Multibeam Antennas for Emerging Satellite and Terrestrial Applications

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Summary

- Something about the European Space Agency (ESA)
- Multibeam Antennas

Reflector-based architectures

(Single-Feed-per-Beam, Multiple-Feed-per-Beam)

Direct Radiating Arrays

Hybrid Digital/Analogue Beamforming

Lens-based architectures (free space and constrained)

ESA Courses & Workshops



Purpose of The European Space Agency



"To provide for and promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European states in space research and technology and their space applications."

> Article 2 of ESA Convention

ESA Facts and Figures

- Over 50 years of experience
- 22 Member States
- Eight sites/facilities in Europe, about 2300 staff
- 5.6 billion Euro budget (2018)
- Over 80 satellites designed, tested and operated in flight





Member States

ESA has 22 Member States: 20 states of the EU (AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IT, GR, HU, IE, LU, NL, PT, PL, RO, SE, UK) plus Norway and Switzerland.

Seven other EU states have Cooperation Agreements with ESA: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovakia.

Slovenia is an Associate Member.

Canada takes part in some programmes under a longstanding Cooperation Agreement.



Activities





human spaceflight



exploration

ESA is one of the few space agencies in the world to combine responsibility in nearly all areas of space activity.

* Space science is a Mandatory programme, all Member States contribute to it according to GNP. All other programmes are Optional, funded 'a la carte' by Participating States.





space transportation



navigation



earth observation

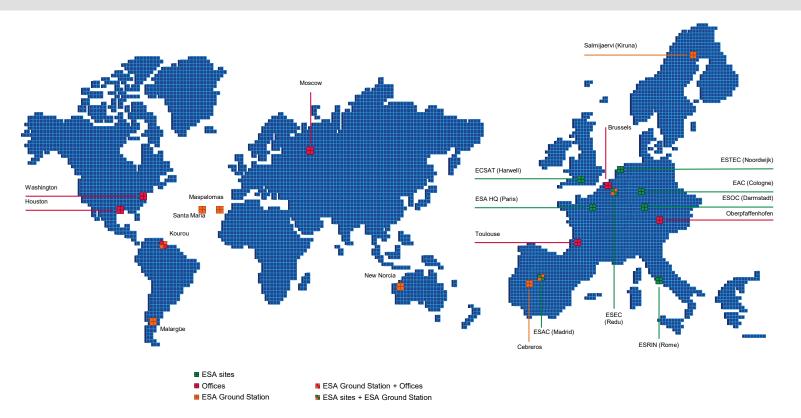


technology



telecommunications

ESA's Locations



Multi-Beam Antennas (MBAs)

2.240 multi-beam antenna. An antenna capable of creating a family of major lobes from a single non-moving aperture, through use of a multiport feed, with one-to-one correspondence between input ports and member lobes, the latter characterized by having unique main beam pointing directions.

NOTE—Often, the multiple main beam angular positions are arranged to provide complete coverage of a solid angle region of space.

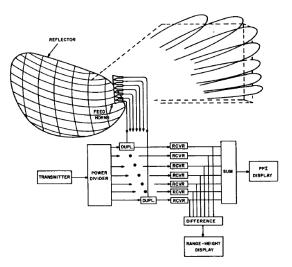


IEEE Std 145-1993, IEEE Standard Definitions of Terms for Antennas

MBAs play increasingly important roles, e.g. in mobile base stations, on-board satellites and in advanced radars. They add more functions, increase the capacity of the systems, preserve the available frequency spectrum, etc.

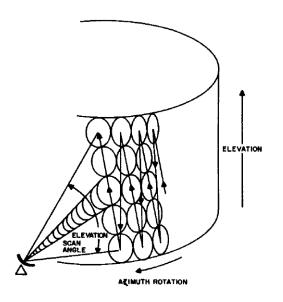


Stacked beams RADAR example of Passive Antenna Solution



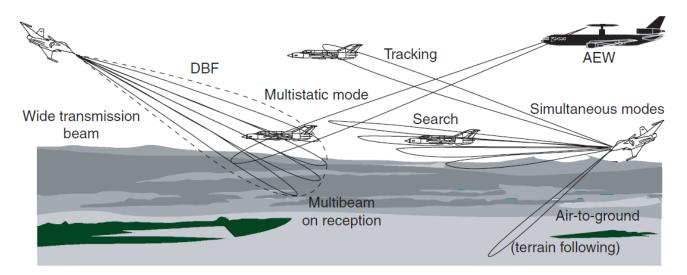
• Volumetric coverage is obtained through the use of a vertical stack of overlapped pencil beams continuously rotating in azimuth.

• In transmission all the beams are fed in phase such to produce a composite transmit pattern with cosecant squared power distribution.



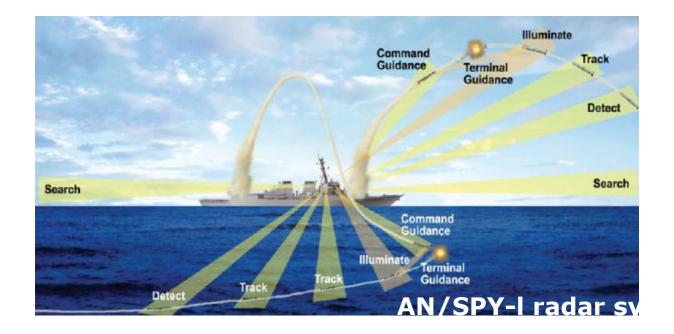
Skolnik M I, Radar Handbook, McGraw-Hill, 1970

Multibeam Antennas in Airborne Multifunction RADARs

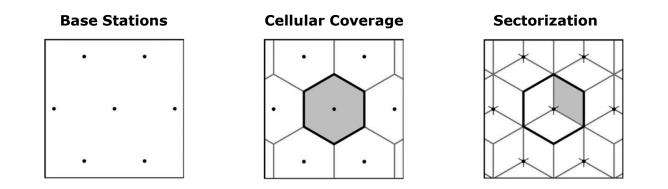


Lacomme P et al, Air and Spaceborne Radar Systems - An Introduction, SciTech, 2001

Multibeam Antennas in Maritime Multifunction RADARs

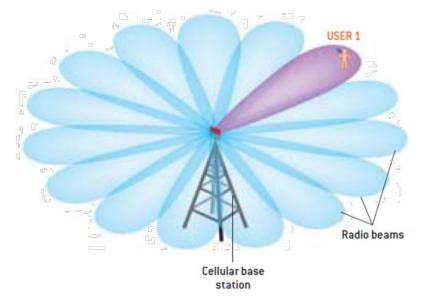


Multibeam Antennas in Cellular Communication Systems



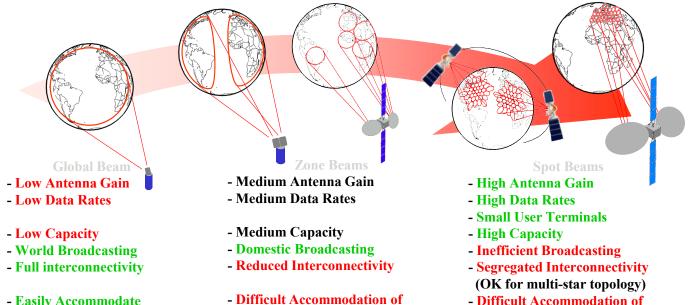
Chen Z N, Luk K-M, Antennas for Base Stations in Wireless Communications, McGraw-Hill, 2009

Multibeam Antennas in Cellular Communication Systems



Cooper M, "Antennas get Smart", Scientific American, pp. 49-55, July 2003

Multibeam Antennas in Telecommunication Satellite Systems

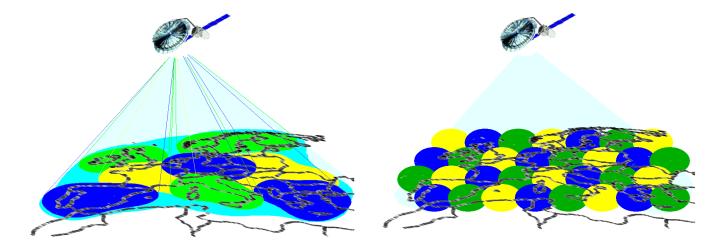


Traffic Variability

- Easily Accommodate Traffic Variability

Traffic Variability

Multibeam Antennas in Telecommunication Satellite Systems

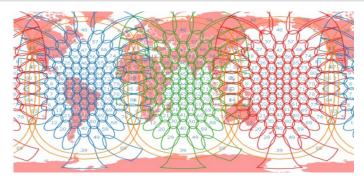


Multiple Shaped (Linguistic) Beams

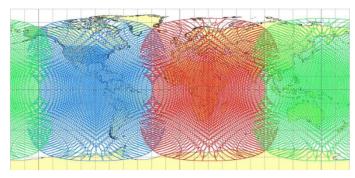
Multi Spot Beams (Cellular-Like)

the Challenges Ahead

Terabit(ps) GEOs



Inmarsat 5



ViaSat 3 (Announced)

NG Constellations

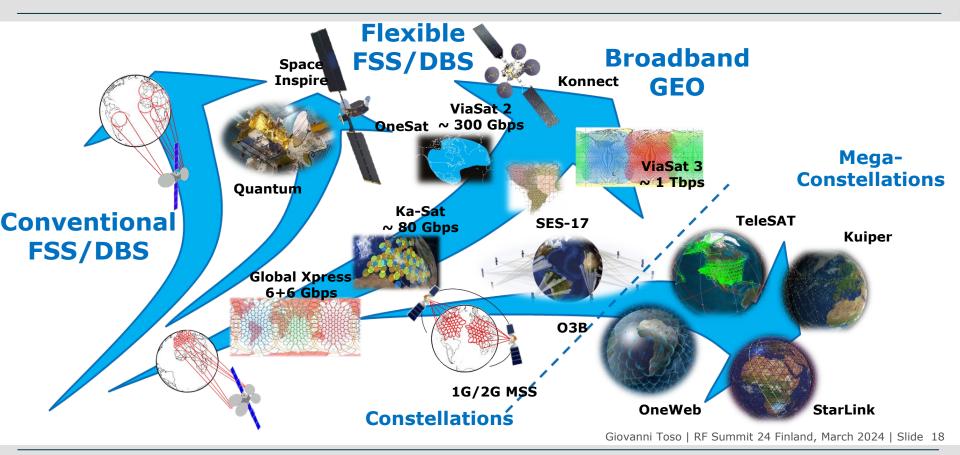


Boeing FCC Filing

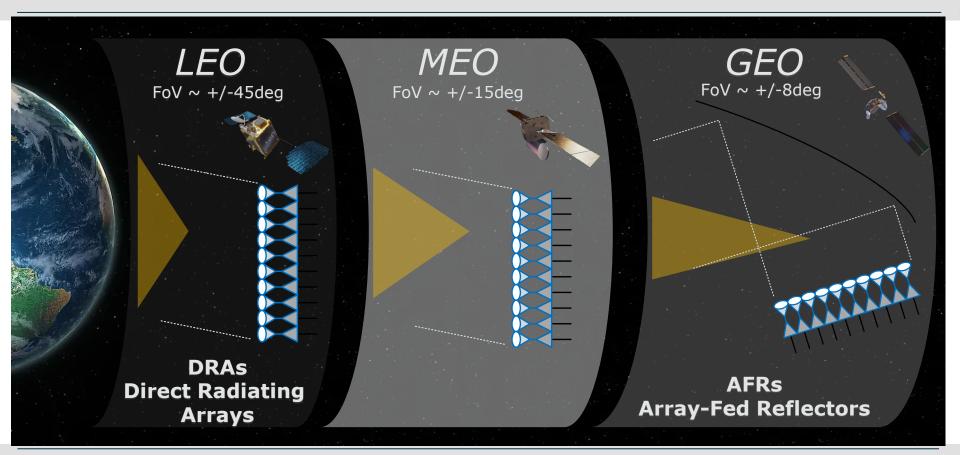
O3b mPower (Boeing)

Finland, March 2024 | Slide 17

Evolution of SATCOM systems

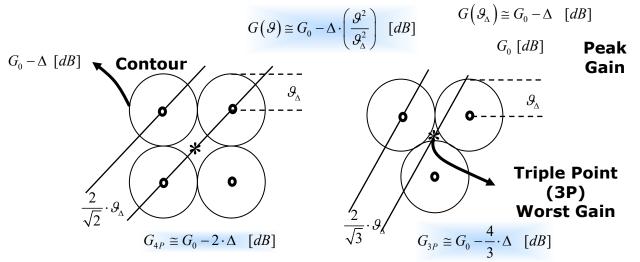


Active Antennas in LEO, MEO and GEO



Bidimensional Beam Arrangement

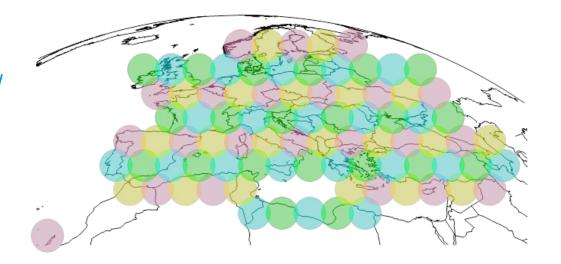
Assuming a radiation pattern with circular symmetry it can be approximated in dB to the second order radial derivative,





1st Gen Ka-band Satellites Requirements

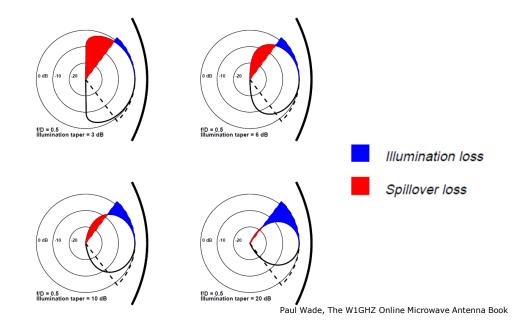
Frequency centre = 30 GHz with 2% BW Minimum directivity at EOC = 43.5 dBi Maximum roll-off (EOC) = 4.3 dB Minimum single entry C/I = 20 dB $BW=0.56^{\circ}$



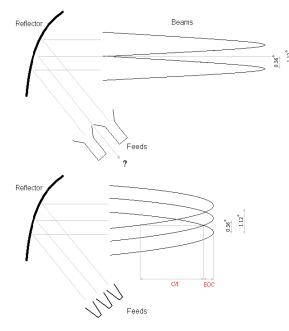


Reflector-based Architectures

Reflector Antennas Illumination Efficiency vs Spillover



Reflector Antennas - Small vs Large Feeds

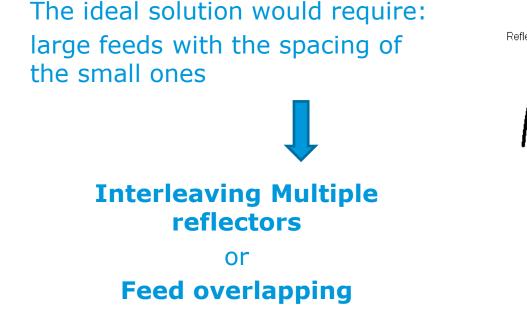


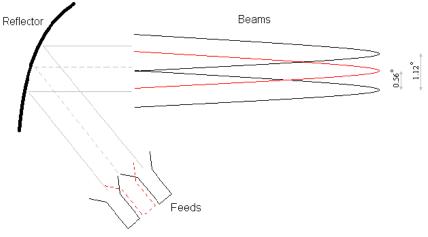
Directive HornsLarge diameter=> Large spacing $=> \Delta \theta > 0.56^{\circ}$ => Low reflector efficiency

Small Horns

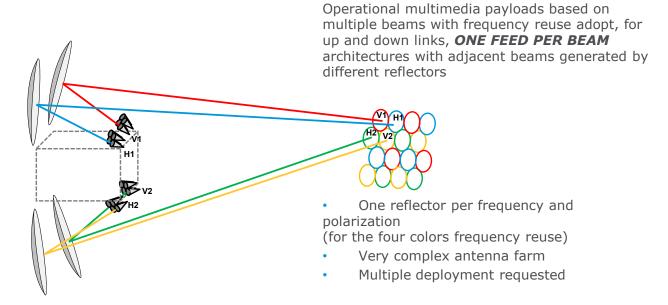
- All feeds in one cluster
- Low directivity
- High spill-over losses
- High reflector efficiency
- EOC Gain and C/I not meeting requirements

Reflector Antennas - Small vs Large Feeds

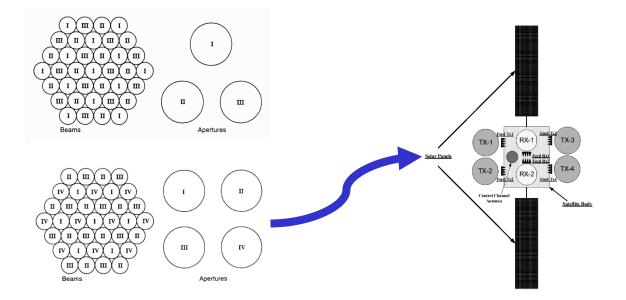




Multiple spot beam coverage using single feed per beam architectures



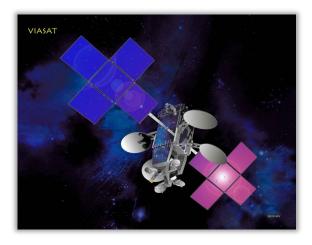
Multiple spot beam coverage using single feed per beam architectures

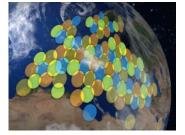


KaSat and Viasat-1 multibeam antenna systems



Ka-SAT undergoing electromagnetic testing in Astrium facilities



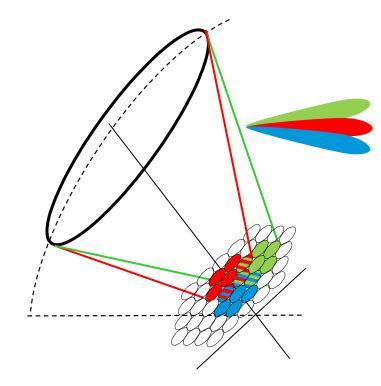


KaSat

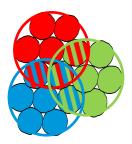
Viasat-1

More than 80 beams by 4 Tx/Rx reflectors of 2.6 meters

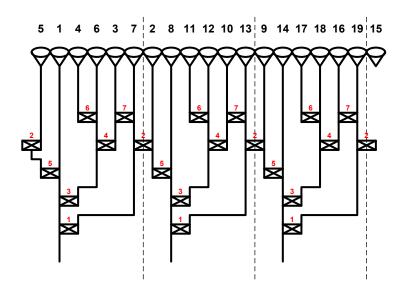
Multi-Feeds-per-Beam Solutions

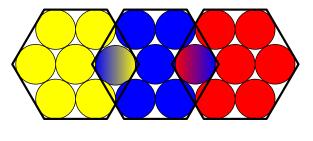


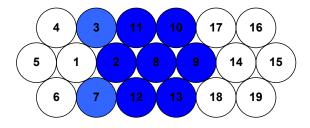
- Provide an increase of the effective primary feeding aperture and reduce the spillover losses.
- Allow to generate a multiple shaped beam coverage with a single dish.
- Need complex beamforming networks



MEDUSA Astrium GmbH (2007-to date)

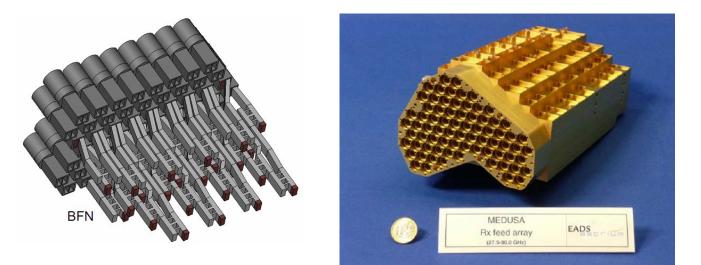








MEDUSA (Astrium GmbH)



Courtesy of ASTRIUM GmbH

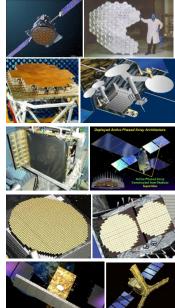


Array-based architectures

Array vs. Reflector Antennas



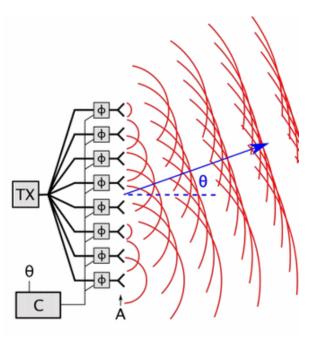
Reflector	Array
Antennas	Antennas
low cost low mass & weight large bandwidth, high gain,	modularity/scalability, flexibility, wide angle scanning graceful degradation, planarity, multi-beam generation RF Power Pooling steering/pointing agility
limited scanning,	cost & complexity
no reconfigurability	(10÷100 times higher)





Phased Arrays

- A PHASED ARRAY antenna is a system obtained connecting a group radiators and organizing them in such a way that their transmitted signals are in the correct electrical relationship (phase and amplitude) with each other.
- Scan/shaping of the beam is obtained by changing the complex weighting of its elements.
- Primary reason for using phased arrays is to produce beams that can be modified (scanned or shaped) electronically.
- The circuitry which controls the excitation of elements in the array is called the Beam Forming Network (BFN).



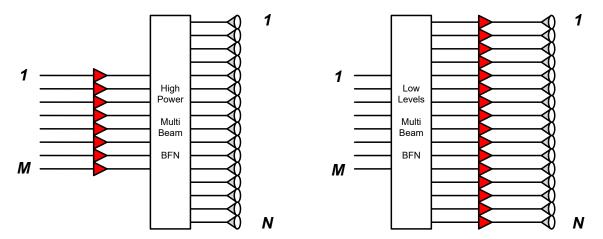
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phased_array



Passive *vs* **Active Arrays**

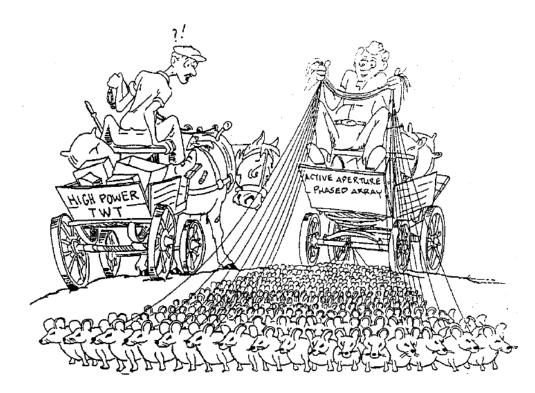
Passive Array







Active Arrays





European Heritage in Active Array Antennas





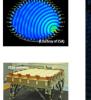
European Space Agency

IPC - Technology Harmonisation Advisory Group (THAG) European Space Technology Harmonisation Dossier

ARRAY ANTENNAS

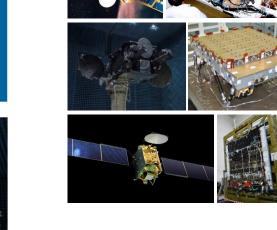
reference: ESA/IPC/THAG(2017)3 issue.revision: 3.2 date of issue: 21.03.2018

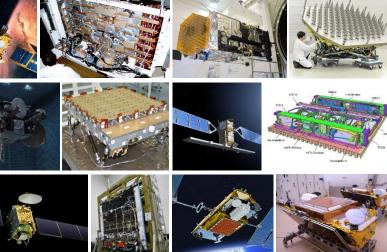




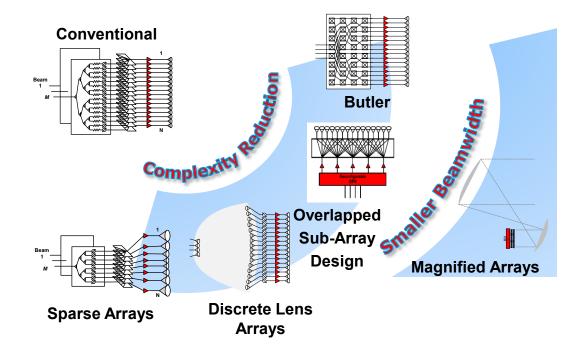






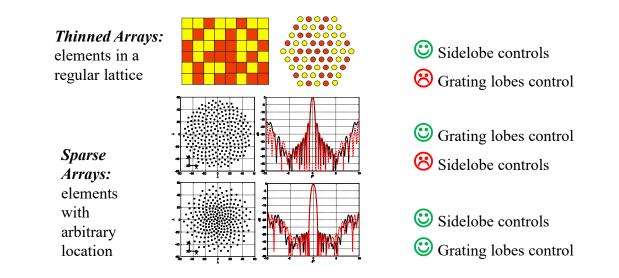


Array-based Multibeam Antennas/Beamforming





Irregular Arrays

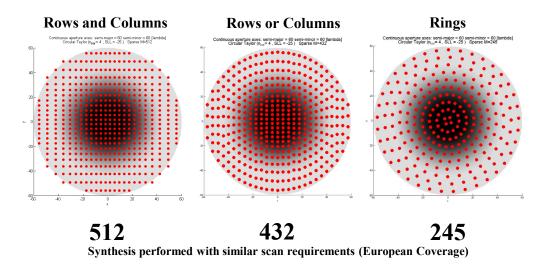


G. Toso, C. Mangenot, A.G. Roederer, "Sparse and Thinned Arrays for Multiple Beam Satellite Applications", 29th ESA Antenna Workshop on Multiple Beams and Reconfigurable Antennas, Apr.18-20 2007

M.C. Vigano', G. Toso, G. Caille, C. Mangenot. H. Lager, "Sunflower array antenna with adjustable density taper", Hindawi Special Issue on Active Antennas for Satellite Applications, 2009

Planar Sparse Arrays

1st example: 120λ Circular Aperture, SLL = 25 dB



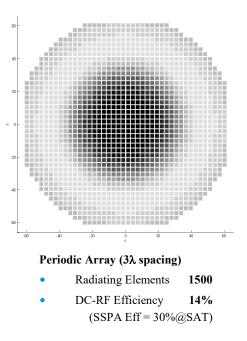
G. Toso, P. Angeletti, A Method of Designing and Manufacturing an Array Antenna, US Patent 7797816, filed on 21/02/2008

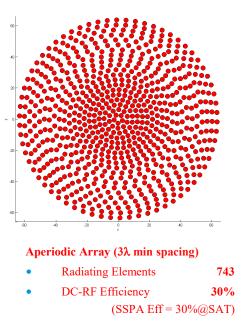
P. Angeletti, G. Toso, "Aperiodic Arrays for Space Applications: A combined Amplitude/Density Synthesis Approach", EuCAP2009

P. Angeletti, G. Toso, "Synthesis of Circular and Elliptical Sparse Arrays", Electronics Letters, Vol. 47, No. 5, March 2011

Planar Sparse Arrays

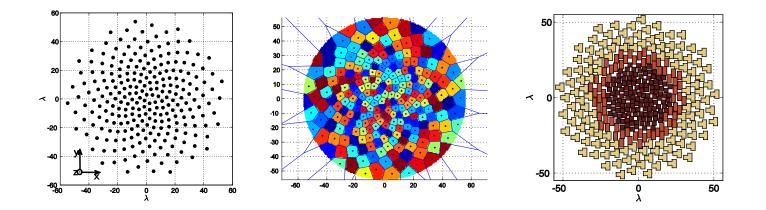
2nd example: 132λ Circular Aperture, Earth Coverage

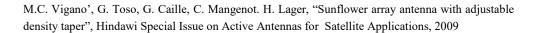


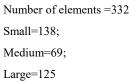


G. Toso, P. Angeletti, A Method of Designing and Manufacturing an Array Antenna, US Patent 7797816, filed on 21/02/2008
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P. Angeletti, G. Toso, "Synthesis of Circular and Elliptical Sparse Arrays", Electronics Letters, Vol. 47, No. 5, March 2011

a Sunflower array implementation





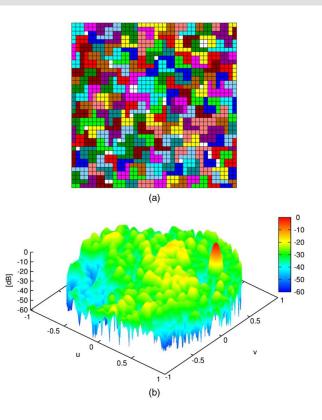


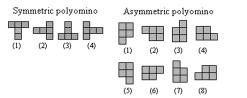
Array Antennas with jointly Optimized Elements Positions and Dimensions

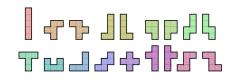
Array layout				
Aperture distribution				
Radiative Patterns				
Number of elements	314 elements	209 elements	151 elements	130 elements

P. Angeletti, G. Toso, G. Ruggerini, "Array Antennas with jointly Optimized Elements Positions and Dimensions. Part I: Linear Arrays; Part II: Planar Circular Arrays", *IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation*, Special Section on "Innovative phased array antennas based on non-regular lattices and overlapped subarrays", April 2014

Polyomino Arrays





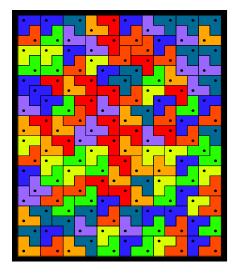


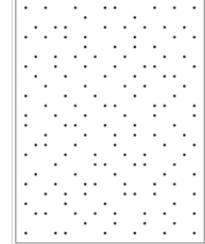
S.W. Golomb, *Tiling with Polyominoes*, Journal of Combinatorial Theory 1, 280-296 (1966)

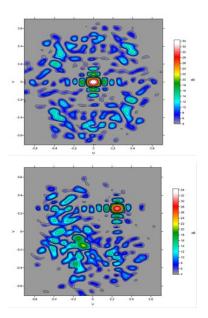
P. Rocca, R. J. Mailloux, G. Toso, *GA-Based Optimization of Irregular Subarray Layouts for Wideband Phased Arrays Design*, IEEE Antennas and Wireless Propagation Letters, VOL. 14, 2015 131

P. Angeletti, G. Pelosi, S. Selleri, R. Taddei, G. Toso, *Unequal Polyomino Layers for Reduced SLL Arrays with Scanning Ability, Progress In Electromagnetics Research, Vol. 162, 31–38, 2018*

Polyomino Arrays



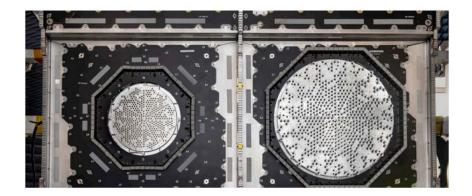




- V-shaped Triomino Array with 144 controls
- Layout and two possible patterns (courtesy of Space Engineering)

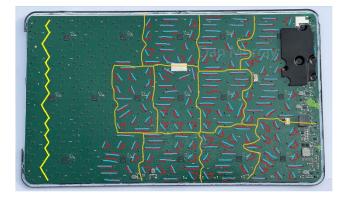
Industrial Applications of Sparse Arrays

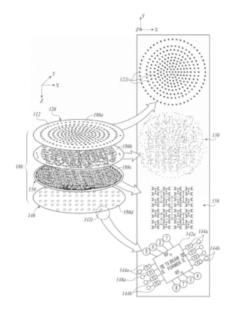
SES/Boeing mPower ... Sparse arrays becoming a reality



December 2022: Boeing delivers first two O3b m-POWER satellites to SES

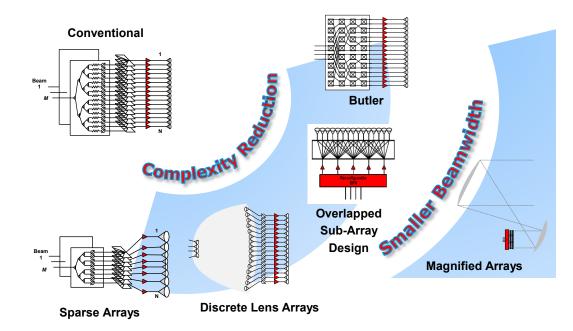
Industrial Applications of Sparse Arrays





Starlink Onboard and Terminal Antenna Sparse and Polyominoes Subarrays

Multibeam Antennas/Beamforming





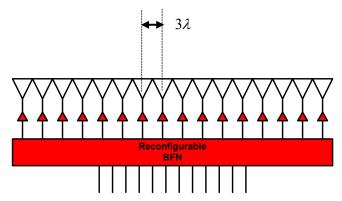
Hybrid Beamforming

- It is desirable to generate multibeam beams to cover a given field of view with increased gain and isolation.
- A fully reconfigurable beamforming network is impractical for many applications with high number of elements and/or beams.
- Simpler solutions retaining sufficient (although not complete) flexibility are therefore necessary.
 Solutions permitting to increase the number of beams and radiating elements are furthermore necessary.

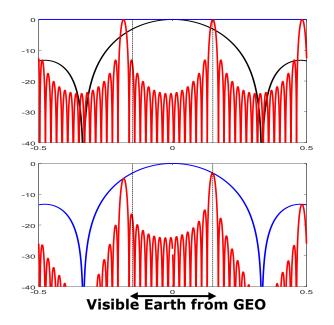
P. Angeletti, G. Toso, D. Petrolati (ESA/PAT/705) "A reconfigurable multibeam antenna system" European Patent EP 654 544 A1, filing date: 13-11-2018.



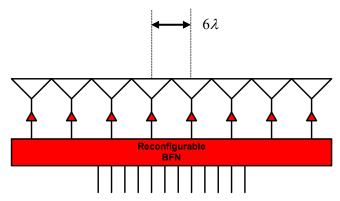
Prior-Art Design



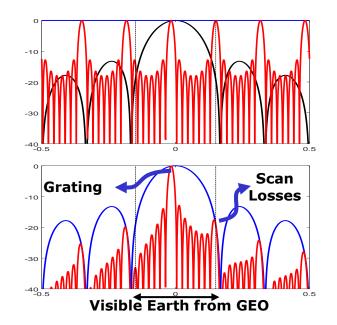
 Number of BFN element ports is minimized maximizing element dimension with grating-lobes outside the Field-of-View



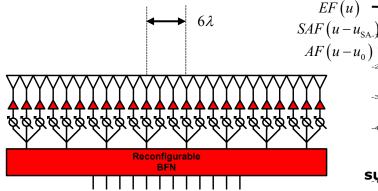
Desired Objective : reduction of Number of Radiating Element Ports



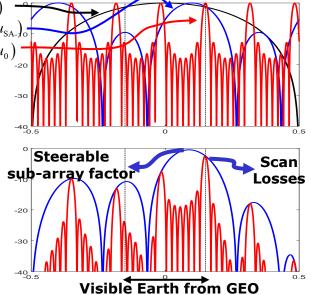
- Number of BFN element ports is reduced
- Field-of-View is reduced and the scan losses increased.
- Grating-lobes appear in the Fieldof View



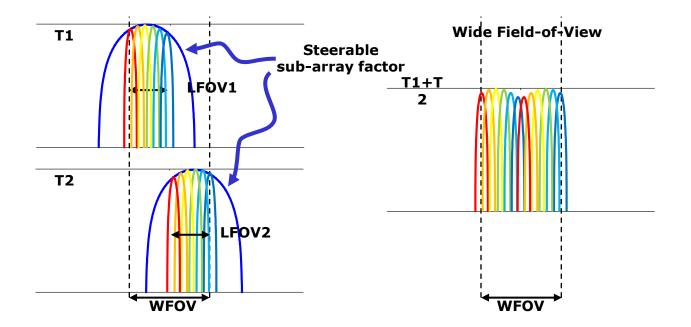
Proposed Approach : steerable Sub-Arrays



- Number of BFN element ports is reduced
- Instantaneous Field-of-View is reduced without additional scan losses.
- Controlled grating-lobes are kept outside the instantaneous Field-of View

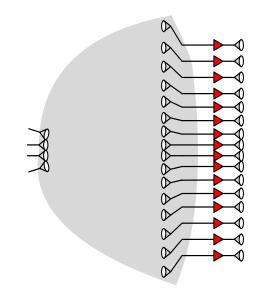


Proposed Approach : steerable Sub-Arrays



Active Discrete Lens BFN/Antennas

Single Feed per Beam antenna based on Active Discrete Lens BFN



Extremely simplified BFN (1:1 connections) Large Frequency Bandwidth (True Time Delay) Multifocal Antenna → large field of view single main aperture for multi spot contiguous beams Complexity marginally dependent on the number of beams; 2 polarizations (3D lens), 1 polarization (2D lens) No blockage

DRAWBACKS accommodation cooling beams created in fixed directions difficult to combine the Tx and Rx functionalities



Degrees of freedom

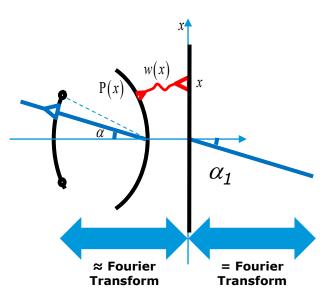
Metallic reflector: 1 degree of freedom (1 d.o.f) Z=Z(x) or Z=Z(x,y)

Reflectarray or Transmitarray: 2 d.o.f Z and Phase

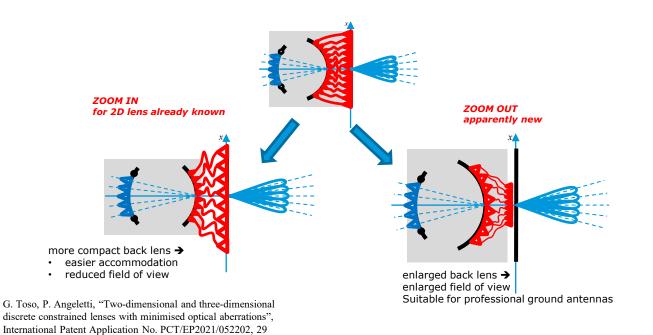
2D Discrete Lenses: Xback, Zback, Phase, Zfront as a function of Xfront → 4 d.o.f → 4 max focal points

3D Discrete Lenses: Xback, Yback, Zback, Phase, Zfront as a function of Xfront, Yfront → 5 d.o.f → 5 max focal points

Lens Based Beamformers

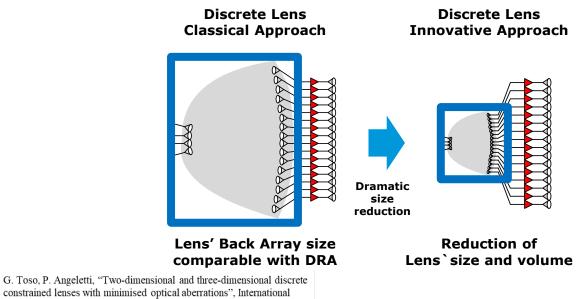


ZOOM IN & OUT



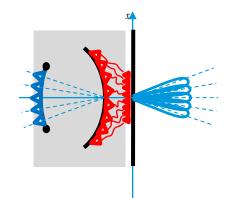
January 2021

ZOOM IN



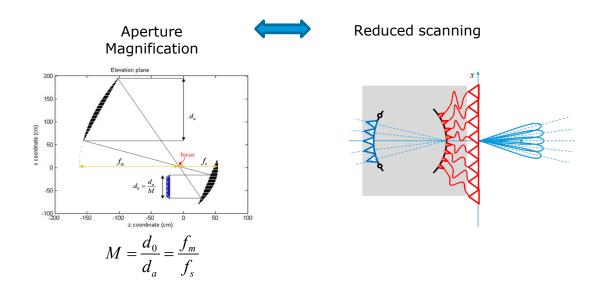
constrained lenses with minimised optical aberrations", International Patent Application No. PCT/EP2021/052202, 29 January 2021

ZOOM OUT

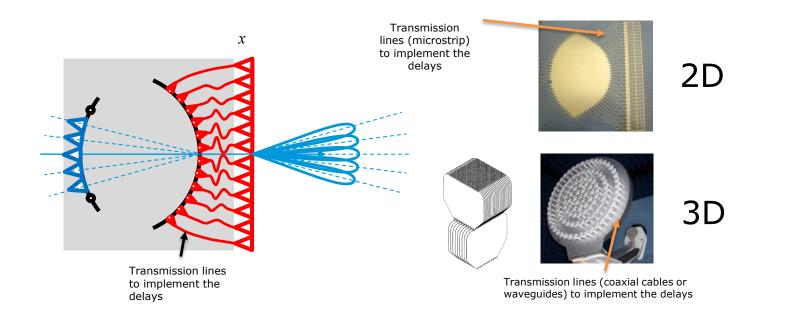


Active antennas have a larger field of view as compared to reflectors and do not need mechanisms. Easy to scan from boresight up to 30-40 degrees. Difficult to scan from boresight up to 70-90degrees \rightarrow a BFN lens with the back 2-3 times larger allows to scan 2-3 times more !!!

ZOOM-in property of Lenses equivalent to magnification properties in Reflector systems



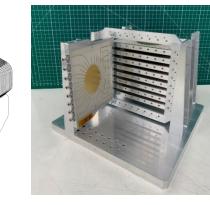
Lens Based Beamformers



3D lenses: 2 possible architectures

or

cascade of 2D lenses in rows & columns

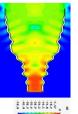


Courtesy of Airbus Italia

single 3D lens



US patent 2010/0207833 A1, Multibeam active discrete lens antenna, G. Toso, P. Angeletti, G. Ruggerini, G. Bellaveglia



E-field amplitude





E-field phase



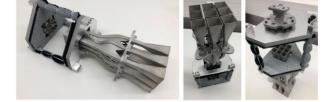
Breadboarding of Ka band Active Lenses

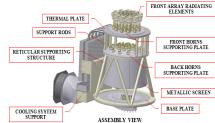






Active module with 2SSPAs







L-shaped Heat Pipes

Courtesy of Airbus Italia





Recent results on the synthesis of 2D and 3D constrained lens antennas

G. Toso, P. Angeletti, An Optimal Procedure for the Design of Discrete Constrained Lens Antennas with Minimized Optical Aberrations, Part I: Two-Dimensional Architectures, Electronics 2022, 11(3), 493; https://doi.org/10.3390/electronics11030493

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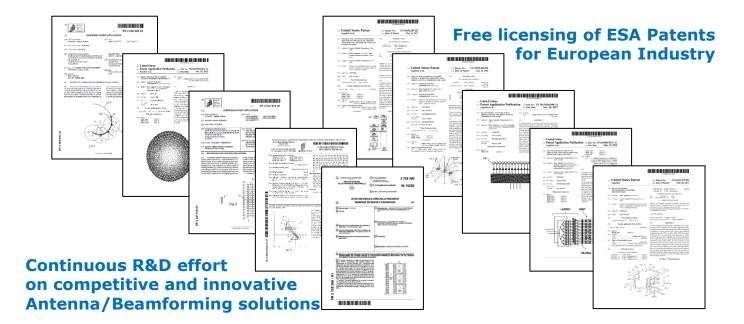
Our Course on Multibeam Antennas and Beamforming Networks

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ESA R&D on Active Antennas / Beamforming



ESA ESoA Course on Antennas for Satellite Applications 2016-.....-2024

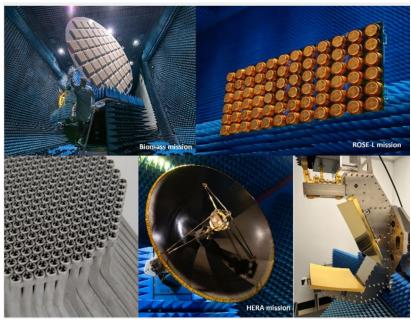
ESA ESoA Course on ANTENNAS for SPACE APPLICATIONS organised by G. Toso, E. Gandini

10th edition 27-31 May 2024, ESA-ESTEC, The Netherlands

	Day1 May 27 th 2024		Day 2 May 28 th 2024		Day 3 May 29 th 2024		Day 4 May 30 th 2024		Day 5 May 31 st 2024
9:00	1. Introducing ESA ESTEC and the Course (G. Toso, E. Gandini, ESA- ESTEC)	9:00	6. Earth observation instrument antennas (L. Salghetti Drioli, ESA-ESTEC)	9:00	11. Navigation Antennas (D. Trenta, ESA-ESTEC)	9:00 10:50	 User Segment Antennas (E. Gandini, ESA-ESTEC) Coffee break 	9:00	21. Mechanical & Thermal Analysis of satellite antennas (G. Rodrigues, A. Ihle, ESA- ESTEC)
9:40	2. Basic of Antennas, frequencies, orbits (E. Gandini, ESA-ESTEC)	10:40	Coffee break	10:40	Coffee break	11:10	16. Additive Manufacturing (M.	10:15	Coffee break
	with Coffee break in the middle	11:00	7. High Frequency Earth Observation (E. Saenz, ESA- ESTEC)	11:00	12. Ground Station Antennas (P.M. Besso, ESA-ESOC)	12:00	van der Vorst, ESA-ESTEC) 17. Large Reflector Antennas (P.	10:30	22. Mechanical & Thermal Test of satellite antennas (G. Rodrigues, A. Ihle, ESA- ESTEC)
13:00	Lunch	12:00	8. Science Antennas and Instruments (E. Saenz, ESA- ESTEC)	13:00	Lunch	12:00	Moseley, ESA-ESTEC)	11:30	23. ESA Antenna Measurements Facilities, (I.
10100		13:00	Lunch			13:00	Lunch	13:00	Barbary, E. Van Der Houwen, A. Riccardi, ESA- ESTEC)
									Lunch
					Lunch Break	-			
14:00	3. Feed systems and radiators (H. Nematollahi, ESA-ESTEC)	14:00	9. RF Antenna Measurements (L. Rolo, ESA-ESTEC)	14:00	13. Multibeam Antennas Architectures, part II, Overlapped Subarrays and Discrete Lenses (G. Toso, ESA-ESTEC)	14:00	18. Service Antennas (V. Iza, ESA-ESTEC)	14:00	24. Future Trends and Research Lines (P. de Maagt, ESA-ESTEC)
15:00	Coffee break	15:15	Coffee break	16:20	Coffee break	15:00	19. Low Frequency Antennas (B. Byrne, ESA-ESTEC)	15:00	Closure of the Course.
15:20	4. Reflector Antennas (S. Mercader- Pellicer, ESA-ESTEC)	15:35	10. Multibeam Antennas Architectures, part I, Single Feed per Beam, Multi Feed per Beam, Active Arrays (G. Toso,	16:40	14. Beam Forming Networks and Digital Beam Forming (P. Angeletti,	16:00 16:20	Coffee break 20. New Space Antennas (C. Tienda, ESA-ESTEC)		Final Questionnaire: online homework
16:20	5. Overview of satellite payload architectures and needs (S. D'Addio, ESA-ESTEC)		ESA-ESTEC)	18:40	ESA-ESTEC) Social Dinner				
18:00	Welcome cocktail								

ESA ESoA Course on ACTIVE ANTENNAS, organised by G. Toso, P. Angelett 2021-2023-2025

	Dayl September 11 th 2023		Day 2 September 12 th 2023		Day 3 September 13 th 2023		Day 4 September 14 th 2023		Day 5 September 15 th 2023
9:15	I. Introducing ESA ESTEC, Active Antennas, Course Organization (Giovanni Toso, Piero Angeletti, ESA- ESTEC)	9:15	6. MMIC for Active Antennas, (Frank van Vliet, TNO)	9:15	(Daniele Cavallo, TU Delft)	9:15	16. Active antennas for LEO Telecom Satellites and Constellations (Maria Garcia Vigueras, INSA Rennes, Esteban Menargues, Swissto12)	9:15	21. Design of Active Antennas for Receive and Interference Localization (Antonio Montesano, Airbus Spain) [in remote]
9:45	2. Payload architectures and payloads needs for Active Antennas (Salvatore D'Addio, ESA-ESTEC)	10:45	Coffee break	10:45	Coffee break	10:45	Coffee break	10:45	Coffee break
11:15 11:35	Coffee break 3. Antenna Element Technology and Modelling Methods, (Stefania Monni,	11:05	7. Beam Forming Networks and Digital Beam Forming (Piero Angeletti, Giovanni Toso, ESA-ESTEC)	11:05	12.TR modules (Iain Davies, ESA-ESTEC)	11:05	 Through-life Verification and Calibration of Active Antennas (Marco Lisi, Salvatore D'Addio, Piero Angeletti, ESA-ESTEC) 	11:05	22. Active Antennas for Gateways (Ed Totten, Celestia UK) [in remote]
	TNO)			12:05	13. Technologies for Transmit Front-Ends (Vaclav Valenta, ESA-ESTEC)	12:30	18. Active Phased Arrays for Ground Terminals (Maria Carolina Vigano', Viasat Switzerland)		
13:00	Lunch Break	13:00	Lunch Break	13:00	Lunch Break	13:30	Lunch Break	12:20	Lunch Break
14:00		13:45		14:00		14:30		13:20	
14:00	4. Active Antennas Architectures, part I, Irregular Arrays and Magnified Arrays (Giovanni Toso, Piero Angeletti, ESA- ESTEC)	13:45	8 Active Antennas System Engineering in TAS-I: a focus on Noise Temperature (Giovanni Gasparro. Active Antennas Systems, TAS-I)	14:00	14. Convex Optimization and Applications to Active Antenna Design (Murat Veysoglu, Amazon)	14:30	19. Active Antennas for Telecom Satellites (Glyn Thomas, Airbus UK	13:20	23. Active Antennas Architectures, parl II, Overlapped Subarrays and Discrete Lenses (Giovanni Toso, Piero Angeletti, ESA- ESTEC)
15:30	Coffee break	15:15	Coffee break	16:15	Coffee break	16:15	Coffee break	15:00	24. Final Questionnaire
15:50	5. Millimeter-wave and sub- TeraHz technology and research trends for 5G and 6G Antennas, an industrial view (Renato Lombardi, Roberto Flamini, Huawei)	15:30	9. Overview of Adaptive Array Processing Techniques for Radars, History, Theoretical Foundations and Applications (Alfonso Farina, Selex ES (retired))	16:35	15. Thermal Aspects (Emmanuel Caplanne, ESA- ESTEC) OK	16:35	20. Satellite antenna for telecom with mobiles from GEO to LEO (Benoit Lejay, TAS-France) [in remote]	17:30	Closure of the Course.
17:20 - 20:30	Welcome to ESA ESTEC, Robert Willemsen	17:00 - 18:20	10. Elena Saenz ESA Antenna Measurements Facilities	17:45 - 22:30	Social Dinner				



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The Antenna and Sub-Millimetre Waves Section of the Radio Frequency Payloads and Technology Division of the Directorate of Technology, Engineering and Quality (D/TEC) of the European Space Agency announces the 42nd ESA Antenna Workshop.

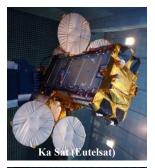
The Workshop will be held from the 11th to the 15th of November 2024 at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

The workshop will include sessions focused on technologies, techniques and applications with the intent to foster the exchange of knowledge and ideas between experts. A dedicated area will be available for poster presentations. A visit to the ESTEC Antenna Test Facilities will be organised*.

Giovanni Toso | RF Summit 24 Finland, March 2024 | Slide 70

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Multibeam Antennas

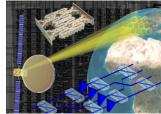




- Combine Electrical, Thermal, Mechanical Expertise;
- > Combine Antennas, Microwaves, Optics, ..
- Depending on the application Reflectors, Arrays, Lenses, ... may be used;
- The design problem to solve seems so easy but can keep one busy for years







Multibeam Antennas

Combine the most Advanced Technologies & Design Procedures



... but there is always room for *Deterministic Design Solutions* possibly supported by *Analytical Equations*

, March 2024 | Slide 72





Would you like to know more?

giovanni.toso@esa.int

European Space Agency