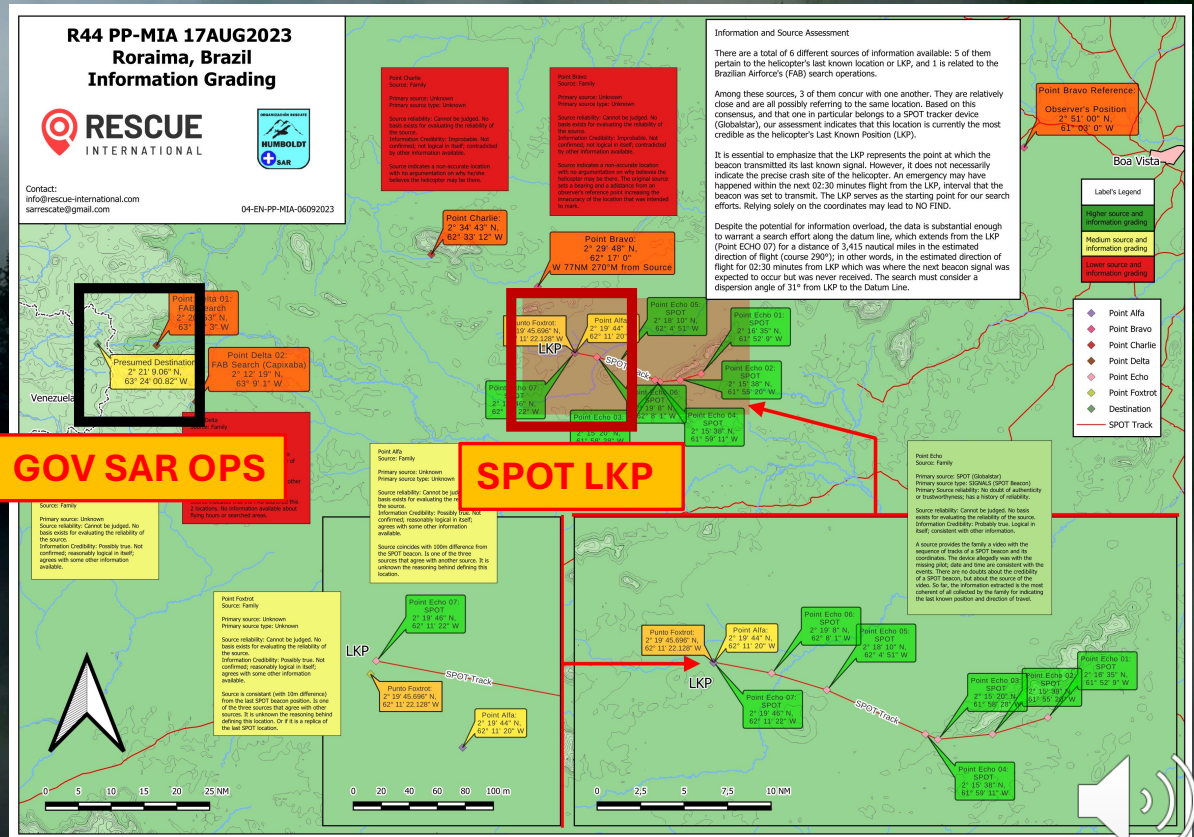
Brazil 2023 –Helicopter Missing

Authorities **dismissed tracking signal** coming from a commercial satellite messenger **SPOT**

Authorities locked in an area **~75NM** far from LKP

Aircraft was **never found**

Unfortunately, this is not the only case where commercial beacons are disregarded



PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



PLB-Land Use



PLB-Aeronautical Use

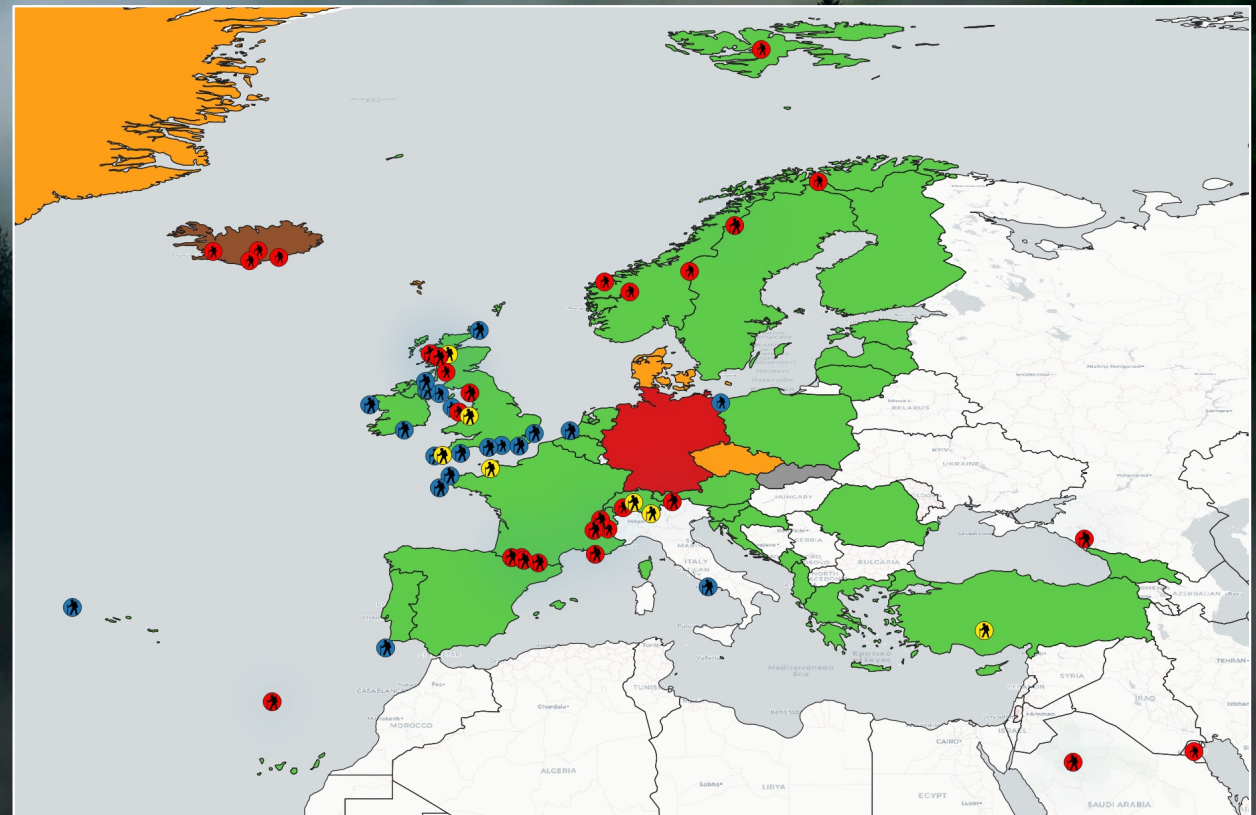


PLB-Maritime Use

Legality of PLBs in CEPT* States

Country Colors:

- Yes all is good!
- Only possession and NOT usage
- Yes/No some conditions apply
- Pending legislation
- Nope



*European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS -PLB



PLB-Land Use








PLB-Aeronautical Use

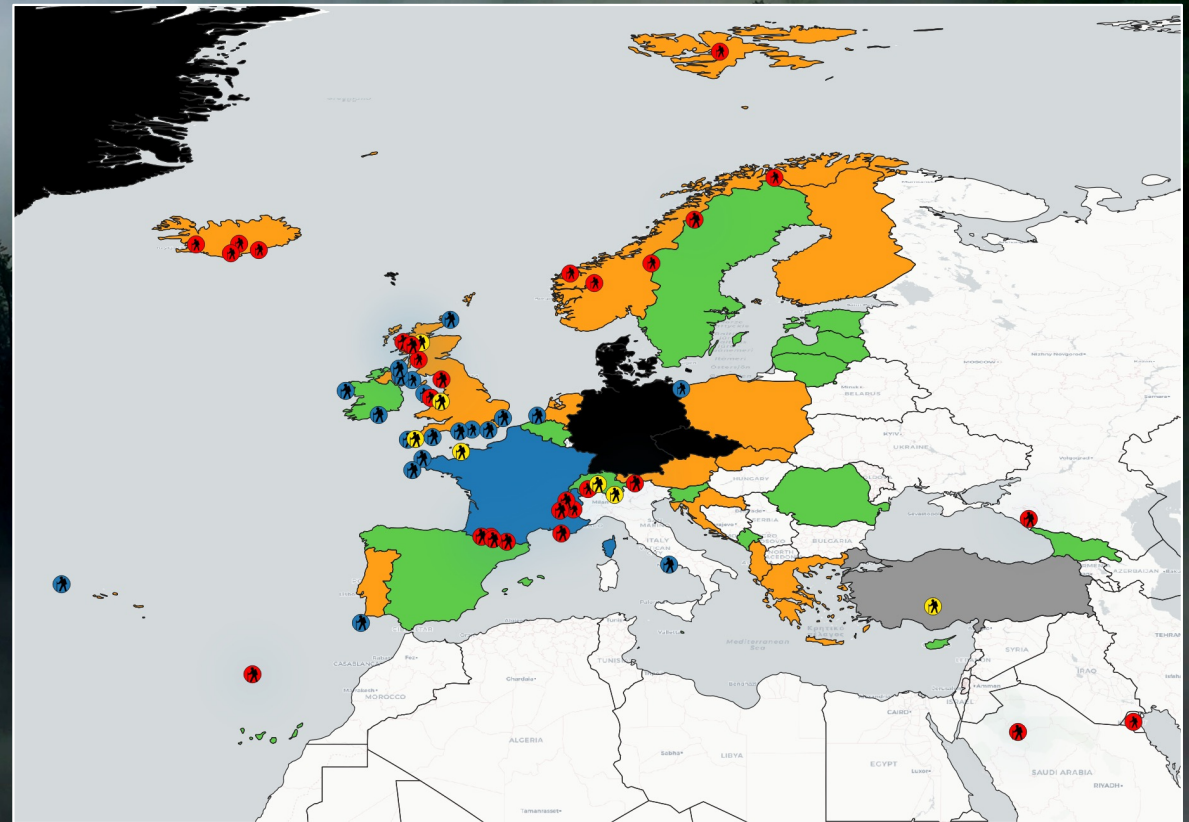


PLB-Maritime Use

PLB License Needed in CEPT* States

Country Colors:

-  Not required
-  Required
-  Only MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity)
-  Pending
-  N/A (Mainly because it's forbidden so there is no law about its use, thus not license possible)

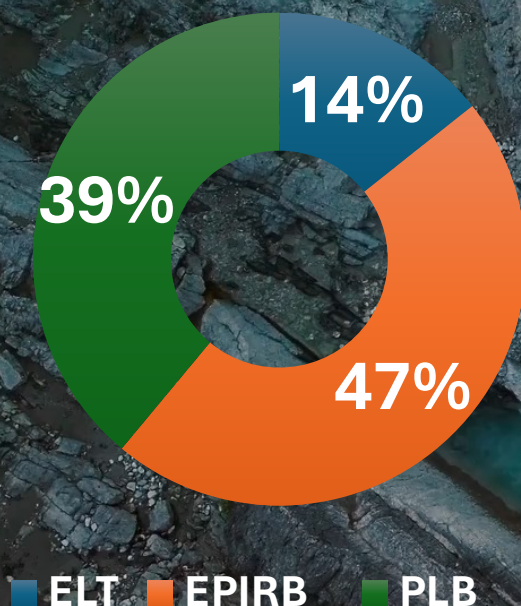


*European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

BEACON POPULATION



2022

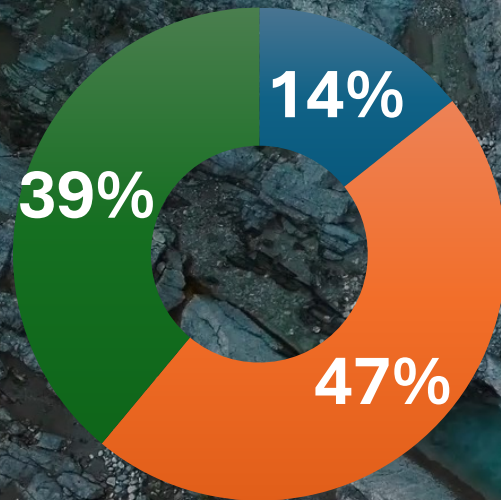


- We observed a constant growth of beacon population (expected)
- In 8 years, an average of 0,42% PLBs were activated, and **0,041%** were actual SAR events (Globally)
- Registration average for all beacons is **73,43%**
- In 8 yrs of the PLB that generated an alert call, an average of 73,4% (per year) were registered
- PLBs are **16%** of all confirmed alerts
- In 2022 **39%** of all SAR cases were **Land SAR events**

BEACON POPULATION



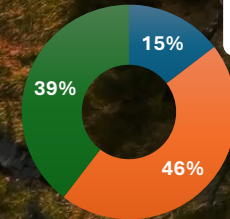
2022



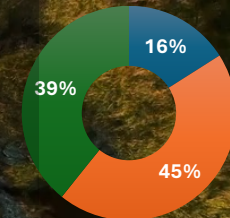
■ ELT ■ EPIRB ■ PLB

In 2022 there was an estimated of **3.100.908** beacons
Of all, **1.225.032** were PLBs

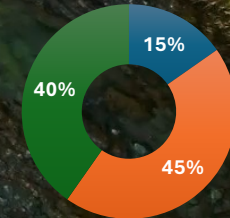
2021



2020



2019

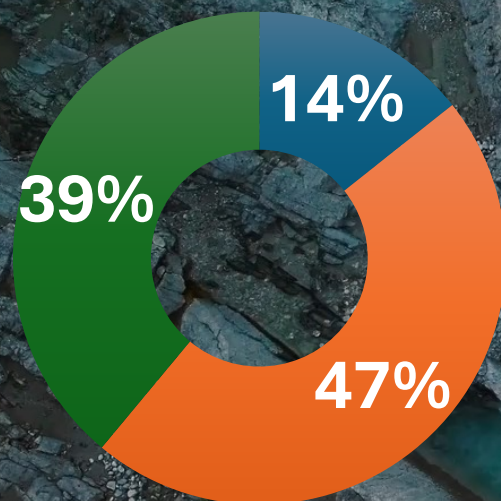


BEACON POPULATION

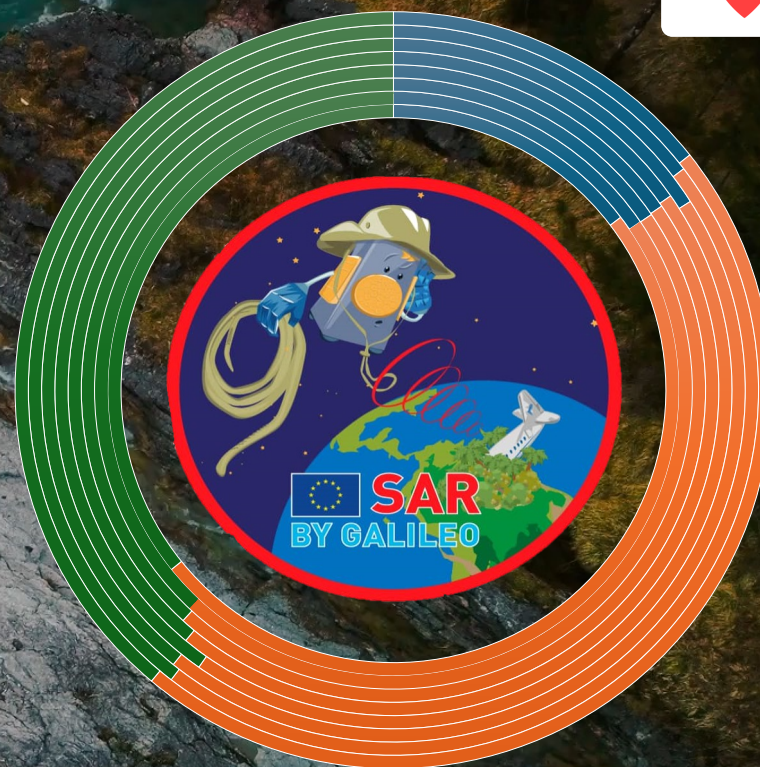
2015 - 2022



2022

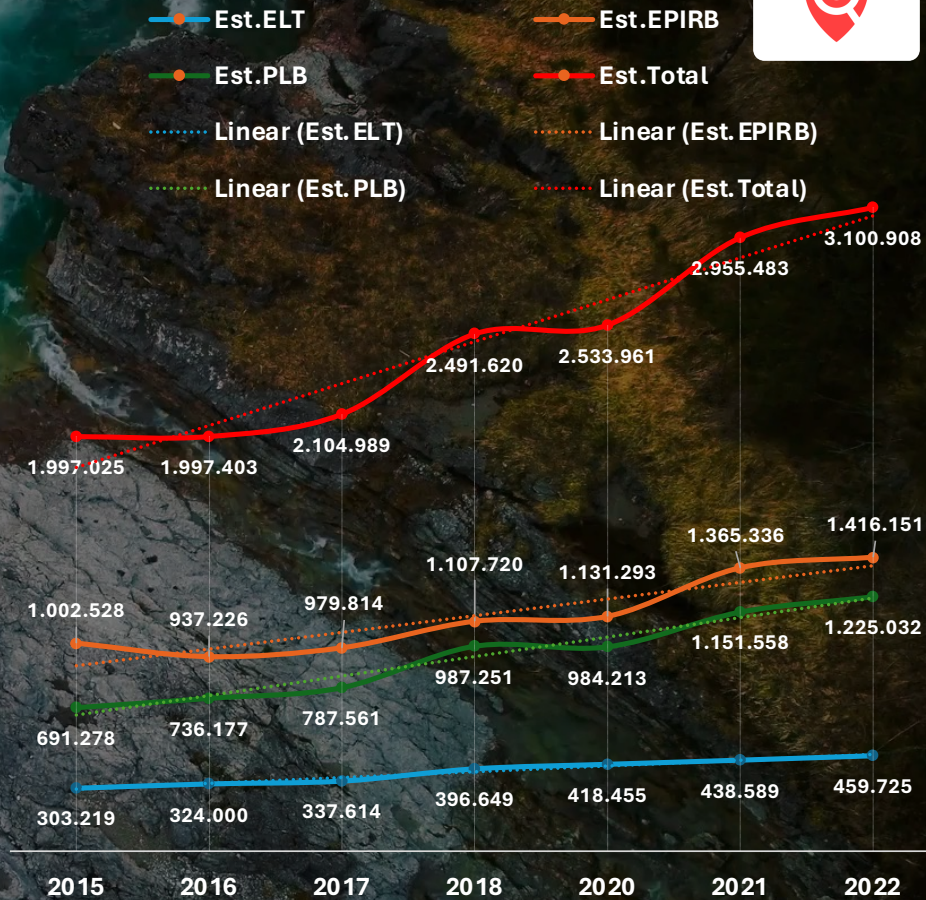
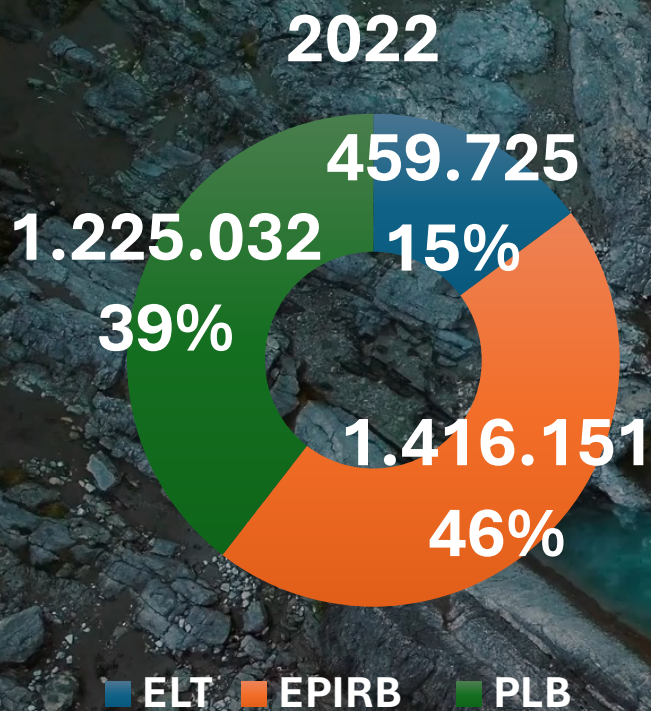


■ ELT ■ EPIRB ■ PLB



■ ELT ■ EPIRB ■ PLB

BEACON (Est)POPULATION



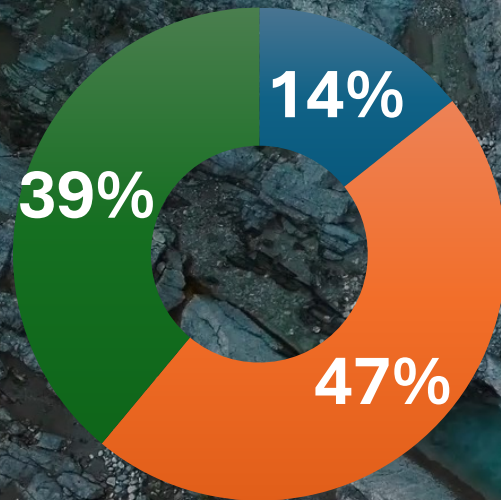
406-MHz total **Estimated Beacon Population** as Reported by Administrations

Source: SARTSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

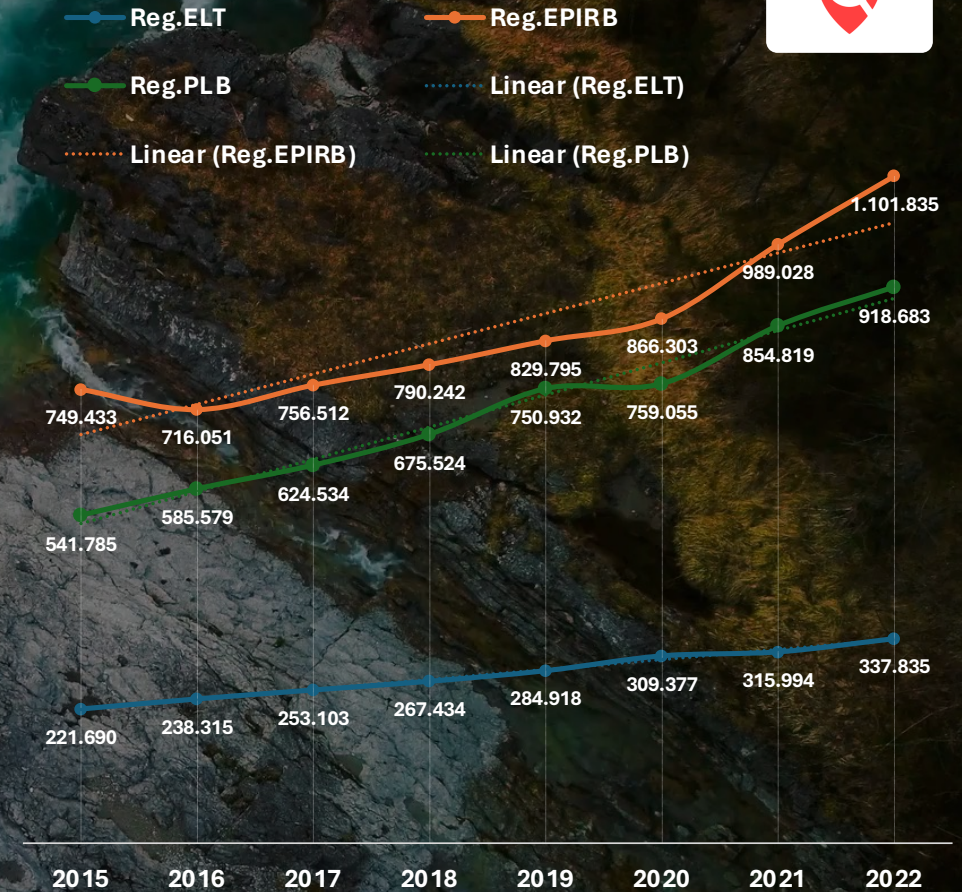
BEACON REGISTRATION



2022



■ ELT ■ EPIRB ■ PLB



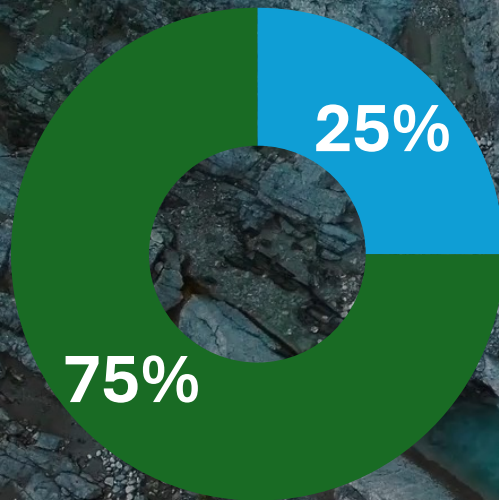
406-MHz **Registered Beacon Population** as Reported by Administrations

Source: SARTSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

BEACON REGISTRATION



PLBs 2022



■ Unregistered ■ Registered



No data available for 2019

406-MHz Registered Beacon vs. Beacon Population

BEACON POPULATION



BEACON ALERT

**WHEN THE C/S SYSTEM DETECTS A BEACON
EMITTING A DISTRESS SIGNAL**

**IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FALSE POSITIVE
ALERTS WHICH CONSTITUTE (est.) 95% OF THE
SIGNALS WHICH IS FILTRATED BY THE SYSTEM**

SAR EVENT

**THE ACTIVATION IS CONFIRMED AS AN
EMERGENCY SITUATION AN REQUIRES A SAR
RESPONSE**

DATA IS AS REPORTED BY ADMINISTRATOR

BEACON ALERTS



Percentage of SAR Events in relation to all PLBs (Globally) in 2022 was **0,0362%**

For SAR Responders **YELLOW** trend

SAR Administrators **RED** trend

False Alerts not included – S/C system filters all signals of which ~95% are false alerts

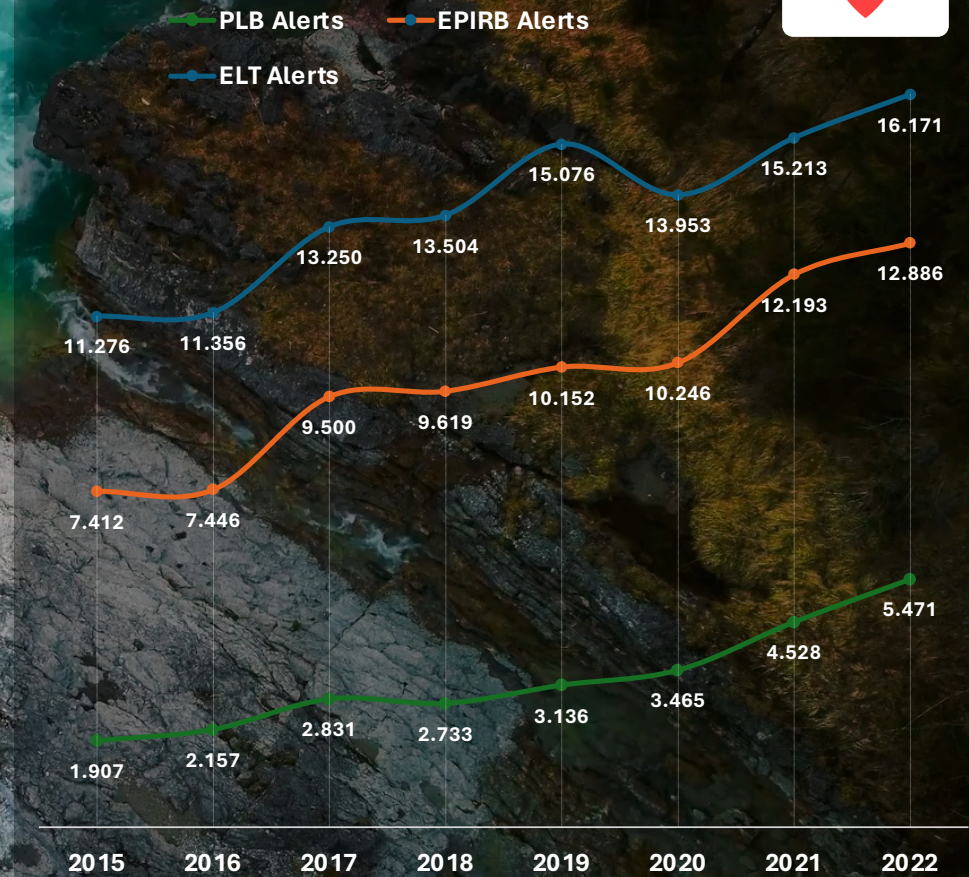
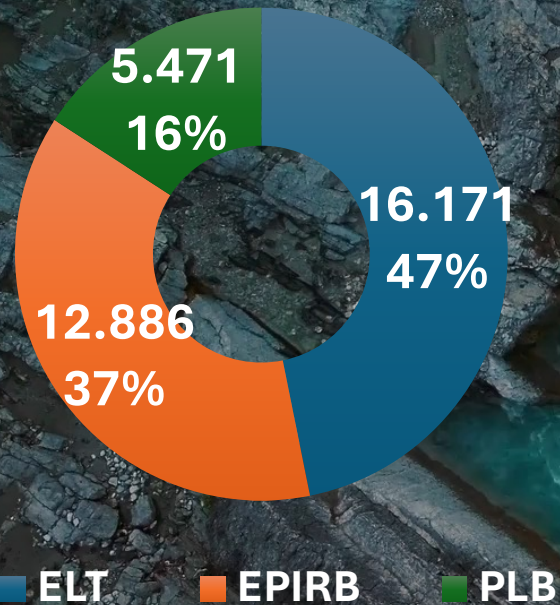


Data source: Sarsat-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"
Analysis: Rescue International

BEACON ALERTS



Alerts 2022



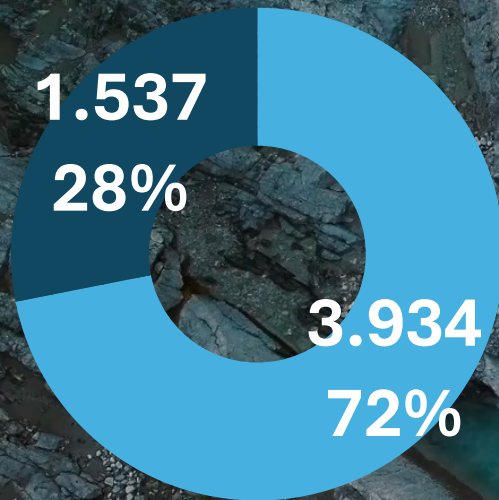
406-MHz Beacon Alert per beacon type

Source: SARSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

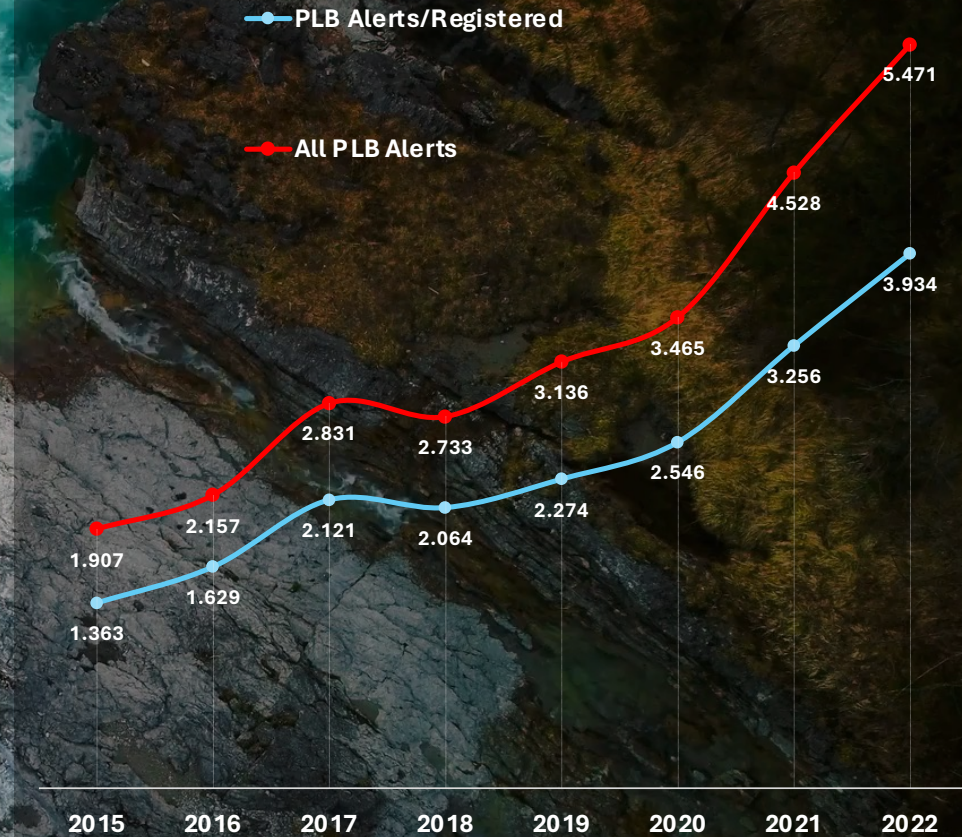
BEACON ALERTS



PLB Alerts-2022



■ Registered ■ Unregistered



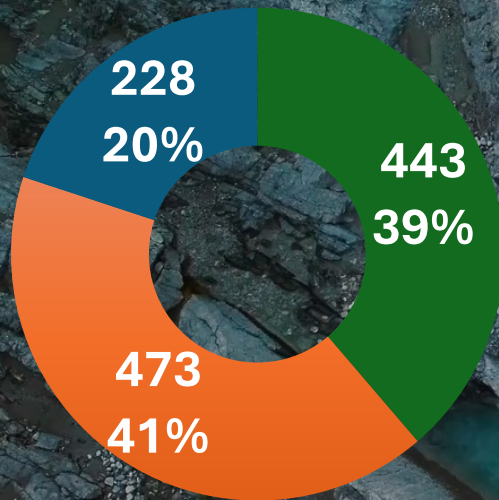
406-MHz Beacon Alert vs. Beacon Alerted and Registered

Source: SARSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

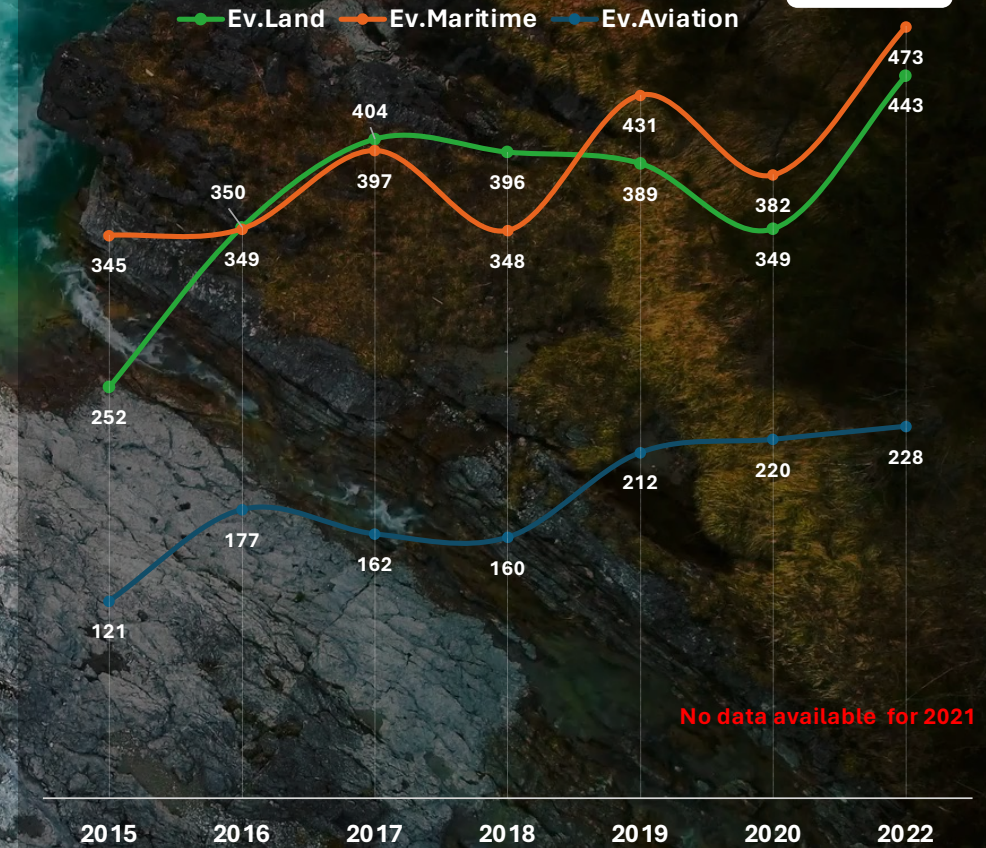
BEACON SAR EVENTS



2022



■ Land ■ Maritime ■ Aviation



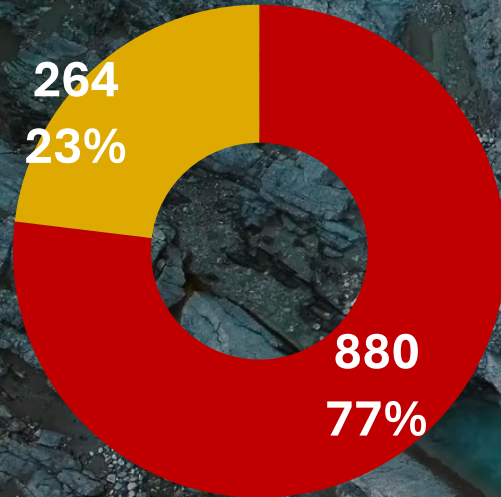
SAR Event per beacon type

Source: Sarsat-Cospas "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

BEACON SAR EVENTS



Beacon-only Event 2022*



■ All Alerts ■ Only Alert

*all beacons



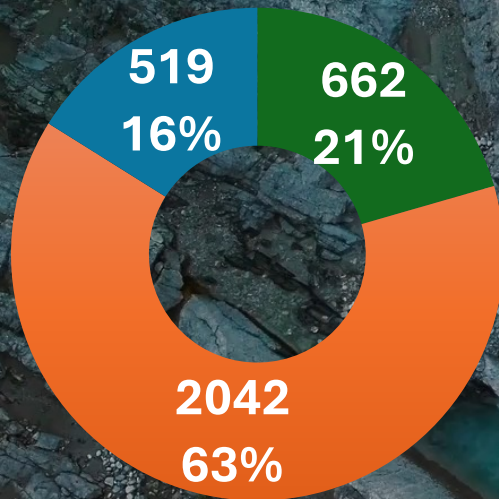
SAR Beacon as ONLY mean of alert vs All SAR Events

Source: SARSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

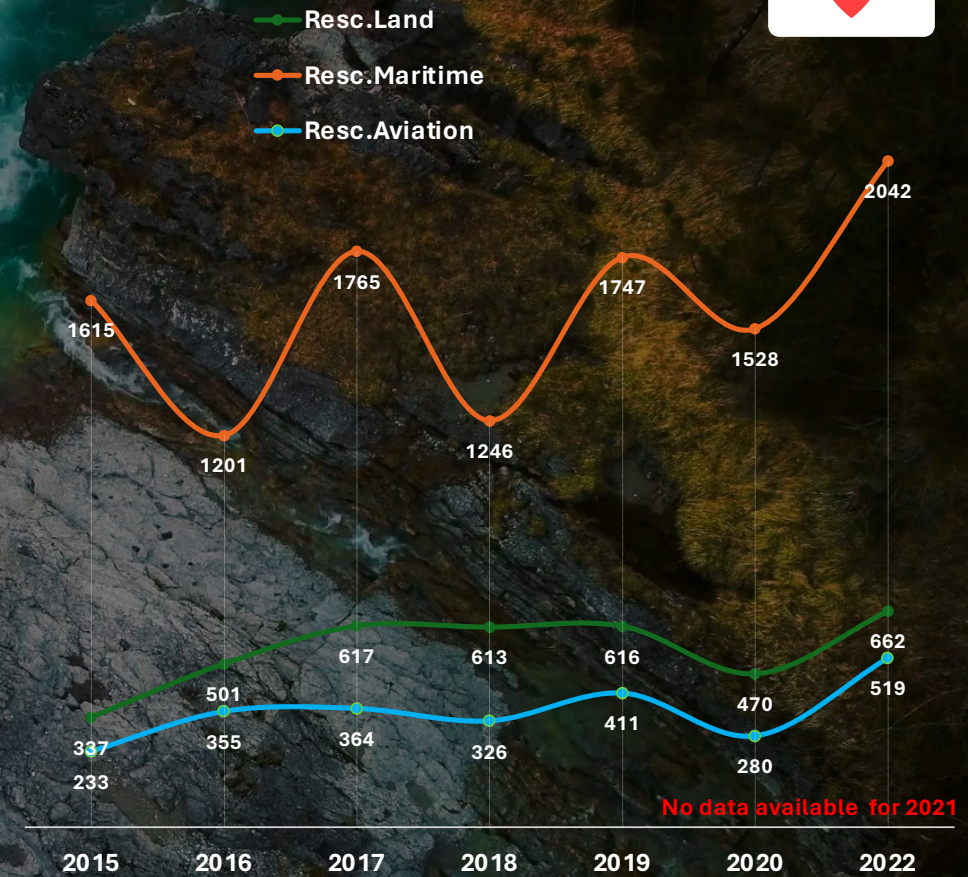
BEACON PERSONS RESCUED



2022



■ Land ■ Maritime ■ Aviation

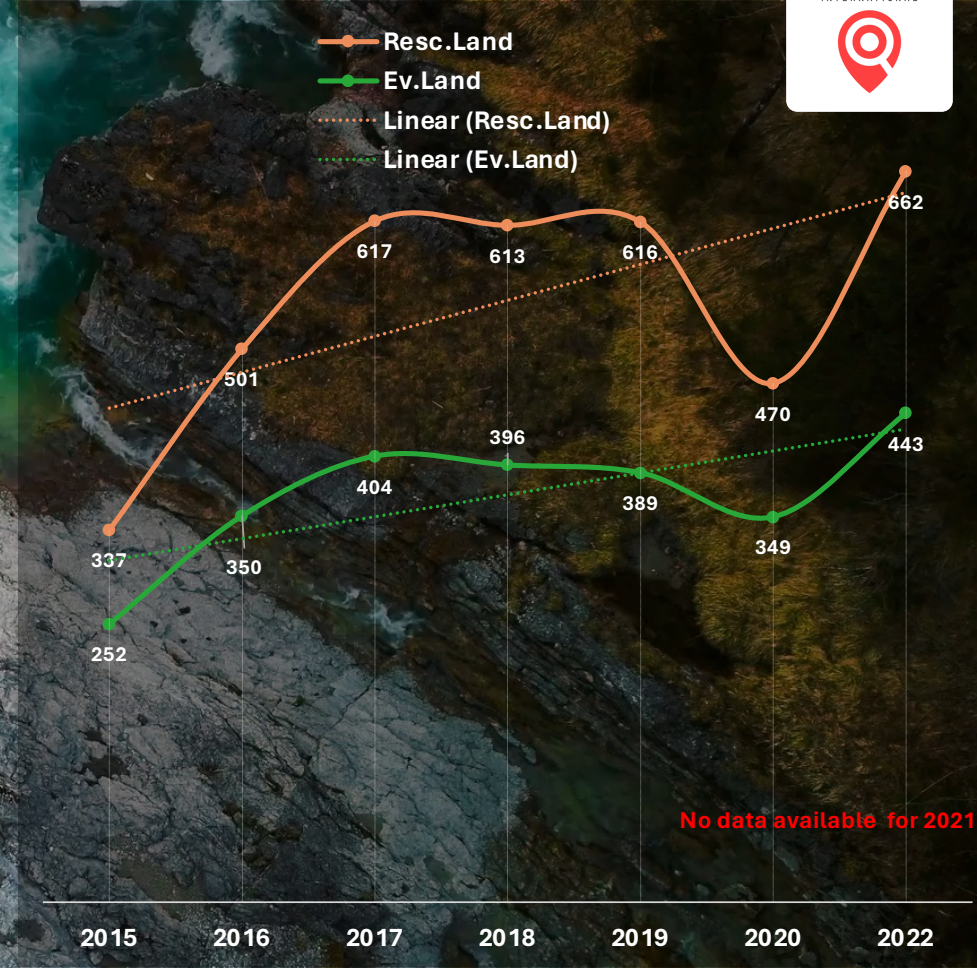


Persons rescued per incident type

Source: SARTAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

BEACON PERSONS RESCUED

Avg. **1,5 persons** rescued per event (LAND)



Land SAR Events vs. number of persons rescued in land

No data available for 2021

Source: SARSAT-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

BEACON INDICATORS

All beacons-all events:

Avg. in 7 years
(excl.2021) is one SAR
Incident every 2.500
beacons

1:2.500



Source: SARTS-COSPAS "Report on System Status and Operations No.39"

BEACON INDICATORS

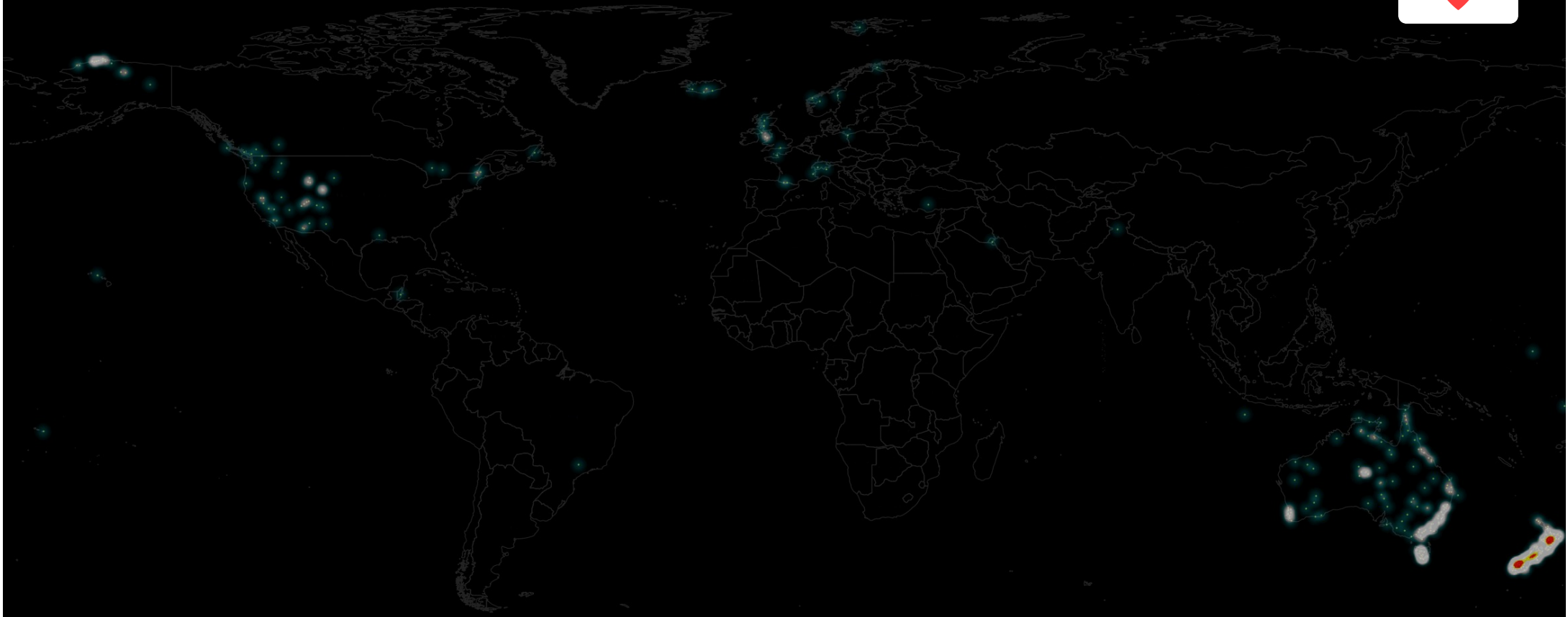
All PLBs and all Land SAR events:

Avg. in 6 years (excl. 2019 and 2021) is **one** SAR Incident **every 2.479** beacons

1:2.479

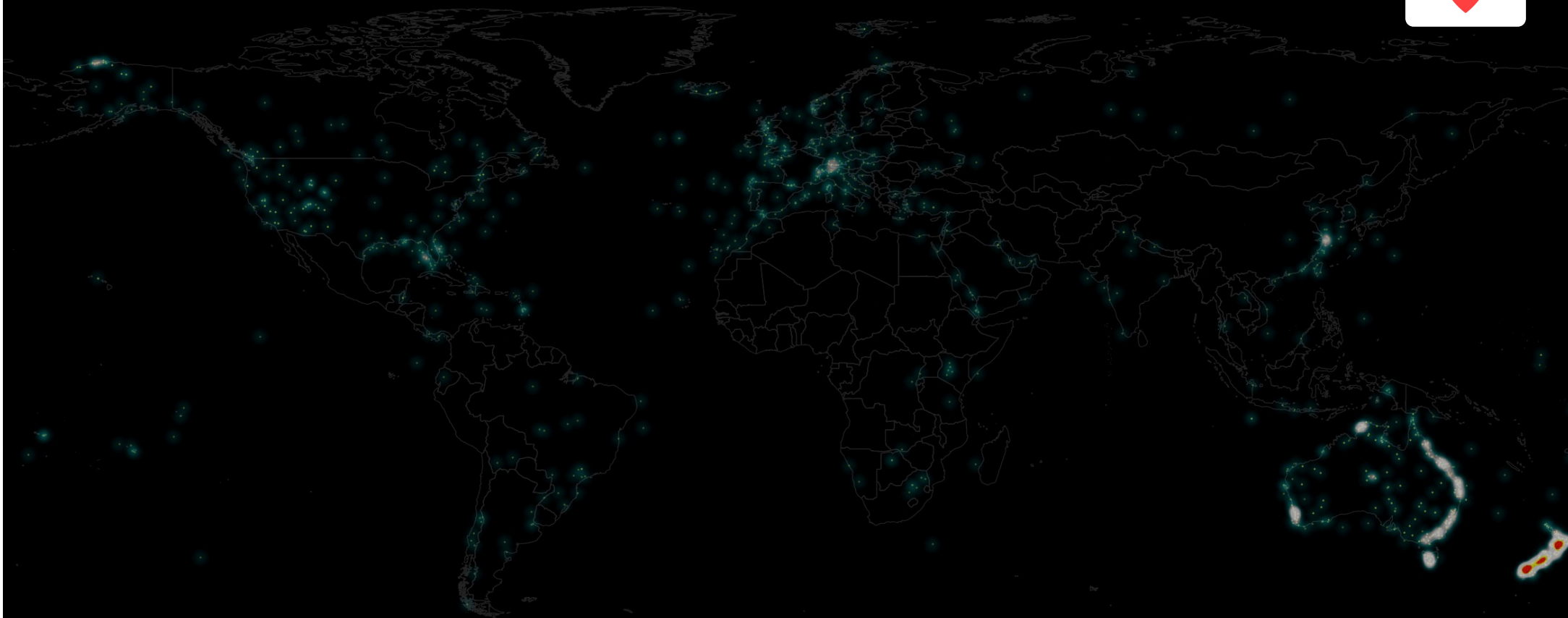


SAR EVENTS 2022



PLBs ONLY 2022

SAR EVENTS 2022



ALL BEACONS 2022

CONSTELLATION PROPERTIES



Geosynchronous –GEO (~35.000km)

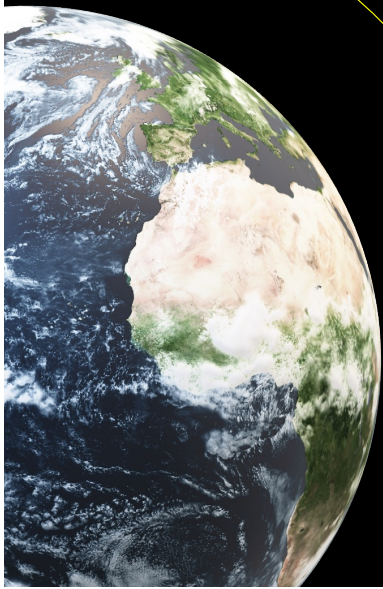
- Need stronger signal
- Can't compute location
- More coverage
- Less LUTs

Medium Earth Orbit –MEO (~20.000km)

- Need stronger signal
- Higher accuracy
- Minutes to process (almost real-time)
- More coverage
- Less LUTs

Low Earth Orbit –LEO (~800km)

- Better for weaker signals
- Lower accuracy
- Wait times significant
- Less coverage
- More LUTs



CONSTELLATION PROPERTIES



Geosynchronous – GEO (~35,000km)

Table 5: LEOSAR Ground Segment Status (LEOLUTs) (31 December 2023)

Code	Location	Provider	Status	Associated MCC	Dual	Comments
2241	Maspalomas	Spain	FOC	SPMCC	No	
2271-2	Toulouse	France	FOC	FMCC	Yes	
2324	Lee-on-Solent	UK	FOC	UKMCC	No	
2401	Penteli	Greece	FOC	GRMCC	No	
2471	Bari	Italy	FOC	ITMCC	No	
2573	Spitsbergen	Norway	FOC	NMCC	No	
2711-2	Ankara	Türkiye	FOC	TRMCC	Yes	
2733	Nakhodka	Russia	FOC	CMC	No	
3037-8	Alaska	USA	FOC	USMCC	Yes	Combined LEO-MEO antenna.
3161	Goose Bay	Canada	FOC	CMCC	No	
3162	Churchill	Canada	CMC	CMCC	No	
3163	Edmonton	Canada	FOC	CMCC	No	
3168	Ottawa (LOW)	Canada	FOC	CMCC	No	Backup and back-up, used operationally as needed.
3381-2	Guam	USA	IOC	USMCC	Yes	Combined LEO-MEO antenna.
3387-8	Hawaii	USA	FOC	USMCC	Yes	Combined LEO-MEO antenna.
3667-8	Florida	USA	FOC	USMCC	Yes	Combined LEO-MEO antenna.
3678	Maryland (LME)	USA	FOC	USMCC	No	LEO-MEO support Equipment. Combined
4031-2	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	FOC	SAMCC	Yes	
4121-2	Beijing	China (P.R. of)	FOC	CNMCC	Yes	
4164-5	Dapingding	ITDC	IOC	TAMCC	Yes	
4191	Bangalore	India	FOC	INMCC	No	
4192	Lucknow	India	FOC	INMCC	No	
4311	Futtsu	Japan	FOC	JAMCC	No	
4403	Incheon	Korea (Rep. of)	FOC	KOMCC	No	
4631	Karachi	Pakistan	FOC	PAMCC	No	
4661	Doha	Qatar	FOC	QAMCC	No	
4701	Abu Dhabi	UAE	FOC	AEMCC	No	
4771-2	Hong Kong	Hong Kong China	FOC	HKMCC	Yes	
5254	Jakarta	Indonesia	FOC	IDMCC	No	
5331-2	Kuantan	Malaysia	UD	MYMCC*	Yes	Pending MCC commissioning.
5632	Singapore	Singapore	FOC	SIMCC	No	
5671-2	Bangkok	Thailand	FOC	THMCC	Yes	
5741	Haiphong	Viet Nam	FOC	VNMCC	No	
6011	Cape Town	South Africa	FOC	ASMCC	No	
6051	Oran	Algeria	FOC	ALMCC	No	
6052	Algiers	Algeria	FOC	ALMCC	No	
6571	Abuja	Nigeria	CNO	NIMCC	No	MCC configured as a SPOC of the Spanish MCC.
7012	Rio Grande	Argentina	FOC	ARMCC	No	
7014	El Palomar	Argentina	FOC	ARMCC	No	
7101	Brasilia	Brazil	FOC	BRMCC	No	
7102	Recife	Brazil	FOC	BRMCC	No	
7251	Santiago	Chile	FOC	CHMCC	No	
7252	Punta Arenas	Chile	FOC	CHMCC	No	
7254	Easter Island	Chile	FOC	CHMCC	No	
7601	Callao	Peru	FOC	PEMCC	No	

LEOLUTs

Table 7: MEOSAR Ground Segment Status (MEOLUTs) (31 December 2023)

Code	Location	Provider	Channels	Comments	Additional Capabilities (b)
6054	Algiers	Algeria	4		
8035	Mingenev	Australia	6	Networked with NZ MEOLUT 5125	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8
4123	Beijing	China (P.R. of)	6		7f
2091	Larnaca / EU	Cyprus	4	Part of European 12-channel MEOLUT-MEOSAR IOC/FOC standard.	4, 5, 6, 7f
2275	Toulouse	France	20	Phased-array L-Band antenna. MEOSAR IOC/FOC standard.	4, 5, 6, 7f
6601	Saint-Denis-La Réunion / EU	France	30	Phased-Array L-Band antenna. Connected to the FR MEOLUT network.	4, 5, 6, 7f
2405	Kerates	Greece	6		5f
4163	Dapingding	ITDC	8		7f
4314	Futtsu	Japan	6		
5125	Taupo	New Zealand	50	Networked with NZ MEOLUT 8035	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8
2574	Spitsbergen / EU	Norway	12	Networked with NZ MEOLUT 8035	4, 5, 6, 7f
4034	Jeddah	Saudi Arabia	6		
5635	Changi	Singapore	6	One additional LEO/MEO channel with Changi LEOLUT (5632).	7f
2244	Maspalomas / EU	Spain	4	Part of European 12-channel MEOLUT-MEOSAR IOC/FOC standard.	4, 5, 6, 7f
2714	Ankara	Türkiye	6		
4706	Abu Dhabi	UAE	6		
2325	Lee-On-Solent	UK	7	One combined MEO/LEO antenna. Two additional antennas installed at Keston (UK) for DRAE if needed.	
3385	Hawaii	USA	12	6 MEO, and 6 LEO/MEO channels	4, 5, 7, 8
3669	Florida	USA	9	MEOSAR IOC/FOC standard.	4, 5, 7, 8
3683	NSOF	USA	8	MEOSAR IOC/FOC standard. Backup of 3669.	4, 5, 7, 8

MEOLUTs

- Minutes to process (almost real-time)

Table 6: GEOSAR Ground Segment Status (GEOLUTs) (31 December 2023)

Code	Location	Provider	Status	Associated GEOSAR	Comments
2242	Maspalomas	Spain	FOC	GOES-East	
2243	Maspalomas	Spain	FOC	MTG-11	
2273	Toulouse	France	FOC	MTG-11	
2323	Lee-on-Solent	UK	FOC	MSG-4	
2402	Penteli	Greece	FOC	MSG-3	
2472	Bari	Italy	FOC	MSG-3	
2713	Ankara	Turkey	FOC	MSG-4	
2735	Moscow	Russia	FOC	Electro-L No.3	
2736	Moscow	Russia	FOC	Electro-L No.2	
2738	Khabarovsk	Russia	FOC	Electro-L No.1	
3166	Edmonton	Canada	FOC	GOES-West	
3167	Ottawa	Canada	FOC	GOES-West	Backup facility.
3169	Ottawa	Canada	FOC	GOES-East or GOES-West	
3674	Maryland	USA	FOC	GOES-East	
3675	Maryland GSE	USA	FOC	GOES-East or GOES-West	Test facility used operationally as needed.
3676	Maryland	USA	FOC	GOES-West	
4194	Bangalore	India	FOC	INSAT-3D	
4194bis	Bangalore	India	FOC	INSAT-3DR	
4662	Doha	Qatar	FOC	MSG-3	
4702	Abu Dhabi	UAE	FOC	MSG-3	
4707	Abu Dhabi	UAE	FOC	MSG-2	
5123	Goudies Road	New Zealand	FOC	GOES-West	
5124	Goudies Road	New Zealand	FOC	Louch-5A	Active-tracking capable antenna.
6053	Algiers	Algeria	FOC	MSG-4	
7011	El Palomar	Argentina	FOC	GOES-East	
7104	Brasilia	Brazil	FOC	GOES-East	
7105	Recife	Brazil	FOC	MSG-3	
7253	Santiago	Chile	FOC	GOES-East	
7602	Callao	Peru	FOC	GOES-West	

GEOLUTs

Low Earth Orbit –LEO (~800km)

- Better for weaker signals
- Lower accuracy
- Wait times significant
- Less coverage
- More LUTs

CONSTELLATION ACCURACY



Geosynchronous –GEO (~35.000km)

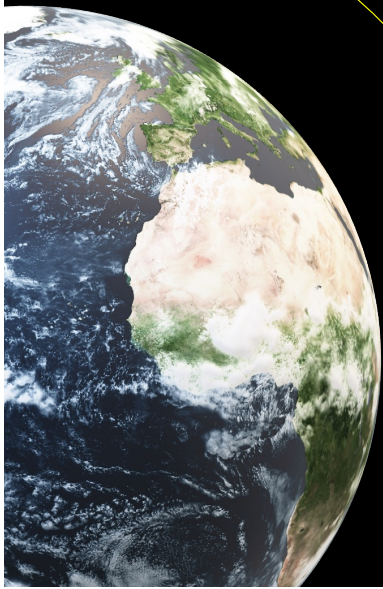
- No computed location
- Reports only with encoded location
- Accuracy of the beacon's GNSS chip or external device

Medium Earth Orbit –MEO (~20.000km)

- Reports computed and encoded location
- S/C refers to 2km error

Low Earth Orbit –LEO (~800km)

- Reports computed and encoded
- Up-to 10m



CONSTELLATION ACCURACY



Geosynchronous –GEO (~35.000km)

- Electro-L (RU)
- GOES (US)
- GSAT (IN)
- INSAT (IN)
- Louch (RU)
- **MSG (EUMETSAT) (EU)**
- **MTG (EUMETSAT) (EU)**

Medium Earth Orbit –MEO (~20.000km)

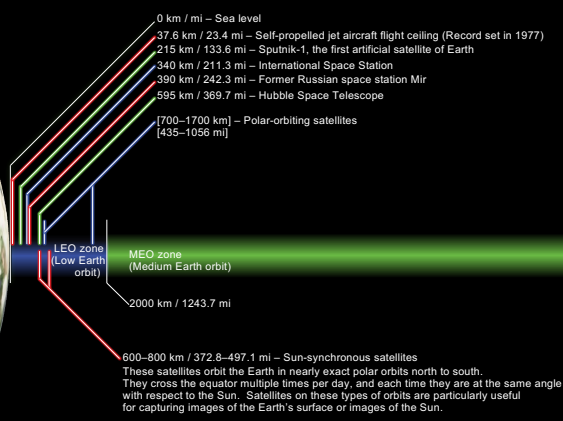
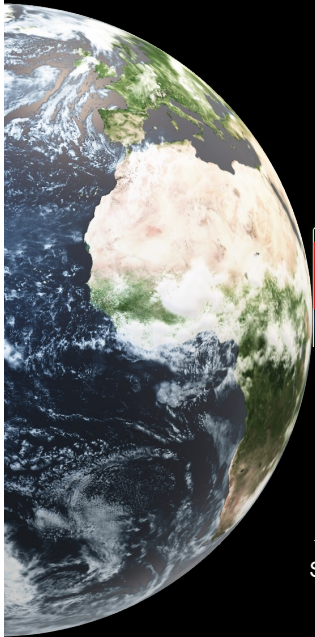
- GPS (GPSII, GPSIII) (US)
- **GSAT (Galileo) (EU)**
- DASS (US)
- Glonass (RU)

Low Earth Orbit –LEO (~800km)

- Cospas (Meteor) (RU)
- Sarsat (NOAA) (US)



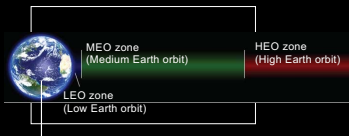
ORBITAL ALTITUDES



20 350 km
GPS (Global Positioning System) satellites
These satellites are on a semi-synchronous orbit (SSO), meaning that they orbit the Earth in exactly 12 hours (twice per day).

35 786 km
Geosynchronous (GEO) and geostationary (GSO) satellites.
Geosynchronous satellites orbit the Earth at the same rate that the Earth rotates. Thus they remain stationary over a single line of longitude. A geostationary satellite remains in a fixed location as observed from the surface of the Earth, allowing a satellite dish to be aligned to it. This particular altitude marks the border between the MEO and HEO zones.

Scale: 2000 km / 1243.7 mi

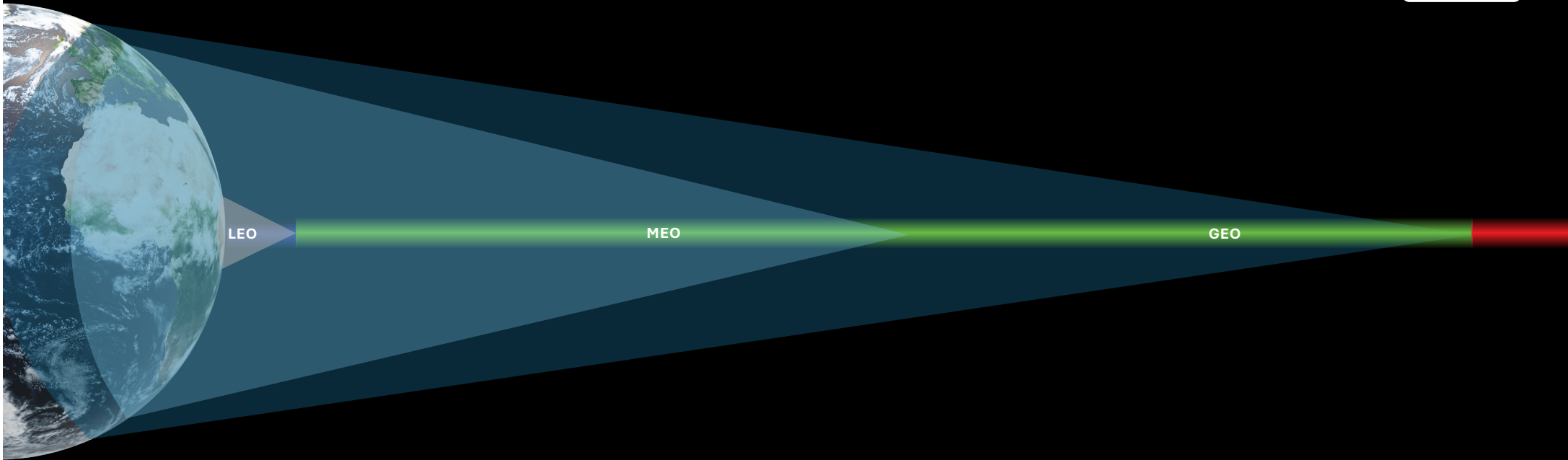


You're Here



MOON

ORBITAL ALTITUDES



You're Here

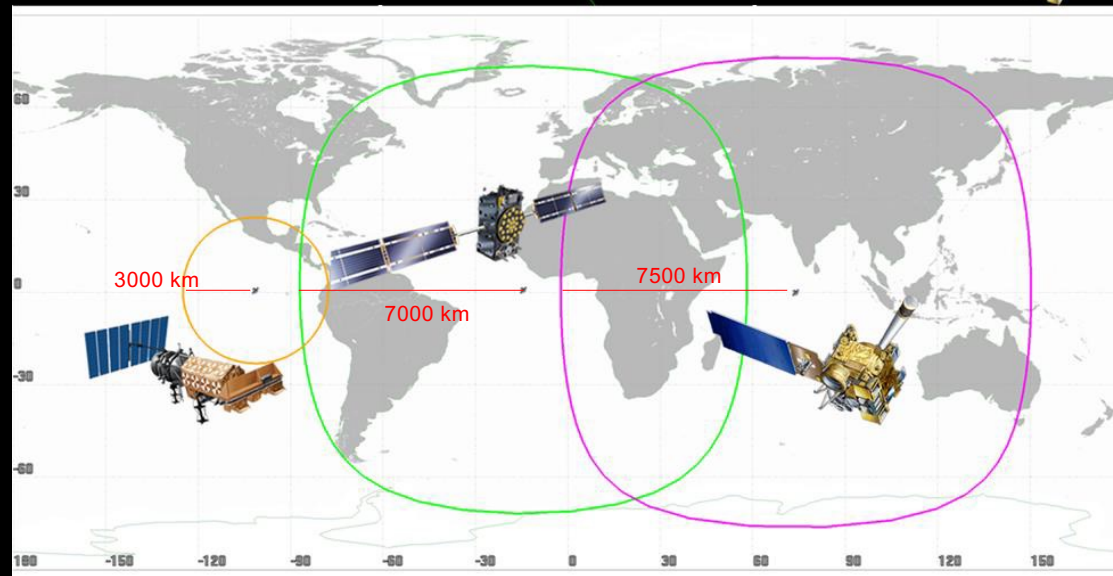
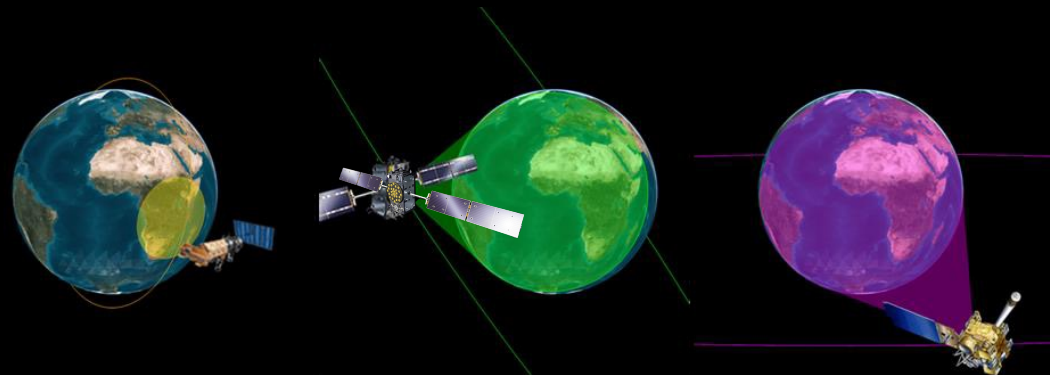
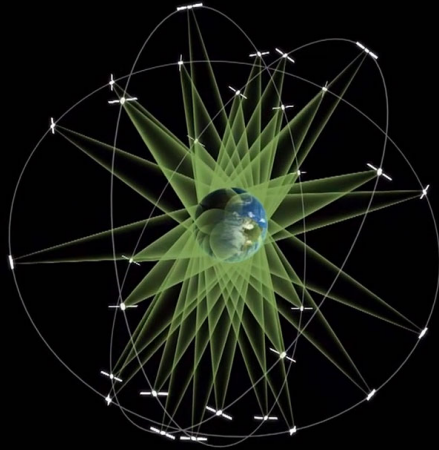


MOON

ORBITAL ALTITUDES

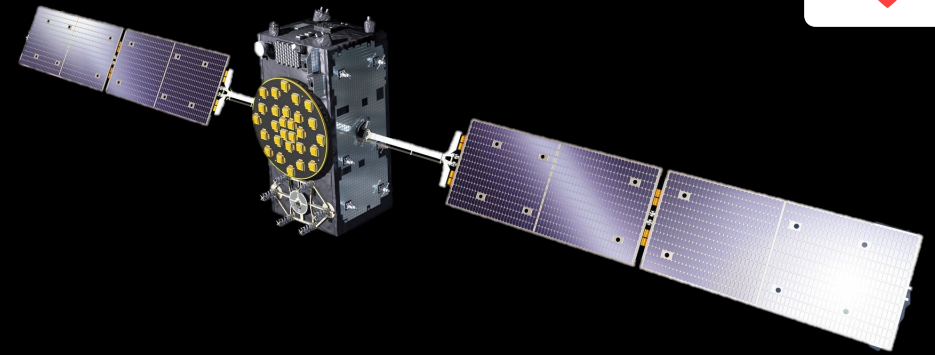


GALILEO (MEO)



GALILEO

EVOLUTION OF SAR

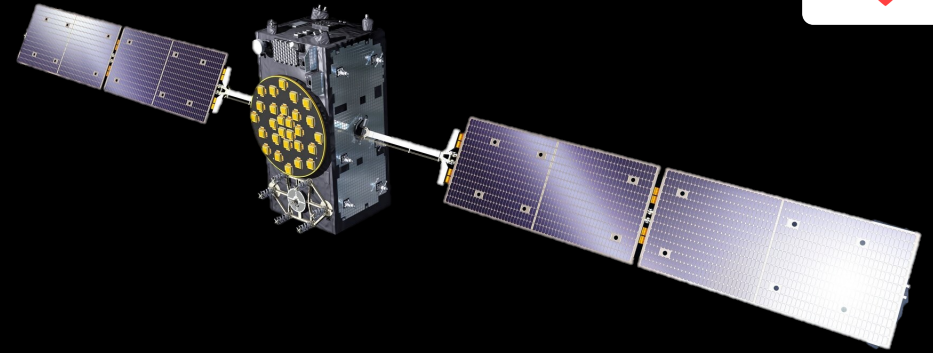


SARSAT-COSPAS

- First established in 1979 by Canada, France, the USA, and the former Soviet Union
- MEOSAR upgrade to current infrastructure complement the LEO and GEO satellites



GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR



SARSAT-COSPAS

- First established in 1979 by Canada, France, the USA, and the former Soviet Union
- MEOSAR upgrade to current infrastructure complement the LEO and GEO satellites



GALILEO

- Operational since 2016
- Under civilian control
- Integrated in COSPAS-SARSAT
- Constellation of 24 + 6 satellites at 23,200 kms (MEO)
- 3 orbital plans



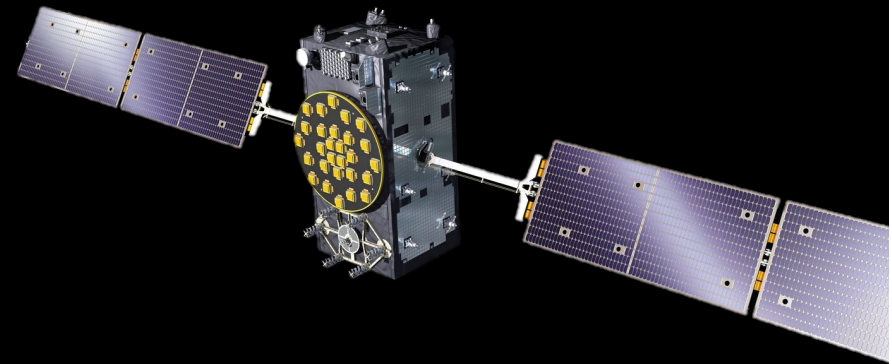
GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR



Enables nearly real-time detection and localization of distress signals

Unprecedented speed and accuracy, meaning a reduced alert time and a smaller search zone

Features the unique Return Link Service-RLS



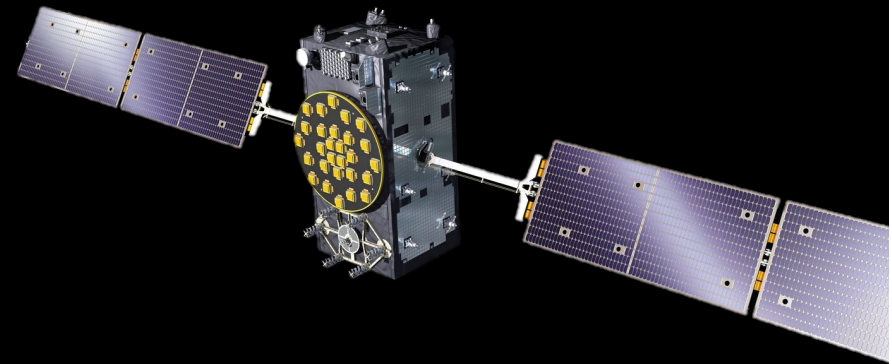
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search zone**

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RESCUE
INTERNATIONAL



**GALILEO
SAR**

"BY REDUCING THE DETECTION TIME AND IMPROVING THE PRECISION OF THE LOCALISATION OF DISTRESS SIGNALS, GALILEO CONTRIBUTES TO THE SAFETY OF OUR SAR CREWS, REDUCING THEIR EXPOSURE TO RISK"



WITHOUT GALILEO,
LOCALISATION IS UP TO
4H AND 10 KM



WITH GALILEO,
LOCALISATION IS DOWN TO
10 MIN AND 2 KM



<http://ec.europa.eu/galileo-sar>



GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR



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In real cases distress are computed **under 10 minutes**

On 8th October 2021, in Svalbard at 78° Latitude the position was confirmed after **1m 20s after activation** with an initial **accuracy of 730m**

On 26 September 2019, in Belgium the position was calculated in **3m 32s after activation** with an **initial accuracy of 100m**

GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR



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Minimum Probability Requirements

Location probability after:

1 burst	>90%
12 bursts	>98%
1 burst within 5k	>90%
12 bursts within 5k	>95%
12 bursts within 2k	>90%

This is according to the Galileo Service Definition Document (SDD)

Performance in real life is above these specifications!

GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR

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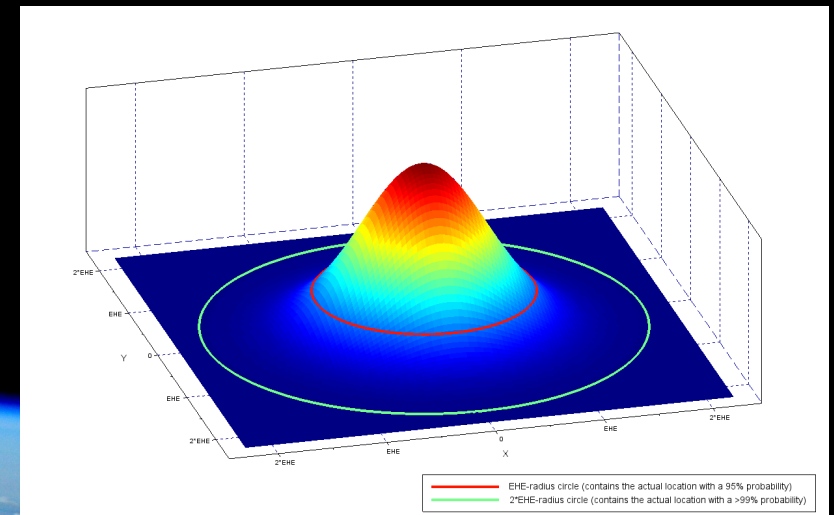
RESCUE
INTERNATIONAL



Performance Reported in 2024

Average location probability with
reference beacons:

1 burst	+99,9%
12 bursts	100%
1 burst within 5k	98,9%-99,9%
12 bursts within 5k	99,9%-100%



GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR

Enables nearly real-time detection and localization of distress signals

**Unprecedented speed and accuracy,
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Features the unique Return Link Service-RLS



The Beacon will receive confirmation (RLM) from the MCC that his message have been read and help is underway

This helps morale and improve the chances for staying put (in LandSAR) and with the beacon

**Delivery latency within 15m is avg. 99,73%
Average delivery time in real cases it's 37 seconds according to EUSPA**

Operational (FOC) since 26 March 2021

Galileo is the only RLSP

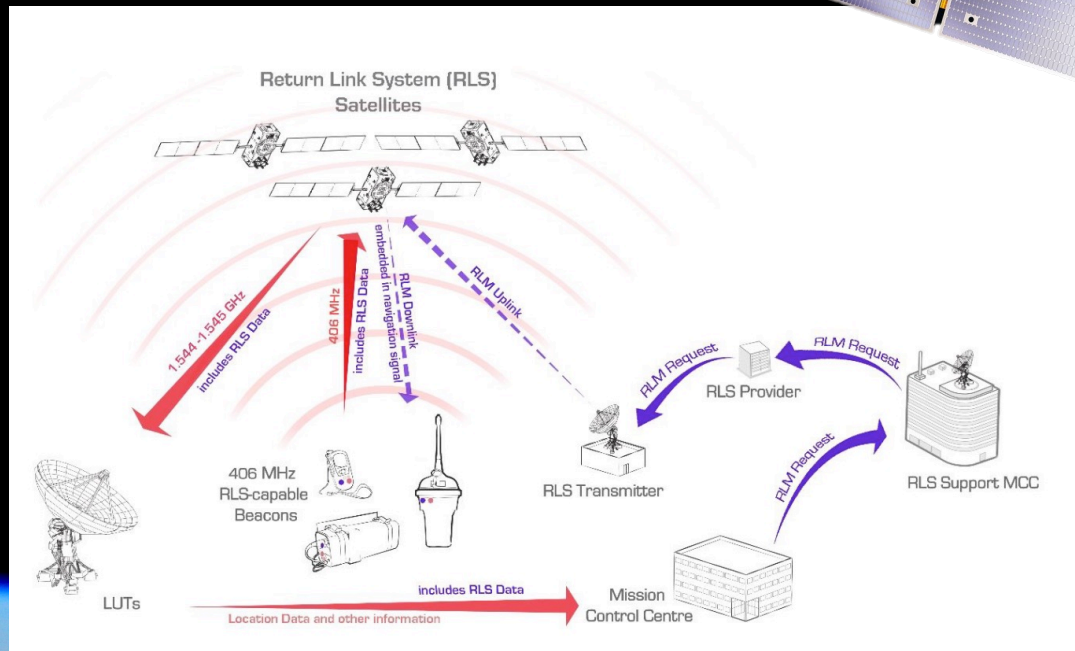
GALILEO EVOLUTION OF SAR



Enables nearly real-time detection and localization of distress signals

Unprecedented speed and accuracy, meaning a reduced alert time and a smaller search zone

Features the unique Return Link Service-RLS



GALILEO OTHER FACTS

All this time you have been navigating with Galileo

Galileo has brought increased accuracy since entering service in 2016

With the **High Accuracy Service (HAS)** you can reach up-to 20cm accuracy

Galileo is upgradeable by design reducing the need for additional (expensive) space missions

Expansion to LEO in sight for future Telecom capabilities and many other applications



SPACE GRAFFITI

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GALILEO OTHER FACTS

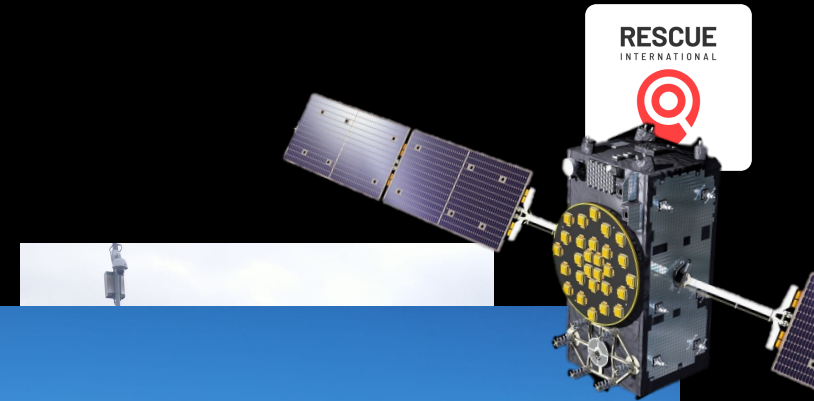
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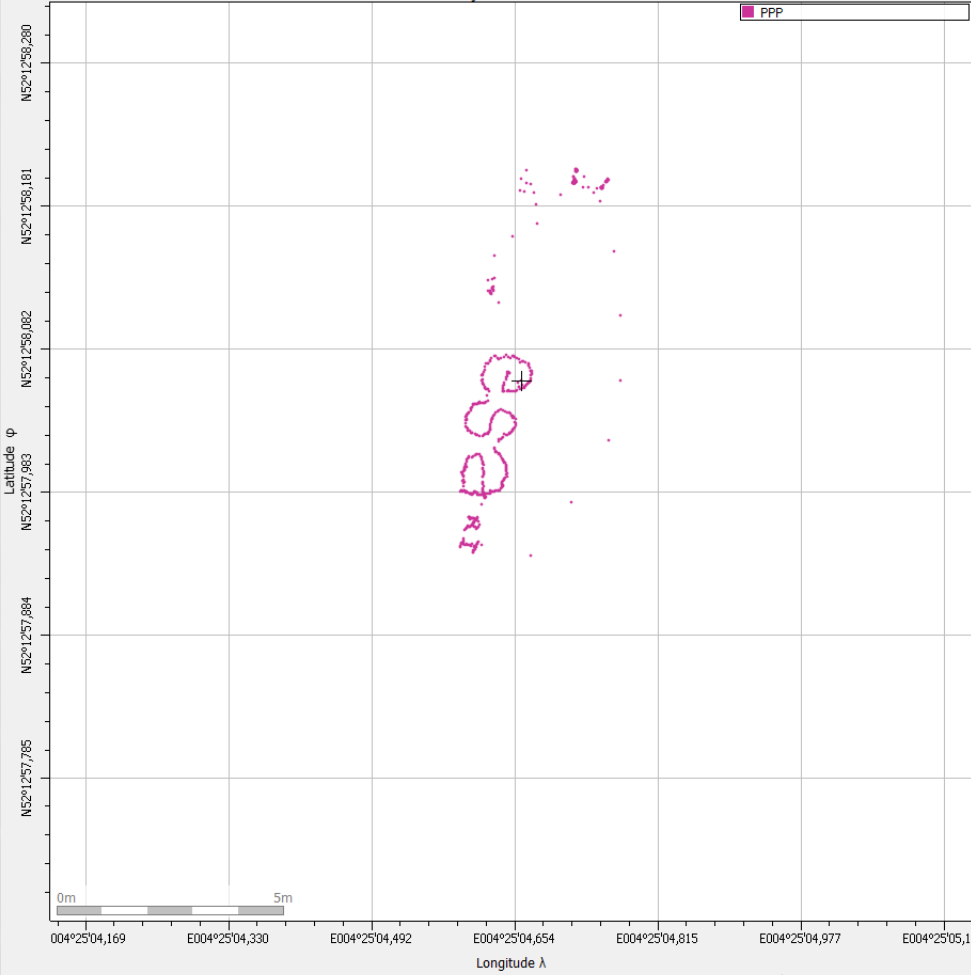
Expansion to LEO in sight for future Telecom capabilities and many other applications



GALILEO Receiver.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3029594

View Scale Center History Tools Help

GTRF: Geodetic grid
Projection Mercator

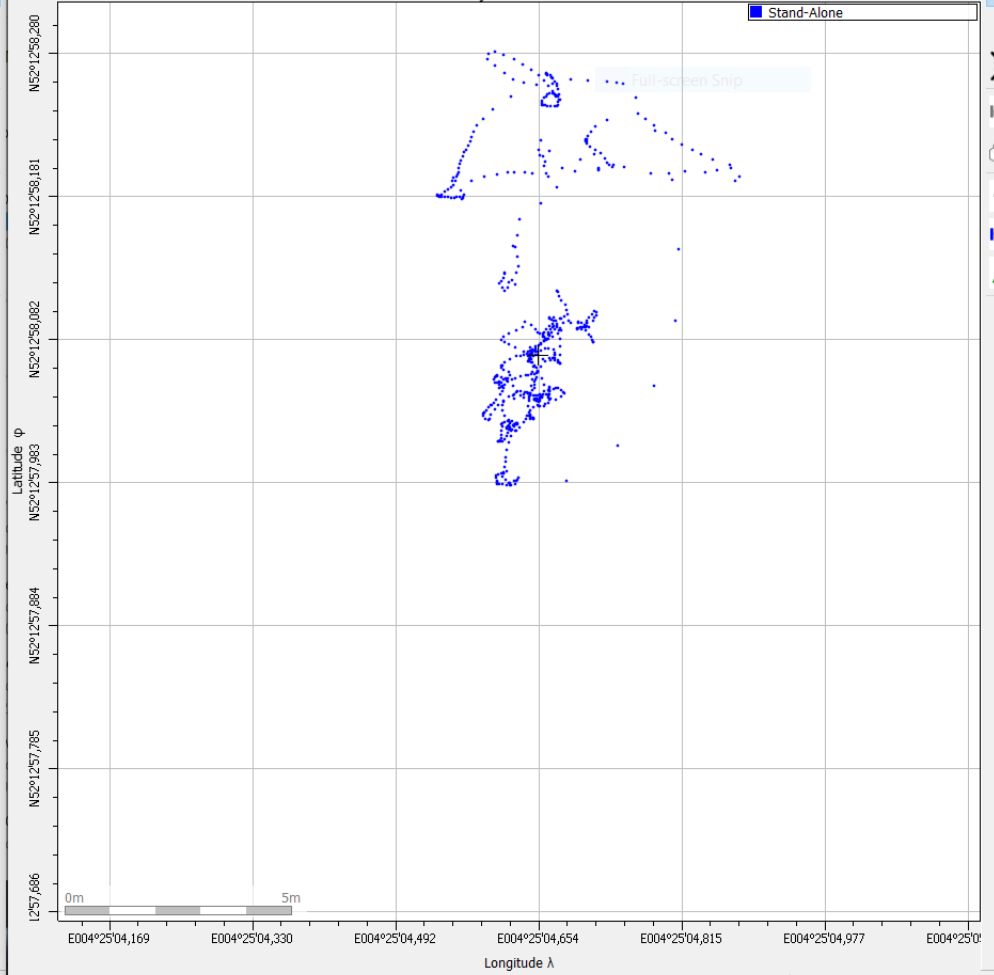


Navigation and zoom controls including a vertical zoom slider and various tool icons.

GPS Receiver.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3067987

View Scale Center History Tools Help

GTRF: Geodetic grid
Projection Mercator



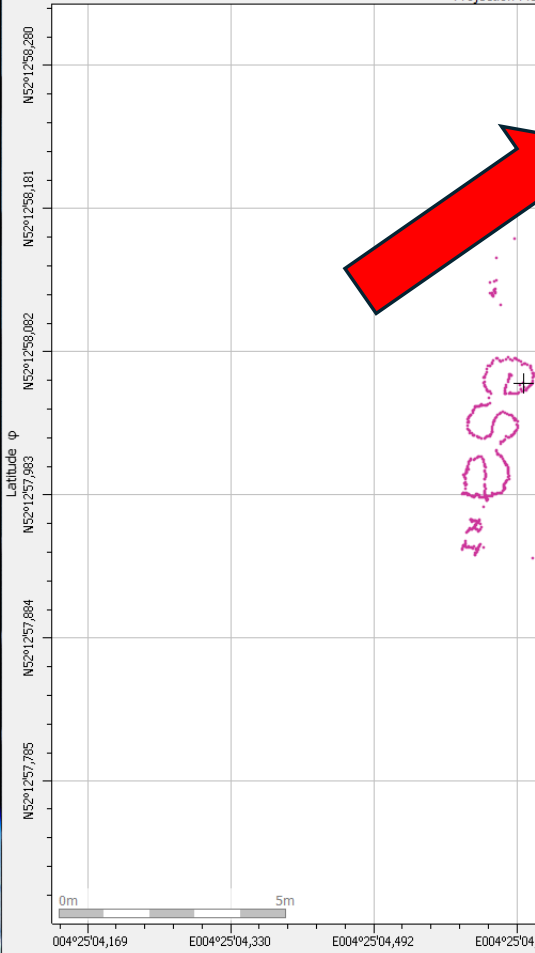
Navigation and zoom controls including a vertical zoom slider and various tool icons.



GALILEO Receiver.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3029594

View Scale Center History Tools Help

GTRF: Geodetic grid
Projection Mercator



GPS Receiver.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3067987

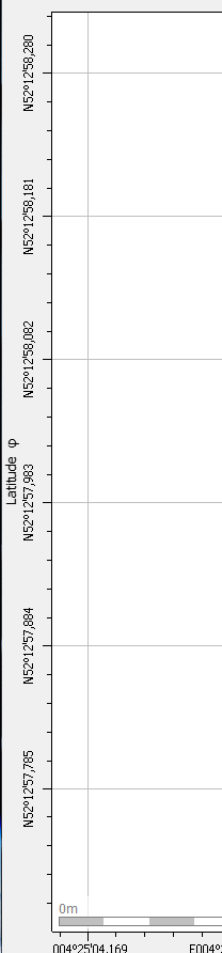
View Scale Center History Tools Help

GTRF: Geodetic grid
Projection Mercator



GALILEO Receiver.serial - I

View Scale Center Histor



polax5.serial - RxControl - S/N 3037618

File View Communication Navigation Calibration L-Band Tools Logging Help

Position Information

Position	Velocity				
Cartesian	X:	+3.904.354,999m	σ_{x1} :	+1,328m	
GTRF	Y:	+301.654,240m	σ_{y1} :	+0,800m	
	Z:	+5.017.623,653m	σ_{z1} :	+2,162m	

Satellite Status

GPS	GLONASS	Galileo	BeiDou	SBAS	QZSS	NavIC	L-Band
E01	E02	E03	E04	E05	E06	E07	E08
E09	E10	E11	E12	E13	E14	E15	E16
E17	E18	E19	E20	E21	E22	E23	E24
E25	E26	E27	E28	E29	E30	E31	E32
E33	E34	E35	E36				

Search: 1 1G 0R 0E 0C 0S
 Sync: 0 0G 0R 0E 0C 0S

Track: 12 12G 0R 0E 0C 0S
 PVT: 12 12G 0R 0E 0C 0S

Receiver Status

Time	RxClock	DOP	PL	RAIM	PVT	Status
GNSS time frame		HERL fd:	11,87m		Mode:	Standalone
Sun 6-Oct-2024		VERL fd:	10,79m		System:	GPS
13:10:17,000		Integrity:	Success		Info:	None
+18s offset to UTC					Corr Age:	N/A

SSRC15 - FOC_TURN - FOC_TURN

PolaRx4 PRO.serial - RxControl - S/N 3067987

File View Communication Navigation Calibration L-Band Tools Logging Help

Position Information

Position	Velocity				
Cartesian	X:	+3.904.358,776m	σ_{x1} :	+7,794m	
GTRF	Y:	+301.655,762m	σ_{y1} :	+19,177m	
	Z:	+5.017.623,450m	σ_{z1} :	+71,917m	

Satellite Status

GPS	GLONASS	Galileo	BeiDou	SBAS	QZSS	NavIC	L-Band
E01	E02	E03	E04	E05	E06	E07	E08
E09	E10	E11	E12	E13	E14	E15	E16
E17	E18	E19	E20	E21	E22	E23	E24
E25	E26	E27	E28	E29	E30	E31	E32
E33	E34	E35	E36				

Search: 8 0G 0R 8E 0C 0S
 Sync: 0 0G 0R 0E 0C 0S

Track: 8 0G 0R 8E 0C 0S
 PVT: 8 0G 0R 8E 0C 0S

Receiver Status

Time	RxClock	DOP	PL	RAIM	PVT	Status
GNSS time frame		HERL fd:	278,75m		Mode:	Standalone
Sun 6-Oct-2024		VERL fd:	384,27m		System:	Galileo
13:10:17,000		Integrity:	Success		Info:	None
+18s offset to UTC					Corr Age:	N/A

SSRC15 - FOC_TURN - FOC_TURN

004°25'04,169 E004°25'04,330 E004°25'04,492 E004°25'04,654 E004°25'04,815 E004°25'04,977 E004°25'05,1

Longitude λ

592 points (max. 3.600) PPP

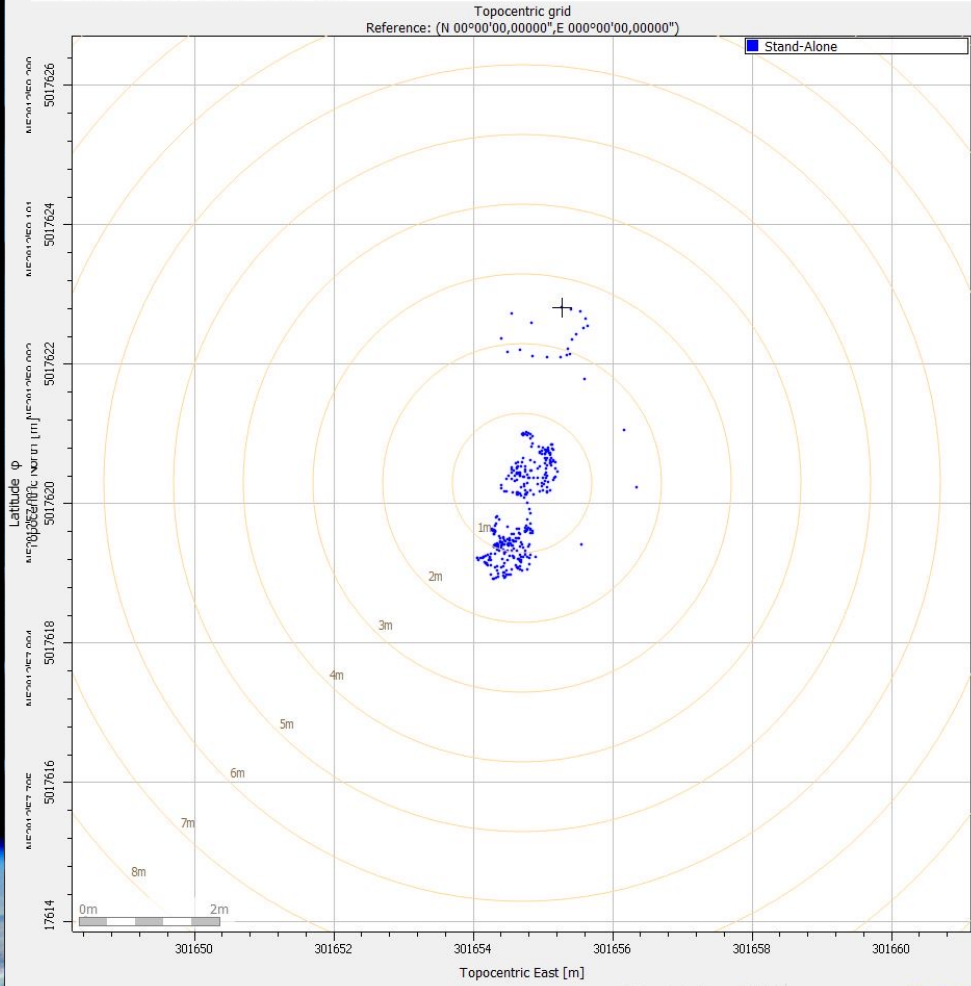
004°25'04,169 E004°25'04,330 E004°25'04,492 E004°25'04,654 E004°25'04,815 E004°25'04,977 E004°25'05,1

Longitude λ

590 points (max. 3.600) Stand-Alone

polarx5.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3037618

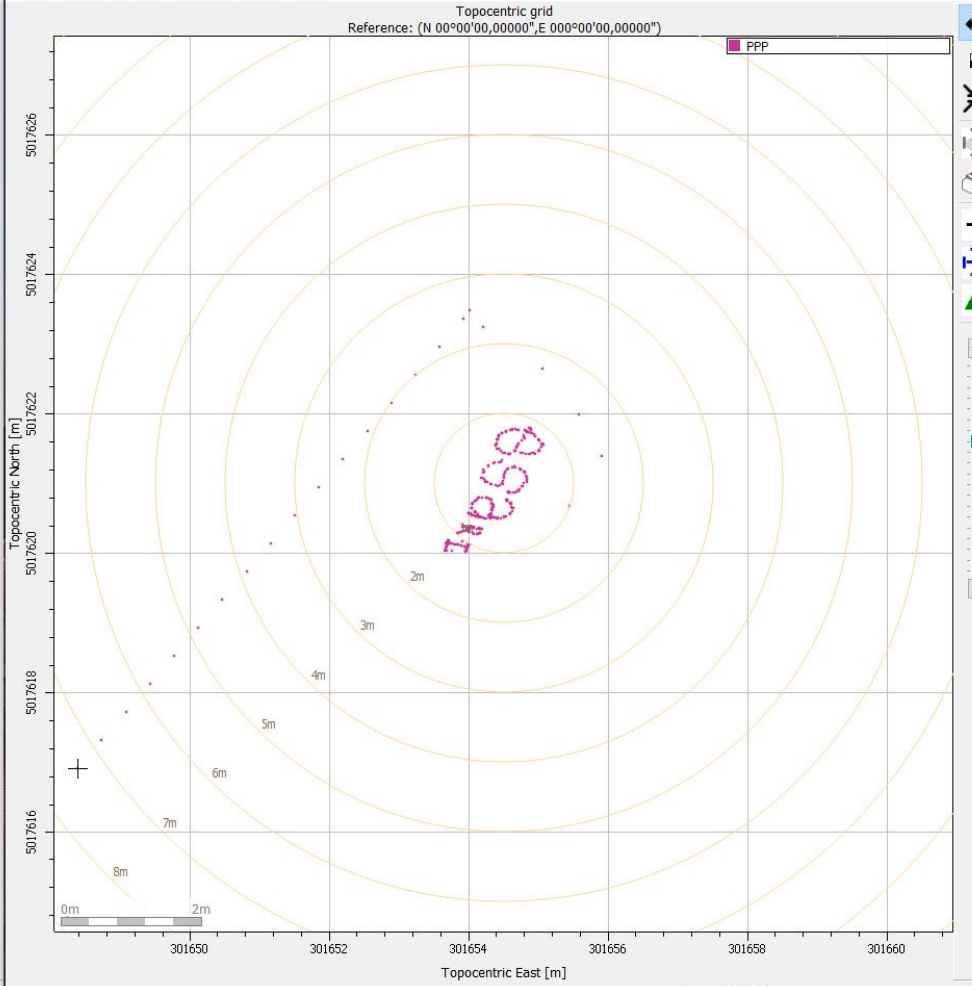
View Scale Center History Tools Help



341 points (max. 3.600) Stand-Alone
592 points (max. 3.600) PPP

PolaRx4 PRO.serial - Planimetric Plot - S/N 3067987

View Scale Center History Tools Help



343 points (max. 3.600) PPP
590 points (max. 3.600) Stand-Alone

FUTURE OF GALILEO RLS APPLICATIONS



SAR Remote Beacon Activation -RBA

For airspace users in specific confirmed distress situations when aircraft are no longer tracked by Air Traffic Service Units (ATSUs) and no contact can be established.

Distress Position Sharing

Enables RCCs to share the position of a Beacon User in distress with other nearby beacons



IN PROGRESS

Two Way Communication - TWC

Enables communication between distress beacons and the RCC in charge, through predefined questions and answers. Aims at helping rescue teams deploying adequate resources, improving SAR operations.

Emergency Warning Satellite Service -EWSS

Galileo satellites will be disseminating alert messages directly to smartphones and navigation devices in areas threatened by a looming natural or manmade disaster

Source: EUSPA / Telespazio

<https://www.euspa.europa.eu/newsroom-events/news/galileo-emergency-warning-satellite-service-ewss>

https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/galileo-emergency-warning-satellite-service-underway-2024-01-24_en

<https://www.telespazio.fr/en/press-release-detail/-/detail/serenity-project-april21>

DISTRESS MESSAGE



Messages come in SIT 185 format

Every beacon has a Unique Identification Number –UIN, also known as the Hex ID

Already indicates homing options

Key information and accuracy aspects for POA may be easily missed for untrained eye

Message wording may refer to very specific technical and accuracy parameters

PARAGRAPH#	TITLE	
1.	MESSAGE TYPE	M
2.	CURRENT MESSAGE NUMBER	M
	MCC BEACON REFERENCE	M
3.	BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION	M
	TYPE OF BEACON	O
	IDENTIFICATION	O
	BEACON HEX ID	M
	COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION	O
	BEACON NUMBER	O
	HOMING SIGNAL	O
	ACTIVATION TYPE	O
	SOURCE OF GNSS POSITION DATA	O
	EMERGENCY CODE	O
4.	ALERT POSITION INFORMATION	M
	DETECTION TIME & SPACECRAFT	M
	GNSS POSITION, TIME OF UPDATE AND ALTITUDE	O
	MCC REFERENCE POSITION	O
	DOA POSITION AND ALTITUDE	O
	A POSITION & PROBABILITY	O
	B POSITION & PROBABILITY	O
5.	OTHER INFORMATION	M
	DETECTION FREQUENCY	M
	OTHER ENCODED INFORMATION	O
6.	REMARKS	M
	END OF MESSAGE	M

DISTRESS MESSAGE



080401Z JAN 2017
FROM AUMCC
TO RCC WELLINGTON
BT
1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT INITIAL LOCATED ALERT
2. MSG NO 12590 AUMCC REF C00F429578002C1
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
BEACON TYPE SERIAL USER - PLB
SERIAL NO 0042334
HEX ID C00F429578002C1
COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 512/NEWZEALAND
BEACON NUMBER ON AIRCRAFT OR VESSEL NIL
HOMING SIGNAL 121.5
ACTIVATION TYPE MANUAL
GNSS POSITION PROVIDED BY NIL
EMERGENCY CODE NIL
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
DETECTED AT 08 JAN 17 0354 UTC BY SARSAT 10
GNSS - NIL
MCC REFERENCE - NIL
DOA - NIL
DOPPLER A - 41 14 S 172 31 E PROB 79 PERCENT
DOPPLER B - 48 20 S 135 51 E PROB 21 PERCENT
5. OTHER INFORMATION
DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0282 MHZ
TAC NO 0176
BEACON MODEL - STANDARD COMMS, AUSTRALIA MT410, MT410G
6. REMARKS NIL
END OF MESSAGE

PARAGRAPH#	TITLE	
1.	MESSAGE TYPE	M
2.	CURRENT MESSAGE NUMBER	M
	MCC BEACON REFERENCE	M
3.	BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION	M
	TYPE OF BEACON	O
	IDENTIFICATION	O
	BEACON HEX ID	M
	COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION	O
	BEACON NUMBER	O
	HOMING SIGNAL	O
	ACTIVATION TYPE	O
	SOURCE OF GNSS POSITION DATA	O
	EMERGENCY CODE	O
4.	ALERT POSITION INFORMATION	M
	DETECTION TIME & SPACECRAFT	M
	GNSS POSITION, TIME OF UPDATE AND ALTITUDE	O
	MCC REFERENCE POSITION	O
	DOA POSITION AND ALTITUDE	O
	A POSITION & PROBABILITY	O
	B POSITION & PROBABILITY	O
5.	OTHER INFORMATION	M
	DETECTION FREQUENCY	M
	OTHER ENCODED INFORMATION	O
6.	REMARKS	M
	END OF MESSAGE	M

Sample Distress Message

Data Fields

DISTRESS MESSAGE

RESCUE
INTERNATIONAL



```
1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT INITIAL LOCATED ALERT
2. MSG NO 12307 AUMCC REF BEEE43FCF8001AD
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
   BEACON TYPE SERIAL USER LOCATION - EPIRB (NON FLOAT FREE)
   SERIAL NO 0065342
   HEX ID BEEE43FCF8001AD
   COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 503/AUSTRALIA
   BEACON NUMBER ON AIRCRAFT OR VESSEL NIL
   HOMING SIGNAL 121.5
   ACTIVATION TYPE MANUAL
   GNSS POSITION PROVIDED BY NIL
   EMERGENCY CODE NIL
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
   DETECTED AT 27 APR 13 1653 UTC BY LEOSAR SARSAT 12
   GNSS - NIL
   MCC REFERENCE - NIL
   DOA - NIL
   DOPPLER A - 43 04.04 S 147 15.75 E PROB 83 PERCENT
   DOPPLER B - 51 45.19 S 167 48.58 W PROB 17 PERCENT
5. OTHER INFORMATION
   THE B POSITION IS LIKELY TO BE AN IMAGE POSITION
   DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0277 MHZ
   TAC 0107
   BEACON MODEL - ACR, USA RLB-32
   LUT ID 6011
6. REMARKS NIL
END OF MESSAGE
```

```
1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT INITIAL ALERT (UNLOCATED)
2. MSG NO 12301 AUMCC REF BEEE43FCF8001AD
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
   BEACON TYPE SERIAL USER - EPIRB (NON FLOAT FREE)
   SERIAL NO 0065342
   HEX ID BEEE43FCF8001AD
   COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 503/AUSTRALIA
   BEACON NUMBER ON AIRCRAFT OR VESSEL NIL
   HOMING SIGNAL 121.5
   ACTIVATION TYPE MANUAL
   GNSS POSITION PROVIDED BY NIL
   EMERGENCY CODE NIL
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
   DETECTED AT 27 APR 13 1557 UTC BY GEOSAR INSAT 3A
   GNSS - NIL
   MCC REFERENCE - NIL
   DOA - NIL
   DOPPLER A - NIL
   DOPPLER B - NIL
5. OTHER INFORMATION
   LUT ID 4191 BANGALORE GEOLUT, INDIA
   DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0286 MHZ
   TAC 0107
   BEACON MODEL - ACR, USA RLB-32
6. REMARKS NIL
END OF MESSAGE
```

Sample Initial Location

Sample GEOSAR Unlocated
Alert

DISTRESS MESSAGE



```
1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT POSITION UPDATE ALERT
2. MSG NO 00191 AUMCC REF BEEE4634B00028D
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
   BEACON TYPE SERIAL USER - EPIRB (NON FLOAT-FREE)
   SERIAL NO 101676
   HEX ID BEEE4634B00028D
   COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 503/AUSTRALIA
   HOMING SIGNAL 121.5
   ACTIVATION TYPE MANUAL
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
   DETECTED AT 15 MAR 16 1248 UTC BY MEOSAR
   ALERT LAST DETECTED AT 15 MAR 16 1248 UTC
   MCC REFERENCE - 17 47.5 S 146 06.2 E
   DOA - 17 47.6 S 146 07.4 E ESTIMATED ERROR 005 NMS
5. OTHER INFORMATION
   DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0280 MHZ
6. REMARKS NIL
END OF MESSAGE
```

Position Confirmed Alert

```
1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT POSITION UPDATE ALERT
2. MSG NO 00194 AUMCC REF BEEE4634B00028D
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
   BEACON TYPE SERIAL USER - EPIRB (NON FLOAT-FREE)
   SERIAL NO 101676
   HEX ID BEEE4634B00028D
   COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 503/AUSTRALIA
   HOMING SIGNAL 121.5
   ACTIVATION TYPE MANUAL
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
   DETECTED AT 15 MAR 16 1301 UTC BY MEOSAR
   ALERT LAST DETECTED AT 15 MAR 16 1301 UTC
   MCC REFERENCE - 17 47.6 S 146 05.3 E
   DOA - 17 47.9 S 146 04.5 E ESTIMATED ERROR 002 NMS
5. OTHER INFORMATION
   DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0280 MHZ
6. REMARKS NIL
END OF MESSAGE
```

**Position Confirmed
Updated Alert**

DISTRESS MESSAGE



Not only location can be provided:

If beacon was registered, **registration information may be available to the RCC**

SAR agencies may use this information to know more about the subject and the event

```
/71472 00000/3660/20 100 0657
/925/5030
/3EF4957F81FE0
/
BEACON ID: 2DC4000000FFBFF

**** BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE INFORMATION ****

OWNER: ANONYMOUS OWNER
1234 LOCAL DRIVE TEL 1: HOME 0123456789
HOME CITY CA TEL 2: WORK 1234567890
98765 USA TEL 3:
EMAIL:
CONTACTS: JOHN DOE JANE DOE
TEL 1: HOME 0123456789 TEL 1: HOME 0123456789
TEL 2: TEL 2: WORK 1234567890

VESSEL NAME: SUNKEN LENGTH OVERALL (FT): 36
TYPE: SAIL 1 Masts CAPACITY: 8
COLOR: BLUE/WHITE REGISTRATION NO: CF12345P
RADIO CALL SIGN: INMARSAT NUMBER:
RADIO EQP: VHF
CELLULAR NUMBER: 2345678901
NUMBER OF LIFE BOATS: 0 NUMBER OF LIFE RAFTS: 0
HOME PORT PRIMARY SRR: PACAREA SECONDARY SRR:
HOME PORT: MARINA NAME SAN FRANCISCO CA

MANUFACTURER: XXX MODEL NUMBER: ABC-12
ACTIVATION TYPE: CAT2 (MANUAL)
BEACON CONTAINS SVDR: NO
DATE FIRST REGISTERED: 02 JUN 1999 DATE REG EXPIRES: 02 JUN 2001
DATE LAST UPDATED: 02 MAY 2001

REMARKS:
SPECIAL STATUS: SPECIAL STATUS DATE:
SPECIAL STATUS INFO:

QQQQ
/LASSIT
/ENDMSG
```

Sample Message to Report Beacon
Registration Data

DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES



Multiple variables that are beyond our [and subject's] control may affect the reception of the beacon signal

Ionospheric disturbances

Humidity

Tree Canopy

Position of the beacon

Damage of the beacon

Weather

...and more

The alert system message sometimes may seem incomplete

A [redacted] - NOAA Federal [redacted]@noaa.gov>
To: Humberto Hinestroza
Cc: [redacted] - NOAA Federal [redacted]@noaa.gov>
Our Analyst team and we have no data on this hex ID.

[redacted]
SARSAT Program and Policy Analyst
OSPO/SPSD//DSB/SARSAT

[redacted]

The logo for the International Satellite Search and Rescue (COSPAS-SARSAT) system, featuring a globe with a satellite and the text "INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE SEARCH AND RESCUE" and "COSPAS SARSAT" around it.

DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES

Multiple variables that are beyond our [and subject's] control may affect the reception of the beacon signal

Ionospheric disturbances

Humidity

Tree Canopy

Position of the beacon

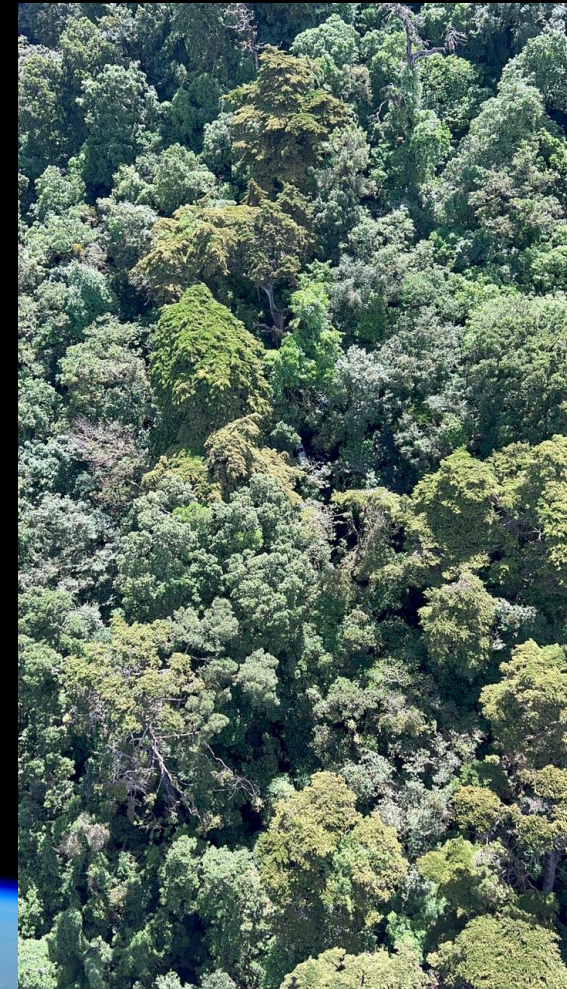
Damage of the beacon

Weather

...and more

The alert system message sometimes may seem incomplete

RESCUE
INTERNATIONAL



DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES

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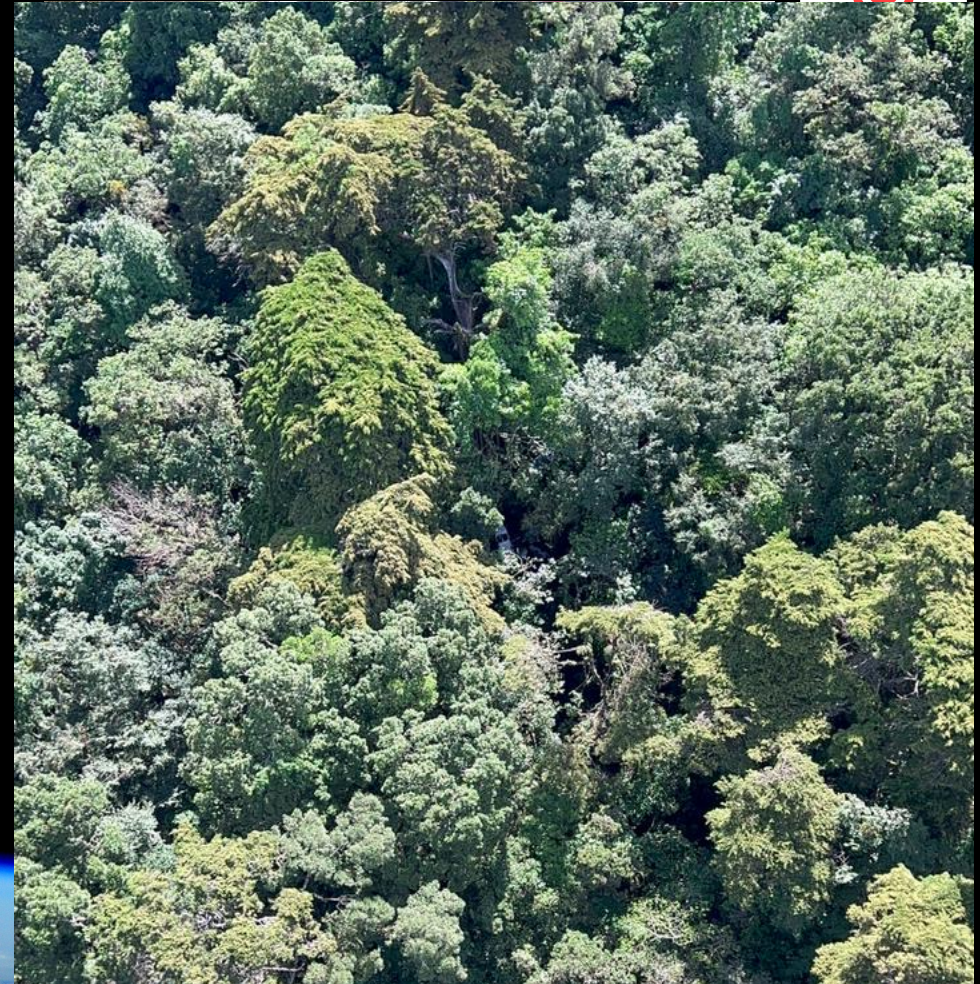
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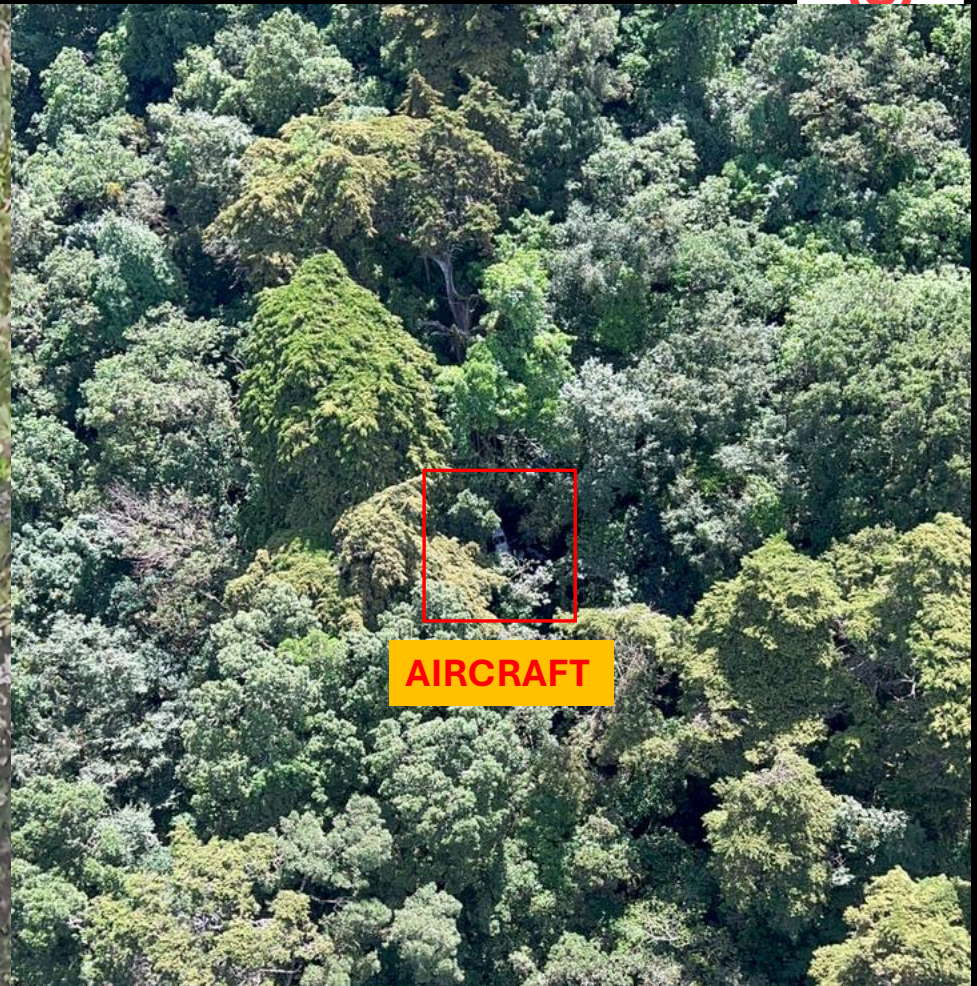
DISTRESS MESSAGE



BEACON



BEACON



AIRCRAFT

DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES

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Mensaje SAR SIT-185

/85452 00000/3660/24 247 1602
/185/CNAM
/

1. DISTRESS COSPAS-SARSAT POSITION UPDATE ALERT

2. MSG NO. 85452 USMCC REF 39367

3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION

BEACON TYPE ELT SERIAL AVIATION ID

SERIAL NO 5945

HEX ID A98C405CE4002F1

COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 332/GUATEMALA

HOMING SIGNAL 121.5

4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION

DETECTED AT 03 SEP 24 1559 UTC BY MEOSAR

MEOSAR ALERT LAST DETECTED AT 03 SEP 24 1601

MCC REFERENCE - 14 34.4N 090 32.9W

DOA - 14 34.4N 090 32.9W ESTIMATED ERROR UNKNOWN

5. OTHER INFORMATION

BEACON MANUFACTURER / MODEL: TAC 188

LUT: 3385/HI-MEO

REGISTRATION AT C/S INTERNATIONAL BEACON REGISTRATION DATABASE

AFTN: KZDCZSA

PHONE: 1 301-817-4576

WEB: WWW.406REGISTRATION.COM

DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0277 MHZ

6. REMARKS

NIL

END OF MESSAGE

QQQQ

/LASSIT

/ENDMSG

Position Confirmed Alert

DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES



It's up to us [when possible] to fill those gaps



DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES



It's up to us [when possible] to fill those gaps



DISTRESS MESSAGE REAL CASES



It's up to us [when possible] to fill those gaps



OUTCOMES



- Compared to the other 406 beacons, in the near future **PLBs are likely to become the leader in incident activation**, and the most numerous of the 406 beacons
- It is possible to increase the value of the SIT185 messages. Many times, the **distress message is not enough** and requires input from SAR Managers
- **SIT185 interpretation becomes a great advantage in calculating our POAs and Theoretical Search area**
- **Education on S/C** is necessary in GroundSAR. It may be the difference for our subject, allowing SAR Managers to know what to ask



OUTCOMES



- ~75% of the beacons may provide additional context to our case
- Analysis of statistics can have significant impact in increasing knowledge in SAR: **PLEASE SHARE YOUR STATISTICS!**
- Close collaboration with the **RCC** will be necessary
- Homing [and training on how to do it] is expected to increase as 406 beacons alerts increase
- **Every rescue activated by a PLB, is a multi-day search we don't have to do!**



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!


ICAR CONGRESS 2024

THESSALONIKI - GREECE
15-20 OCTOBER 2024

...and many thanks to those
directly contributing to this
work:



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