

IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring with different techniques

Alexander Neidhardt¹

D. Amberger², F. Kroner¹, G. Kronschnabl², M. Lier², Ch. Plötz², L. Rigon¹

1) TUM, 2) BKG

IVS IVTW 2024

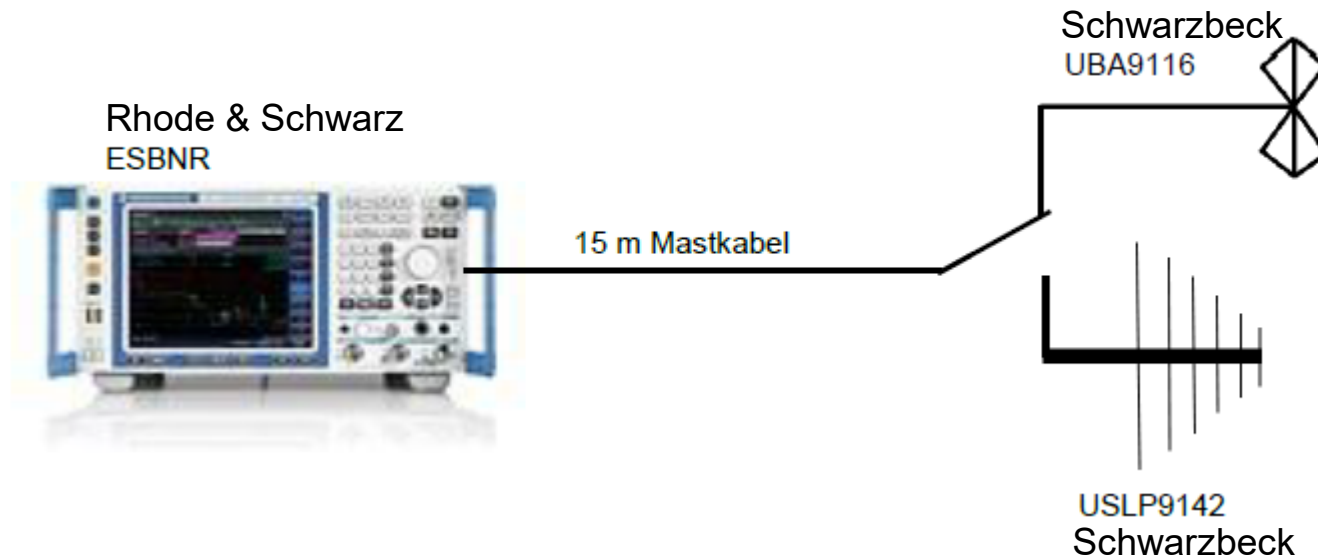
RFI Monitoring

- **General situation ... big jammers**
 - **Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA**
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

General characterization ... big jammers

Frequency occupancy measurement by BNetzA*

* Federal Network Agency



General characterization ... big jammers

Frequency occupancy measurement by BNetzA

- 500-700 MHz: DVB-T2 -40 dBm
- 700-788 MHz: LTE- and 5G-signals up-/downlink -81 dBm
- 788-862 MHz: LTE-signals up-/downlink -77 dBm
- 862-960 MHz: LTE- und GSM-signals up-/downlink -76 dBm
- 1000-1100 MHz: ADS-B- (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast; secondary radar) and DME-signals (Distance Measuring Equipment) of air navigation radio -70 dBm
- 1200-1300 MHz : radar signals -78 dBm
- 1300-1400 MHz: air force radar on mountain „Gr. Arber“ -47 dBm
- 1400-1500 MHz: LTE-signals -91 dBm
- 1700-1880 MHz: LTE-signals downlink -73 dBm
- 1880-1920 MHz: DECT-signals in the surrounding area -79 dBm
- 1920-2170 MHz: LTE-signals downlink, and unknown signal -60 dBm
- 2400-2500 MHz: WLAN-signals in the surrounding area -90 dBm

General characterization ... big jammers

Frequency occupancy measurement by BNetzA

- 500-700 MHz: DVB-T2 -40 dBm
- 700-788 MHz: LTE- and 5G-signals up-/downlink -81 dBm
- 788-862 MHz: LTE-signals up-/downlink -77 dBm
- 862-960 MHz: LTE- und GSM-signals up-/downlink -76 dBm
- 1000-1100 MHz: ADS-B- (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast; secondary radar) and DME-signals (Distance Measuring Equipment) of air navigation radio -70 dBm
- 1200-1300 MHz : radar signals -78 dBm
- 1300-1400 MHz: air force radar on mountain „Gr. Arber“ -47 dBm
- 1400-1500 MHz: LTE-signals -91 dBm
- 1700-1880 MHz: LTE-signals downlink -73 dBm
- 1880-1920 MHz: DECT-signals in the surrounding area -79 dBm
- 1920-2170 MHz: LTE-signals downlink, and unknown signal -60 dBm
- 2400-2500 MHz: WLAN-signals in the surrounding area -90 dBm

2600 MHz: LTE/4G

General characterization ... big jammers

Frequency occupancy measurement by BNetzA

- 500-700 MHz: DVB-T2 -40 dBm
- 700-788 MHz: LTE- and 5G-signals up-/downlink -81 dBm
- 788-862 MHz: LTE-signals up-/downlink -77 dBm
- 862-960 MHz: LTE- und GSM-signals up-/downlink -76 dBm
- 1000-1100 MHz: ADS-B- (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast; secondary radar) and DME-signals (Distance Measuring Equipment) of air navigation radio -70 dBm
- 1200-1300 MHz : radar signals -78 dBm
- 1300-1400 MHz: air force radar on mountain „Gr. Arber“ -47 dBm
- 1400-1500 MHz: LTE-signals -91 dBm
- 1700-1880 MHz: LTE-signals downlink -73 dBm
- 1880-1920 MHz: DECT-signals in the surrounding area -79 dBm
- 1920-2170 MHz: LTE-signals downlink, and unknown signal -60 dBm
- 2400-2500 MHz: WLAN-signals in the surrounding area -90 dBm

2600 MHz: LTE/4G

MISSING PROTECTION

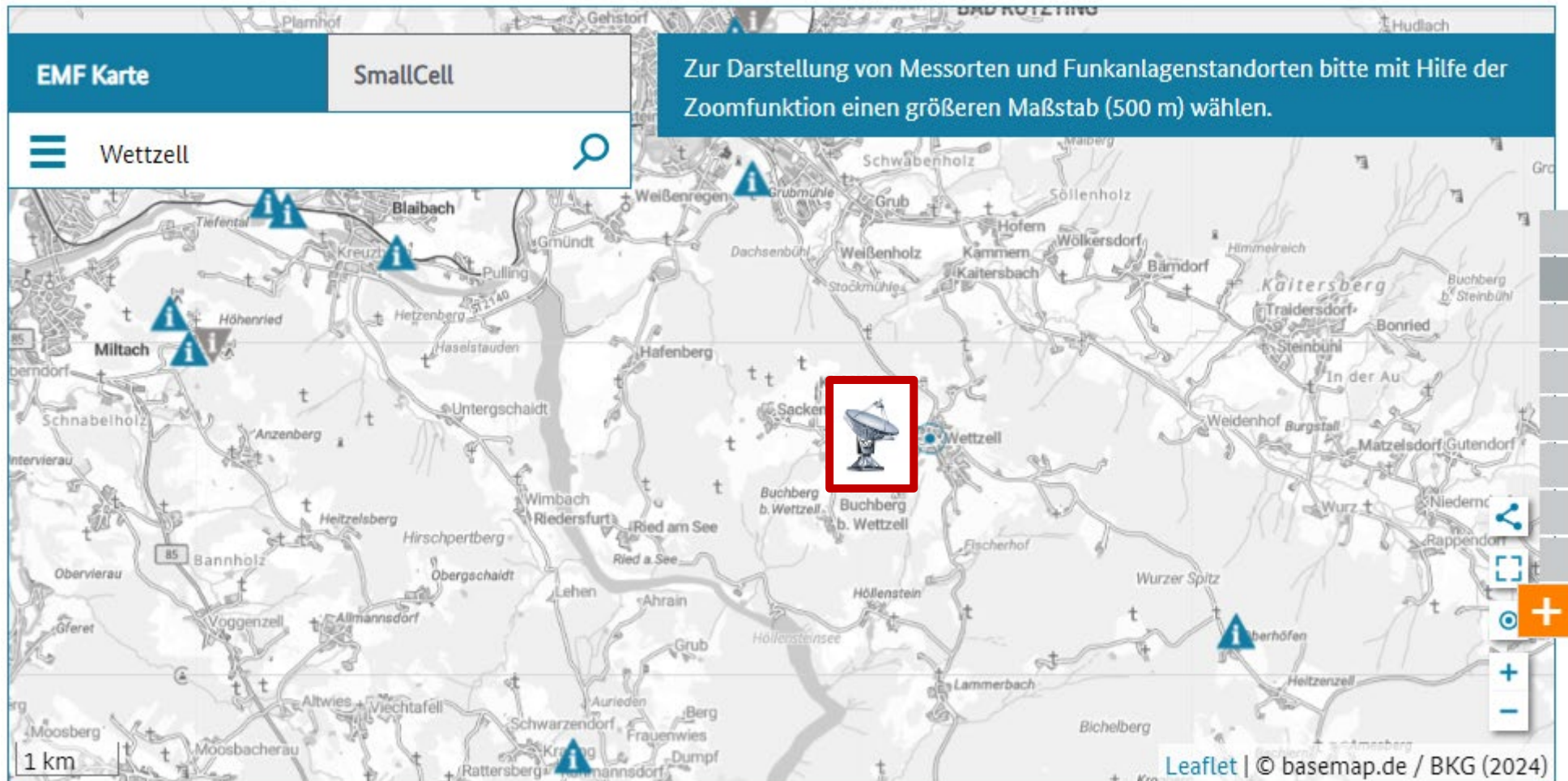
IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - **LTE/4G**
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

General characterization ... big jammers

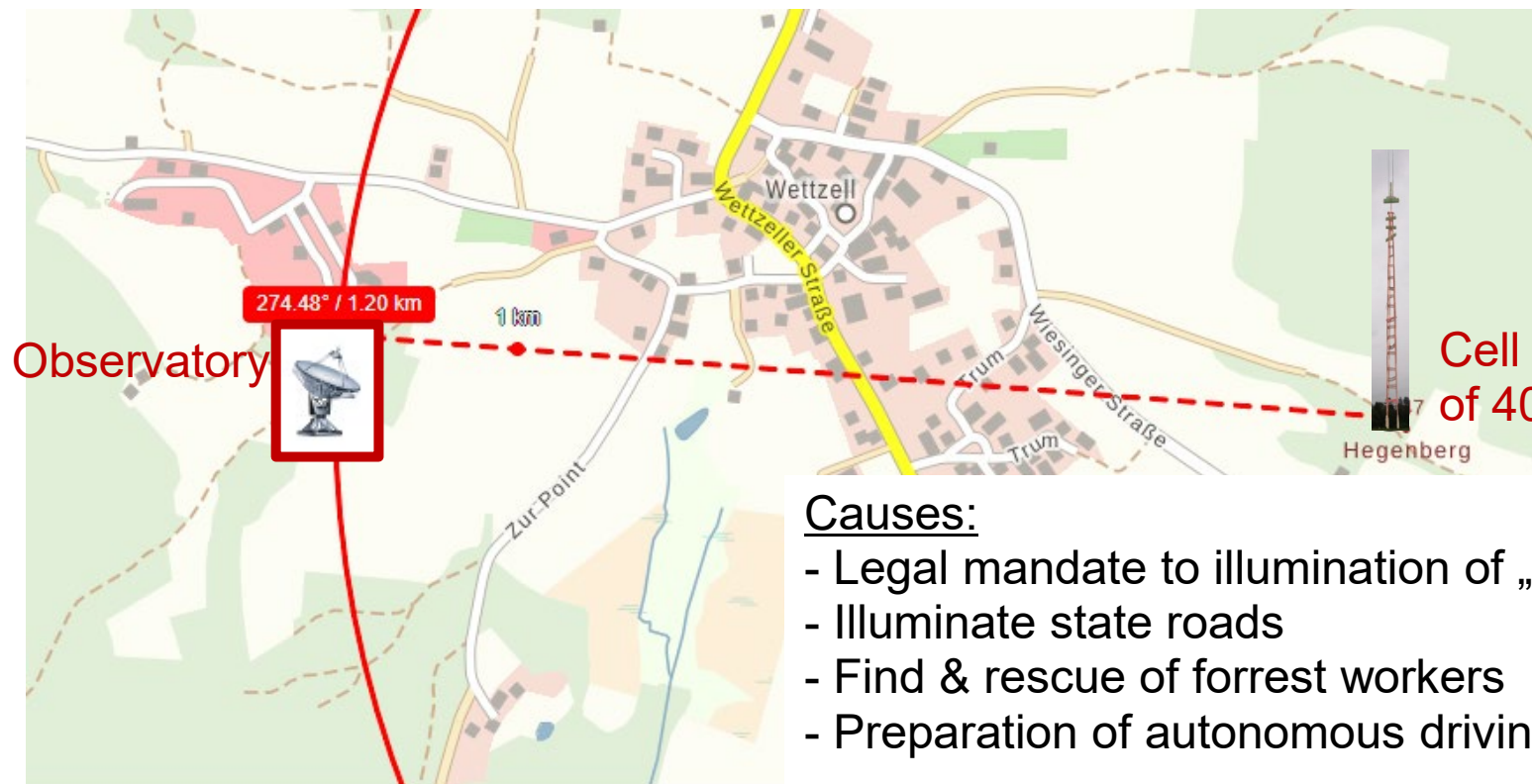
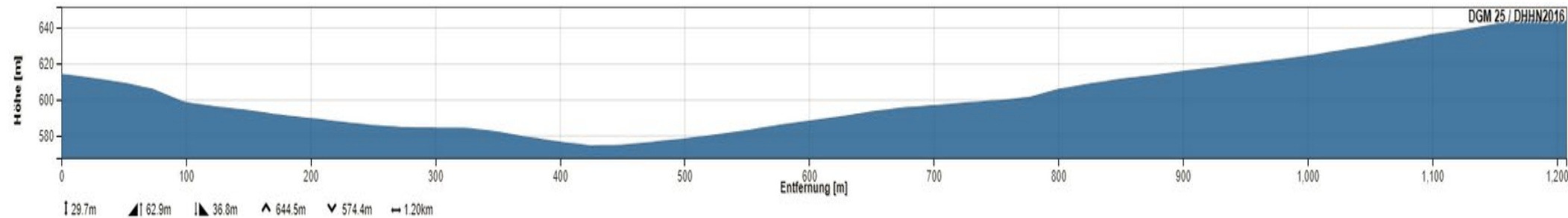
Current LTE/4G infrastructure



<https://www.bundesnetzagentur.de/DE/Vportal/TK/Funktechnik/EMF/start.html>

General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion of the LTE/4G infrastructure



Causes:

- Legal mandate to illumination of „white areas“
- Illuminate state roads
- Find & rescue of forrest workers
- Preparation of autonomous driving
- ...

General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion of the LTE/4G infrastructure

Press reports
and public
perception



IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - **5G**
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

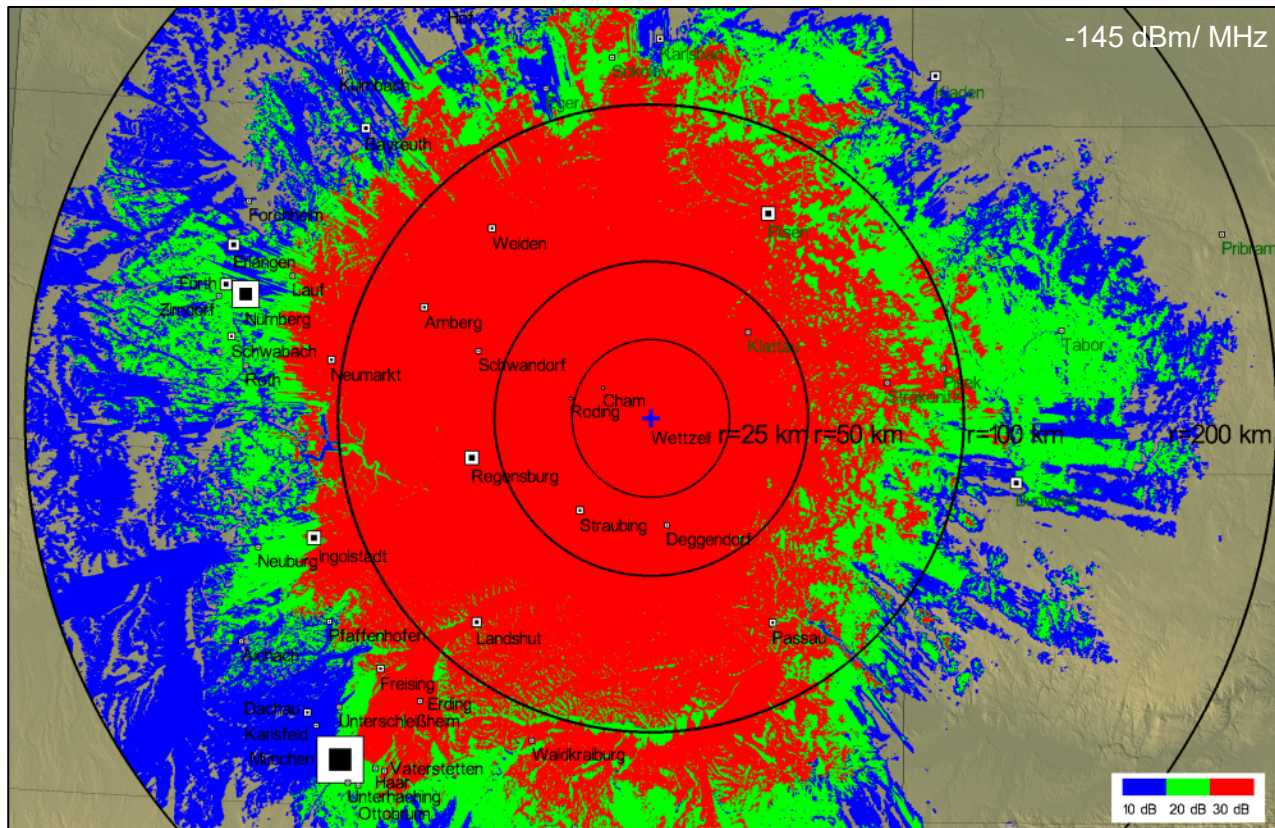
General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G

700 MHz: 5G	500-700 MHz: DVB-T2	-40 dBm
	700-788 MHz: LTE- and 5G-signals up-/downlink	-81 dBm
	788-862 MHz: LTE-signals up-/downlink	-77 dBm
	862-960 MHz: LTE- und GSM-signals up-/downlink	-76 dBm
	1000-1100 MHz: ADS-B- (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast; secondary radar) and DME-signals (Distance Measuring Equipment) of air navigation radio	-70 dBm
	1200-1300 MHz : radar signals	-78 dBm
	1300-1400 MHz: air force radar on mountain „Gr. Arber“	-47 dBm
	1400-1500 MHz: LTE-signals	-91 dBm
	1700-1880 MHz: LTE-signals downlink	-73 dBm
	1880-1920 MHz: DECT-signals in the surrounding area	-79 dBm
1800 MHz: 5G	1920-2170 MHz: LTE-signals downlink, and unknown signal	-60 dBm
2100 MHz: 5G	2400-2500 MHz: WLAN-signals in the surrounding area	-90 dBm
2600 MHz: LTE/4G		
3600 MHz: 5G		

General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



RECOMMENDATION ITU-R RA.769-2

TABLE 3

Threshold interference levels for VLBI observations

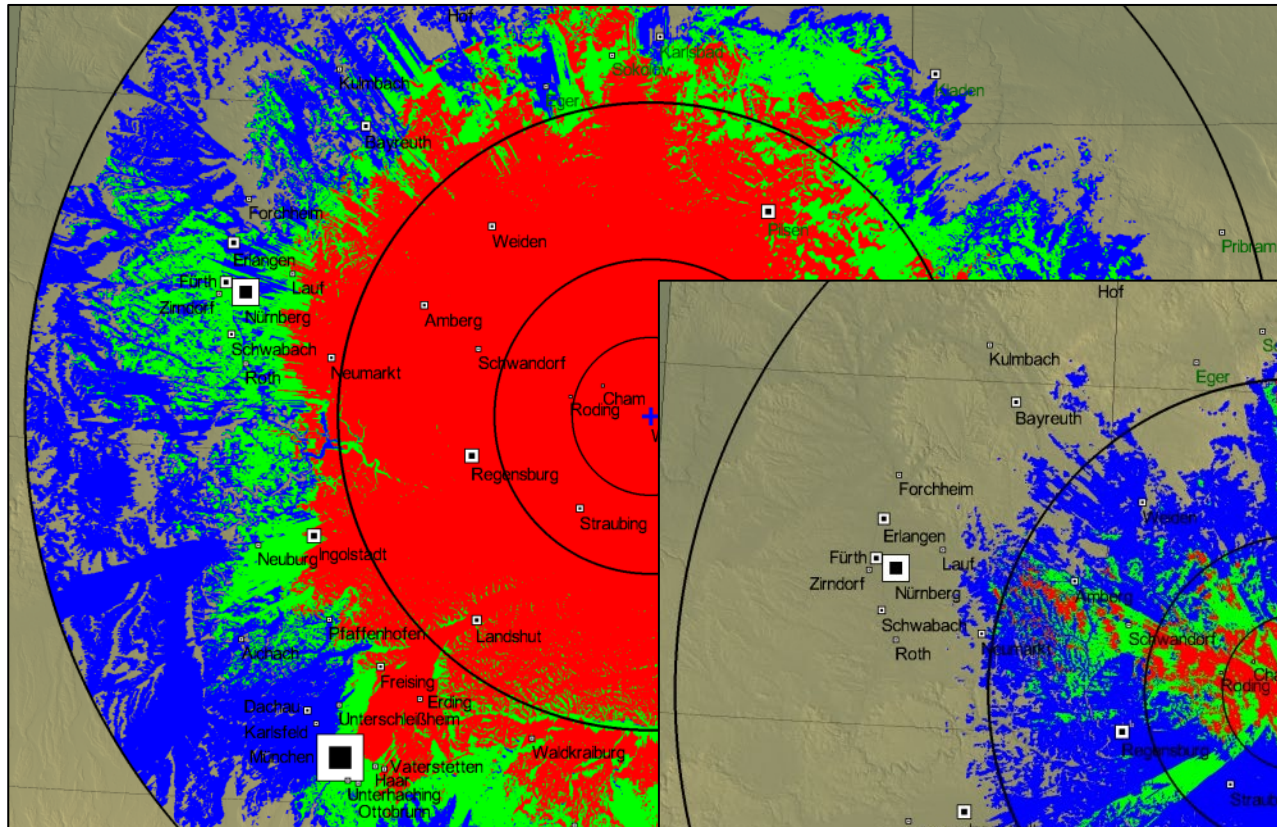
Centre frequency (MHz)	Threshold level (dB(W/m ² · Hz))
325.3	-217
611	-212
1413.5	-211
2695	-205
4995	-200
10650	-193
15375	-189
23800	-183
43000	-175
86000	-172

Critical areas (exceeded VLBI limit values) with 10-30 dB mitigation

Used software: pycraf
<https://github.com/bwinkel/pycraf>

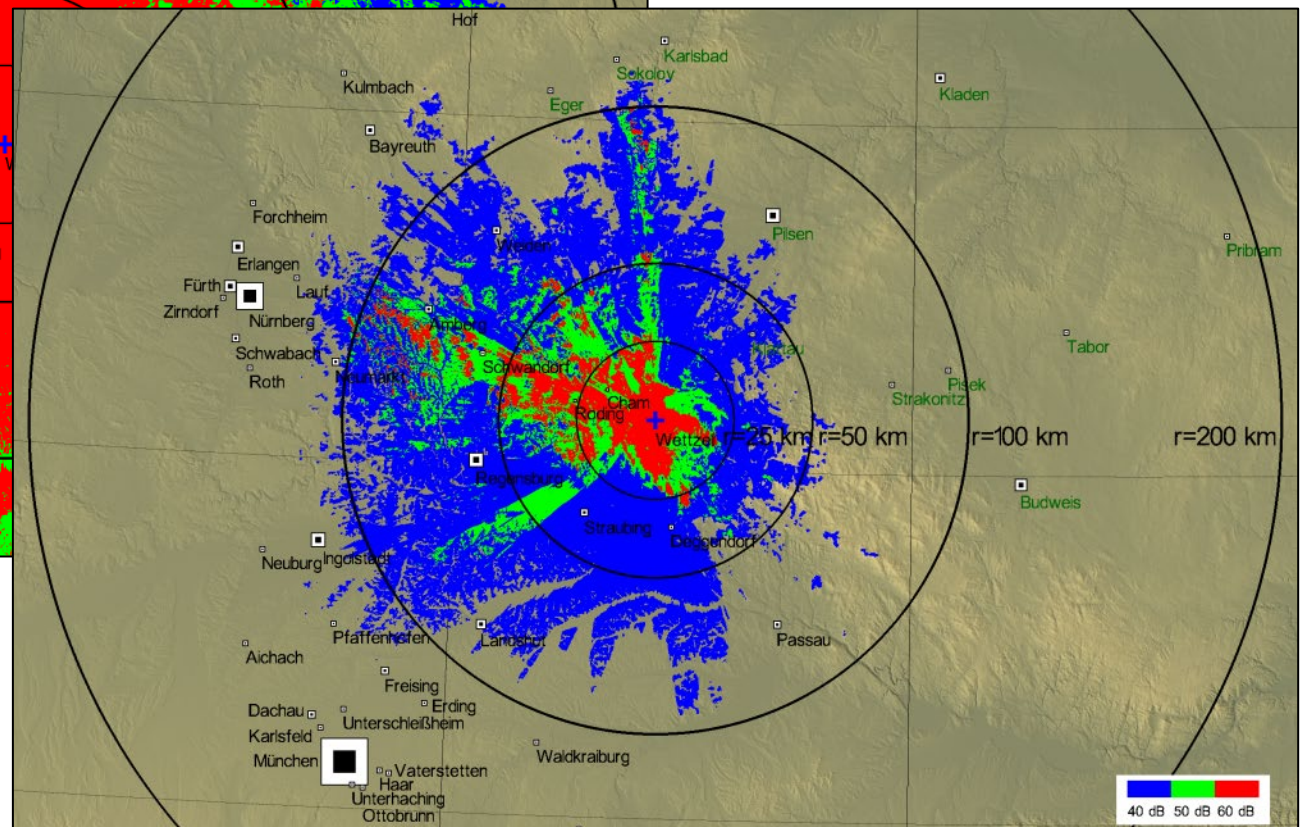
General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



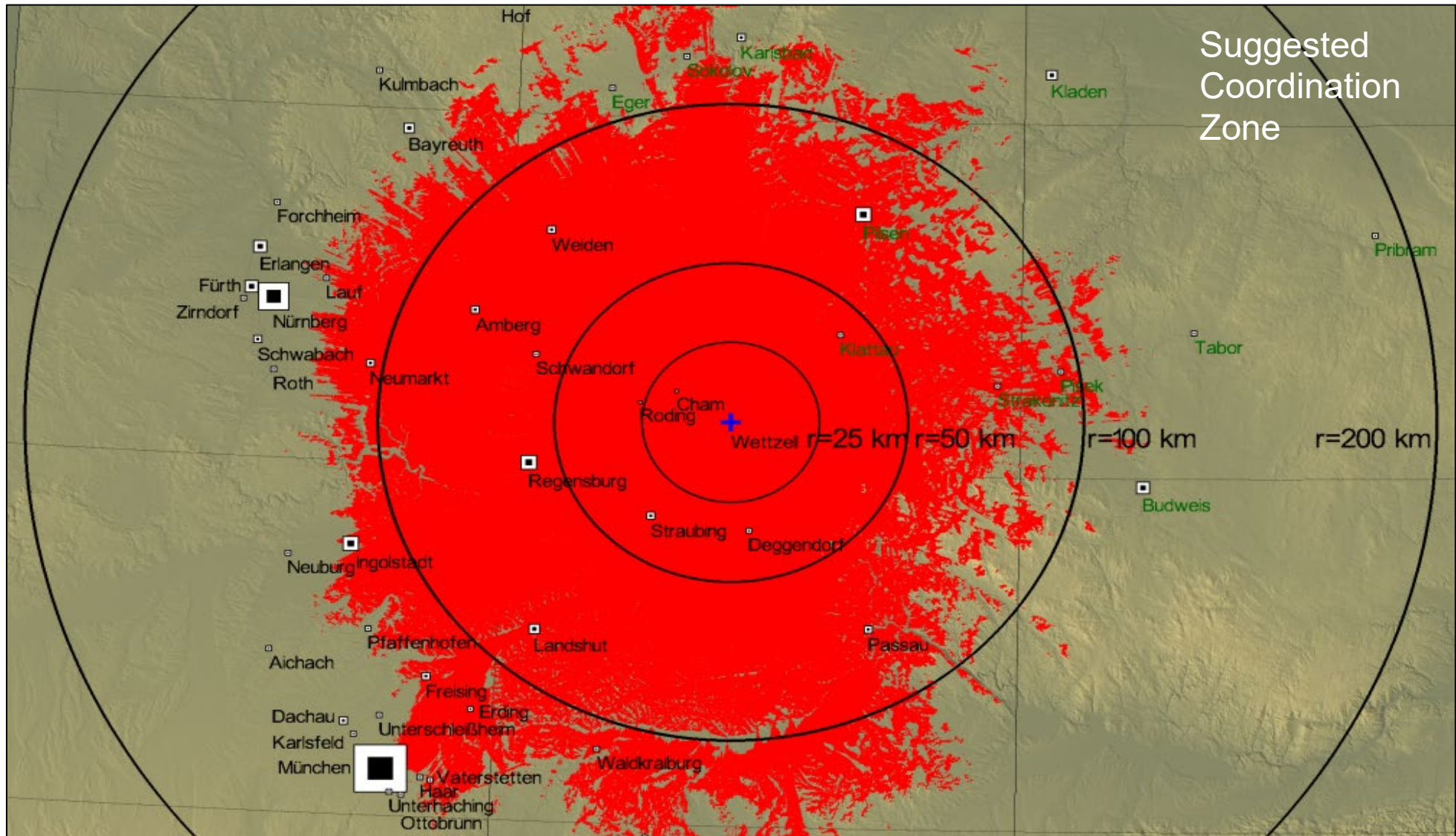
Critical areas (exceeded VLBI limit values) with 10-30 dB mitigation

Critical areas (exceeded VLBI limit values) with 40-60 dB mitigation



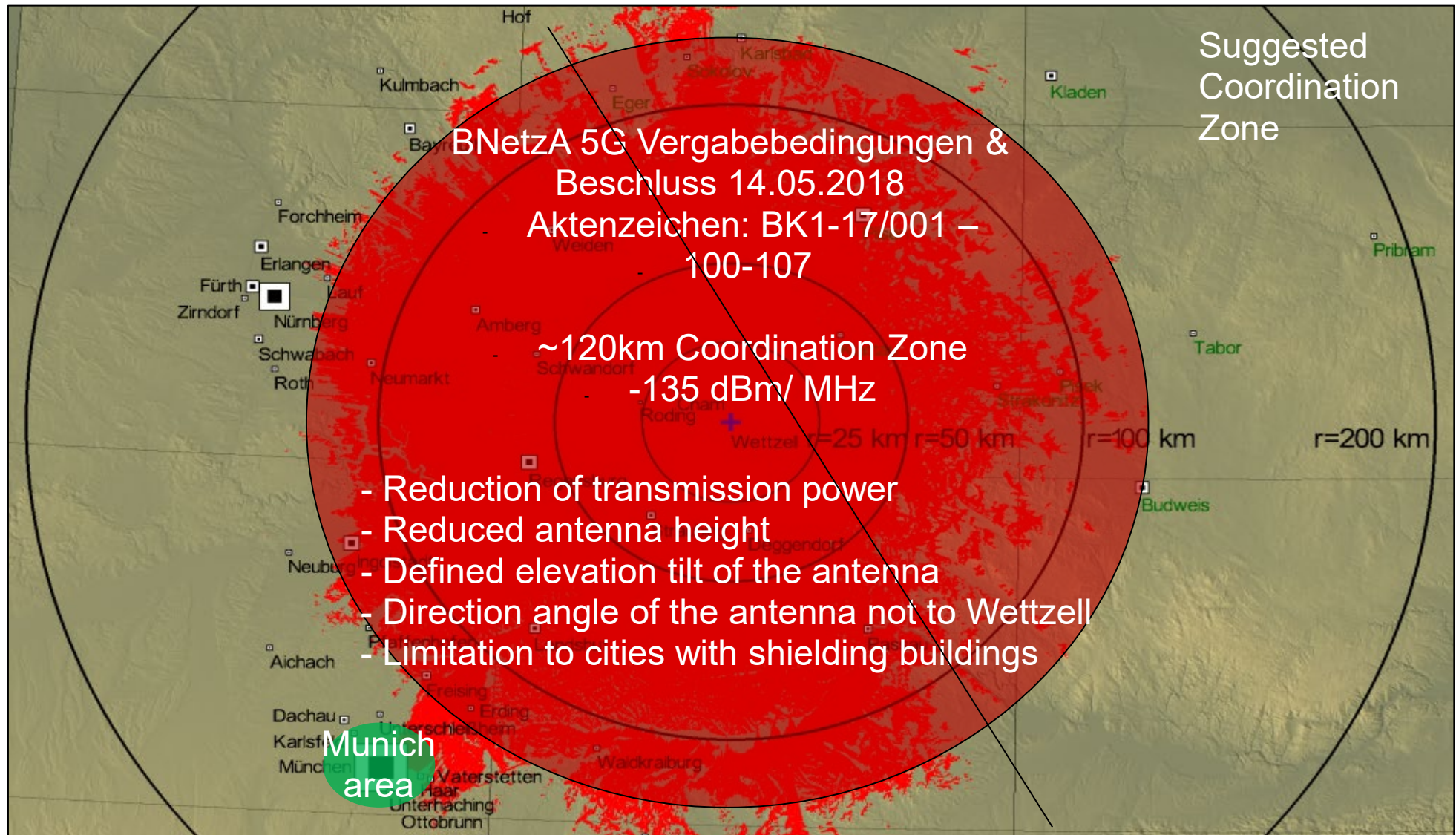
General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



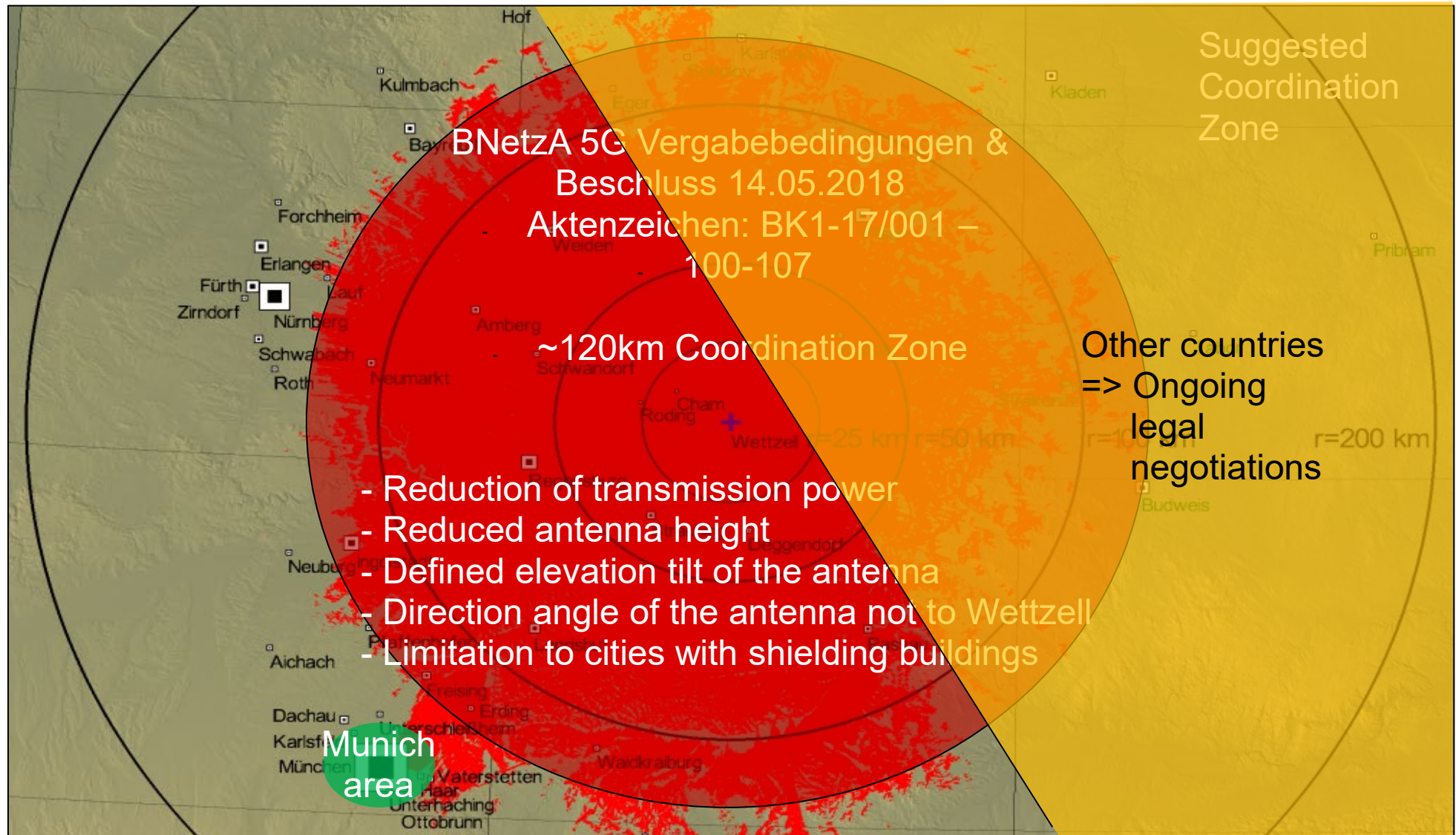
General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



General characterization ... big jammers

Expansion to 5G – radio compatibility study (B. Winkel; MPIfR)



Experience shows that it is useful for antenna operators to contact the relevant regulatory authorities. International protection needs a majority consensus from several countries.

Munich area

IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - **Starlink**
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

General characterization ... big jammers

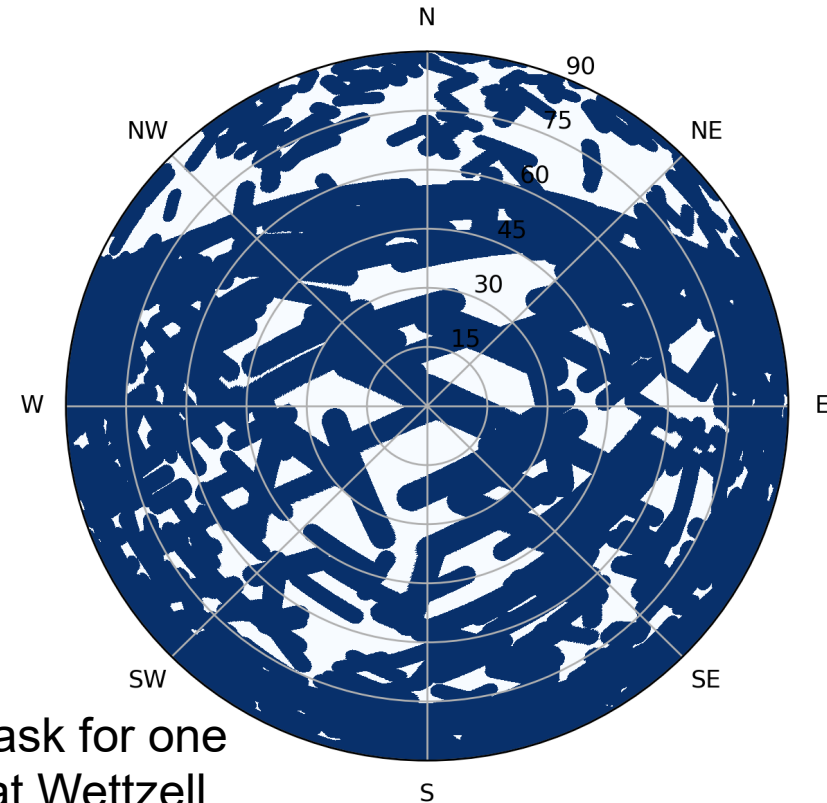
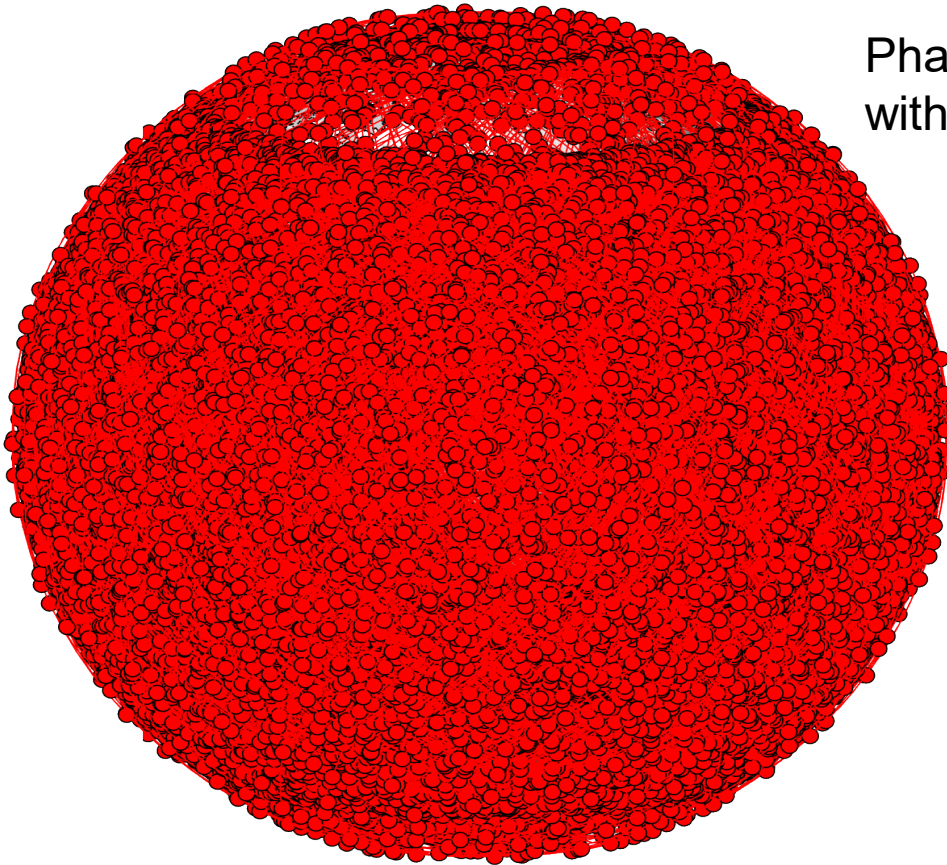
Starlink

700 MHz: 5G	500-700 MHz: DVB-T2	-40 dBm
	700-788 MHz: LTE- and 5G-signals up-/downlink	-81 dBm
	788-862 MHz: LTE-signals up-/downlink	-77 dBm
	862-960 MHz: LTE- und GSM-signals up-/downlink	-76 dBm
	1000-1100 MHz: ADS-B- (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast; secondary radar) and DME-signals (Distance Measuring Equipment) of air navigation radio	-70 dBm
	1200-1300 MHz : radar signals	-78 dBm
	1300-1400 MHz: air force radar on mountain „Gr. Arber“	-47 dBm
	1400-1500 MHz: LTE-signals	-91 dBm
	1700-1880 MHz: LTE-signals downlink	-73 dBm
	1880-1920 MHz: DECT-signals in the surrounding area	-79 dBm
1800 MHz: 5G	1920-2170 MHz: LTE-signals downlink, and unknown signal	-60 dBm
2100 MHz: 5G	2400-2500 MHz: WLAN-signals in the surrounding area	-90 dBm
2600 MHz: LTE/4G		
3600 MHz: 5G		
10950-12700 MHz: Starlink downlink		
14000-14500 MHz: Starlink uplink		

General characterization ... big jammers

Starlink

Phase 3: Mega-constellation
with 34408 Satelliten



Avoidance mask for one
scan 30 sec at Wettzell

General characterization ... big jammers

Starlink



IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring

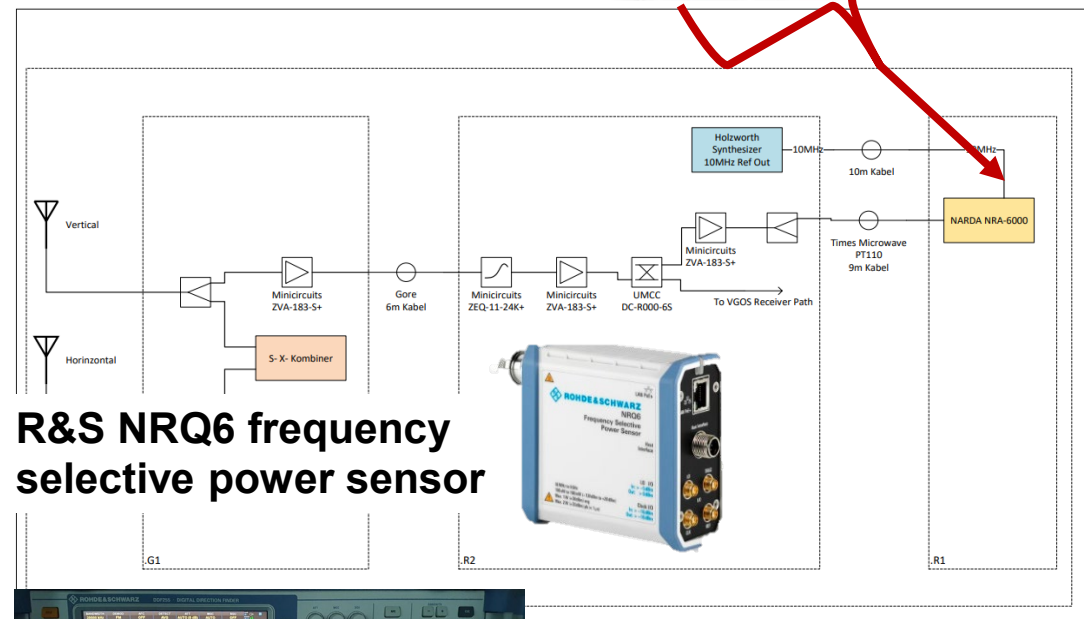
- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- **RFI Monitoring**
 - **Equipment**
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Standard equipment



Narda NRA 6000



R&S NRQ6 frequency
selective power sensor



R&S DDF255 Digital
Direction Finder

IVS IVTW 2024

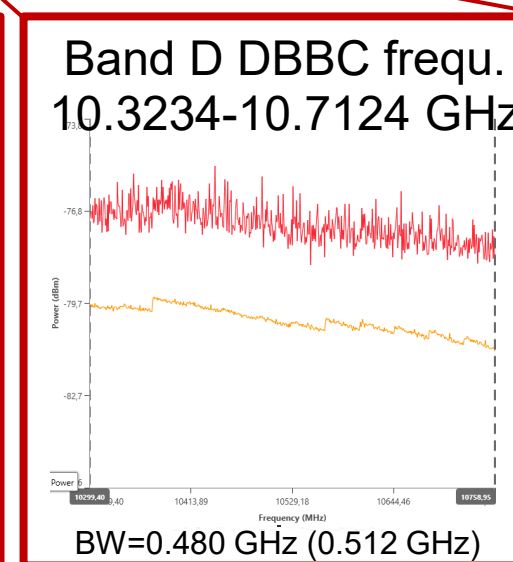
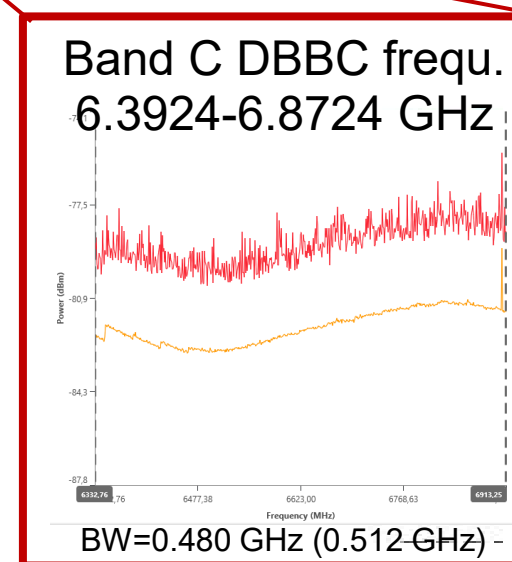
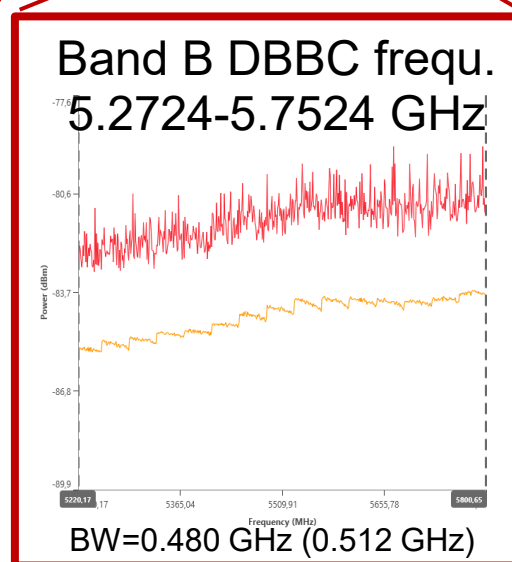
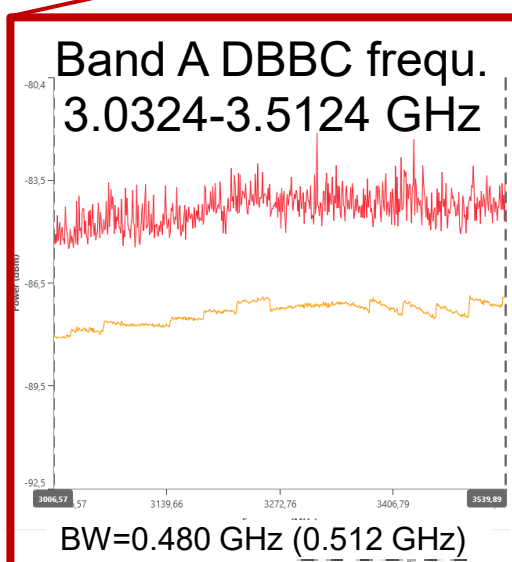
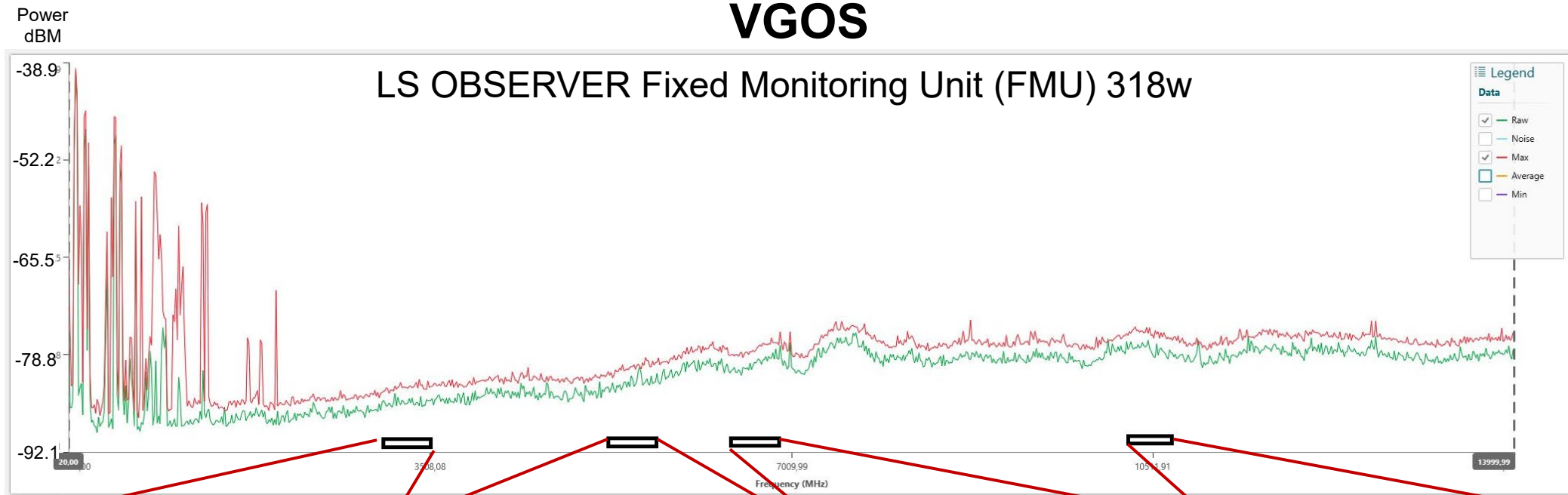
RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - **VGOS**
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

VGOS

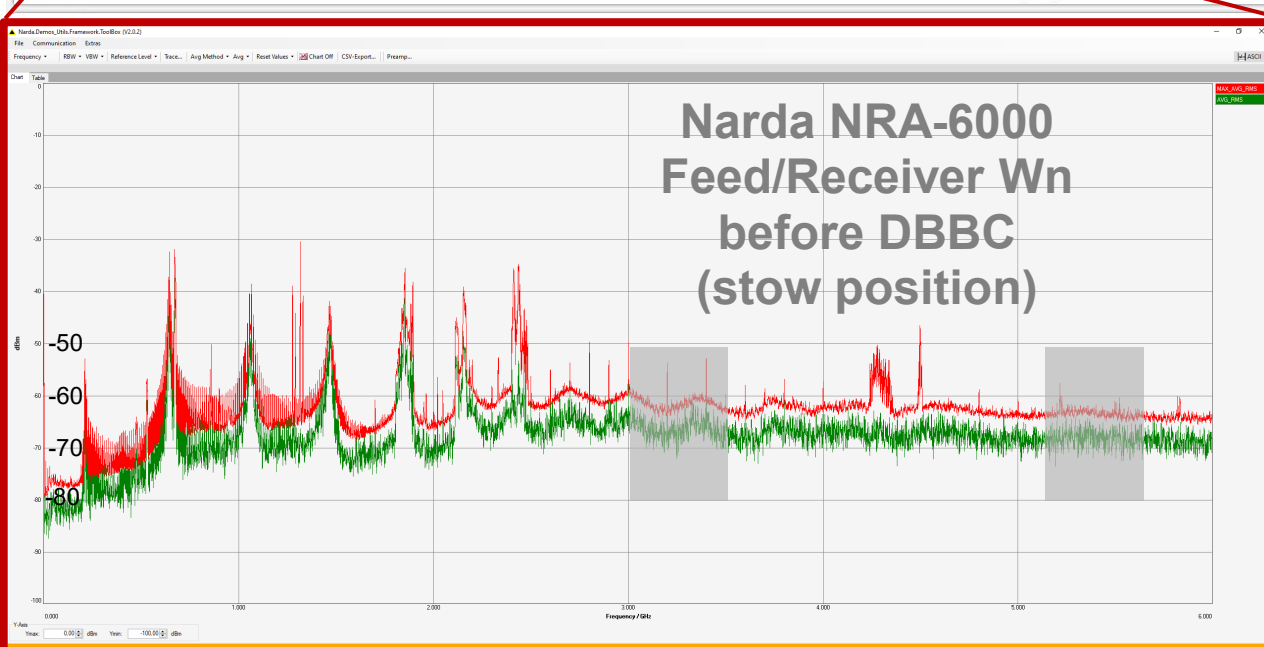
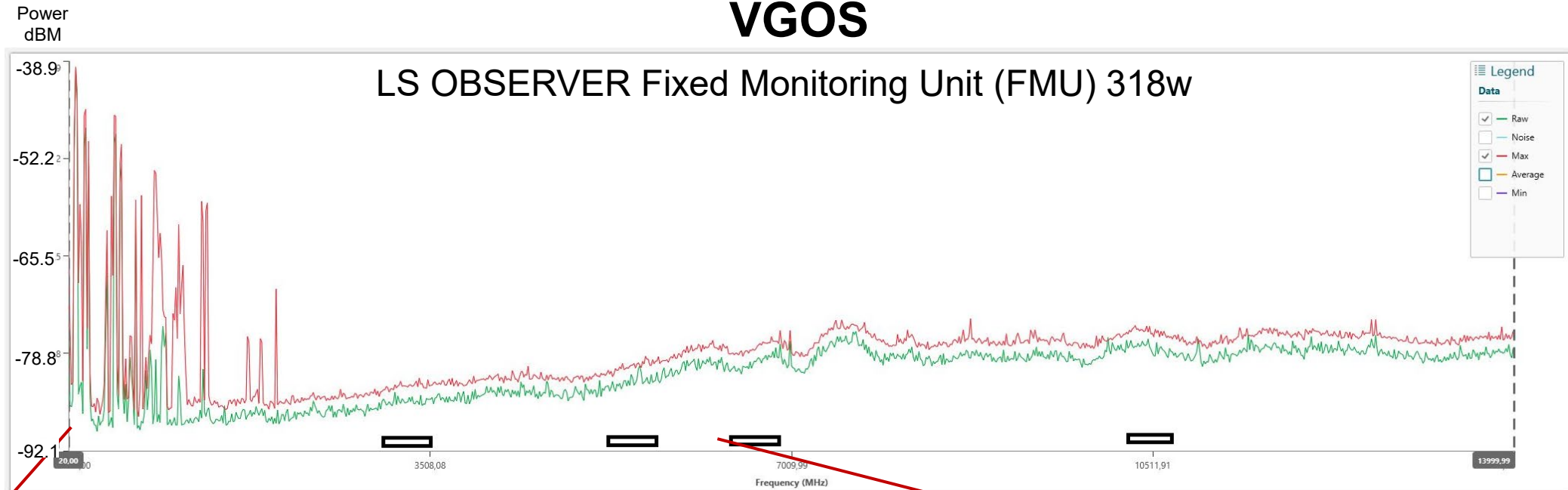
LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



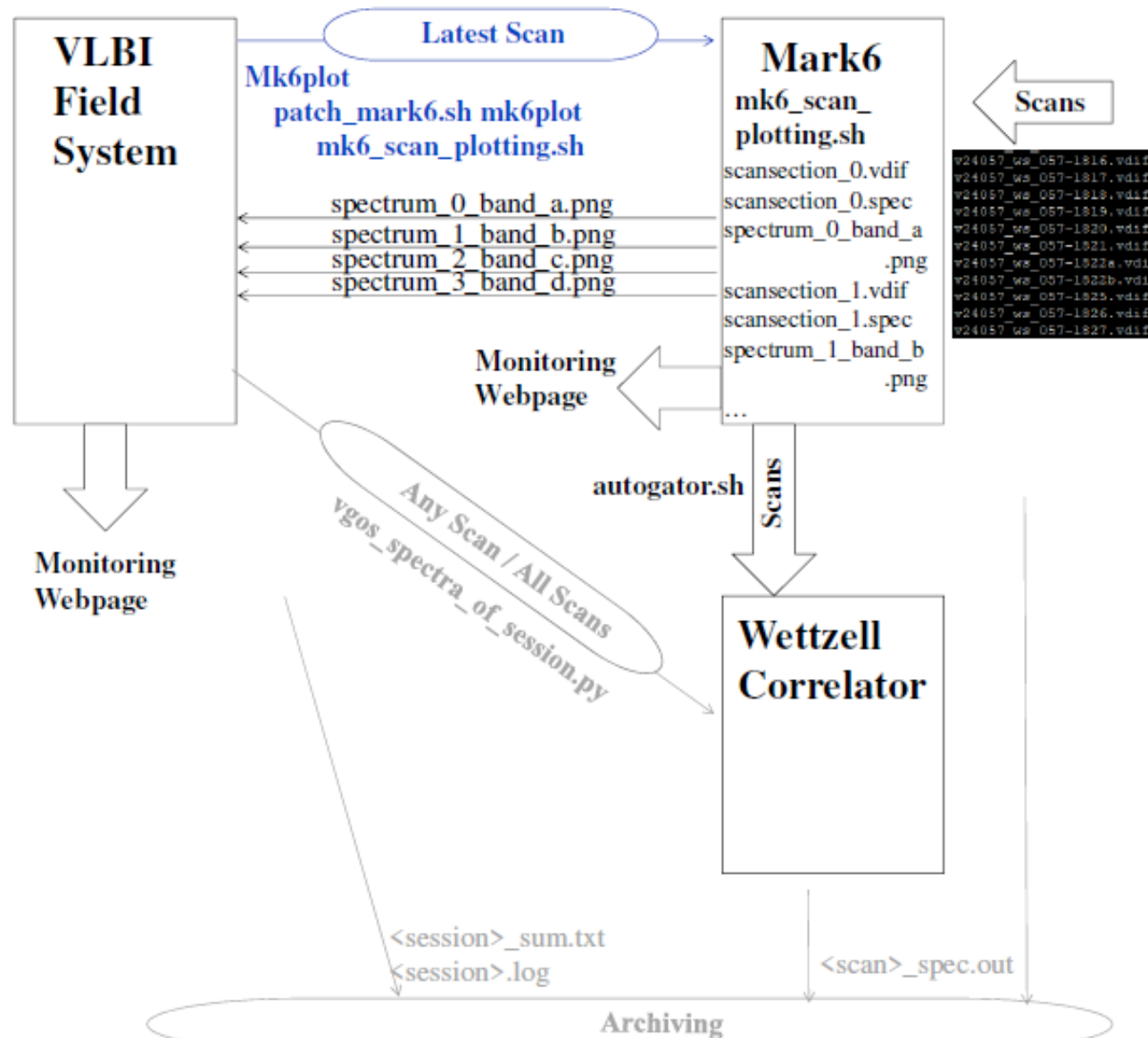
RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

VGOS

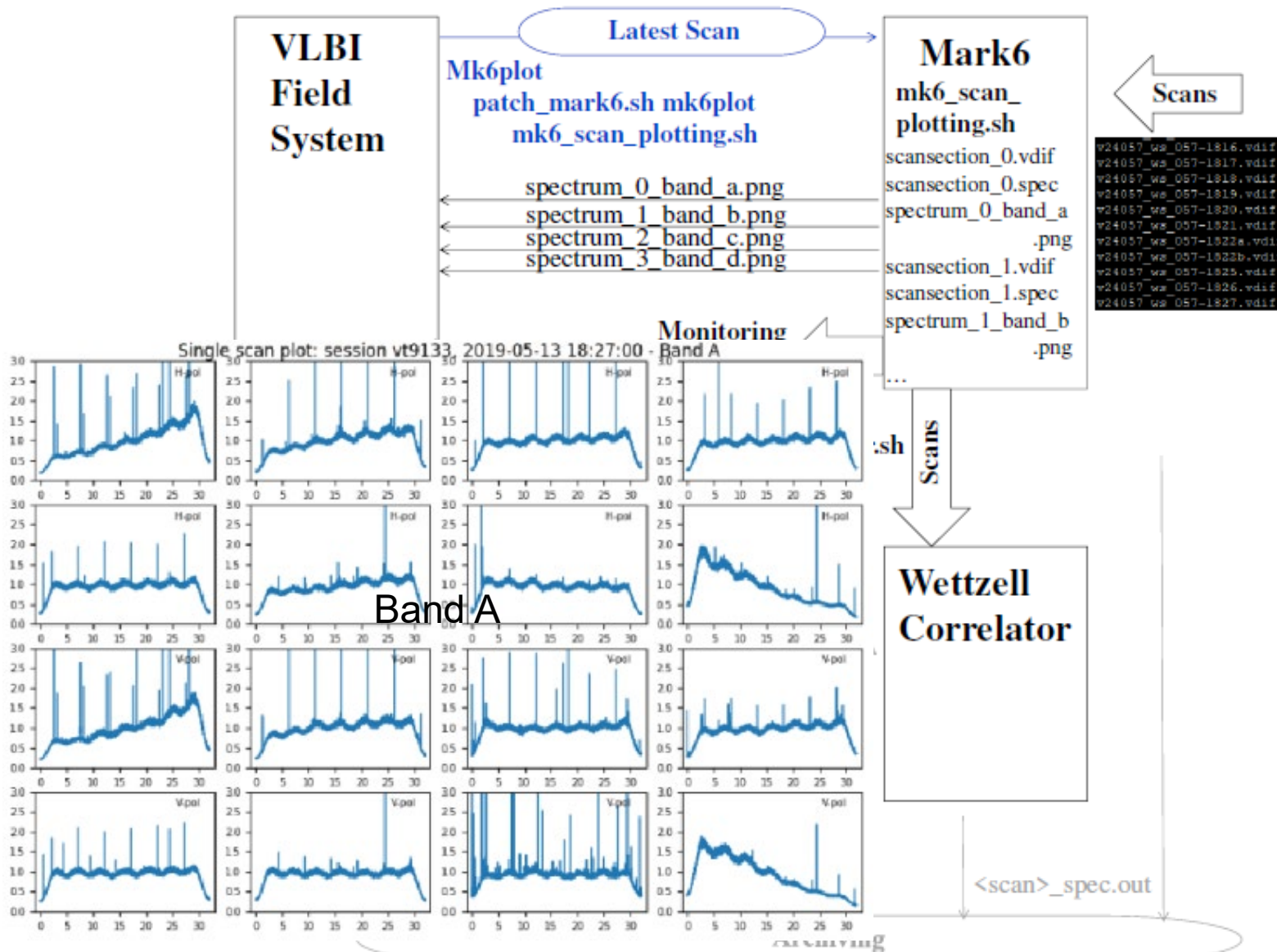
LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes VGOS – DiFX Onboard Methods



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes VGOS – DiFX Onboard Methods

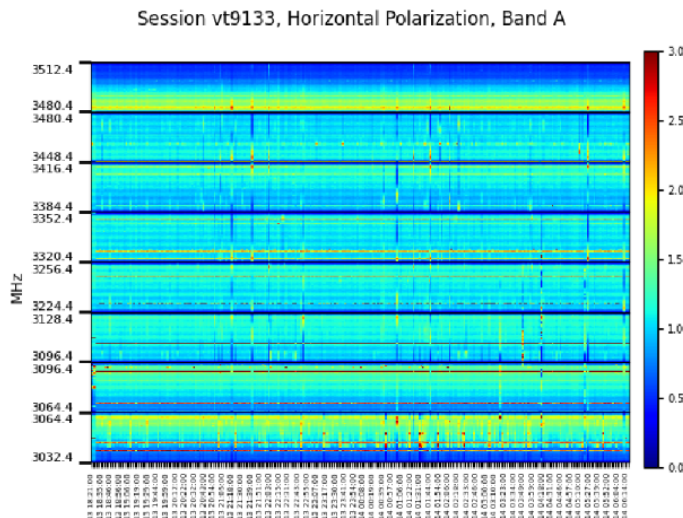


RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes VGOS – DiFX Onboard Methods

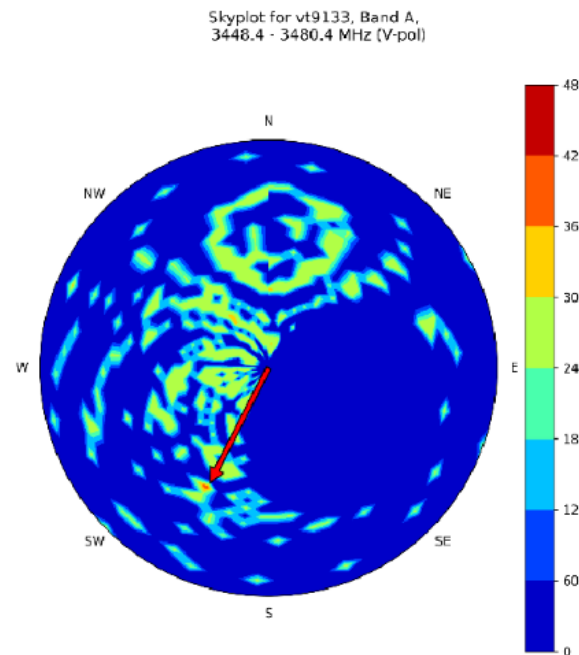
Archiving

RFI Monitoring main.py
(spectra_analysis.py)

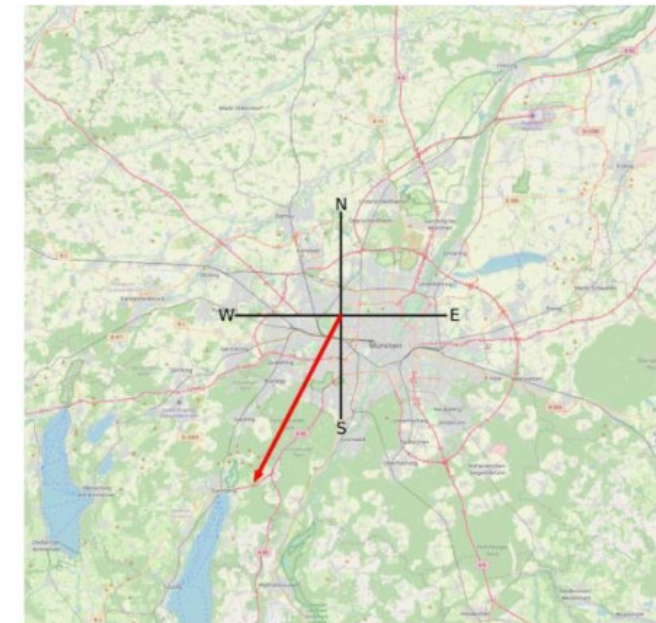
Spectrograms (waterfall plots)
for a sequence of scan



Combined, aggregated skyplots
for a sequence of scan



Map projection of
direction finding



<https://github.com/luca-rigon/RFImonitoring-tool>

IVS IVTW 2024

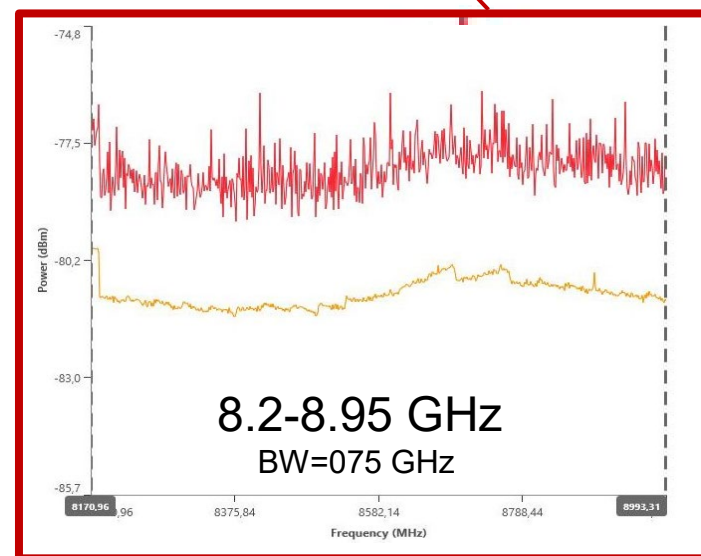
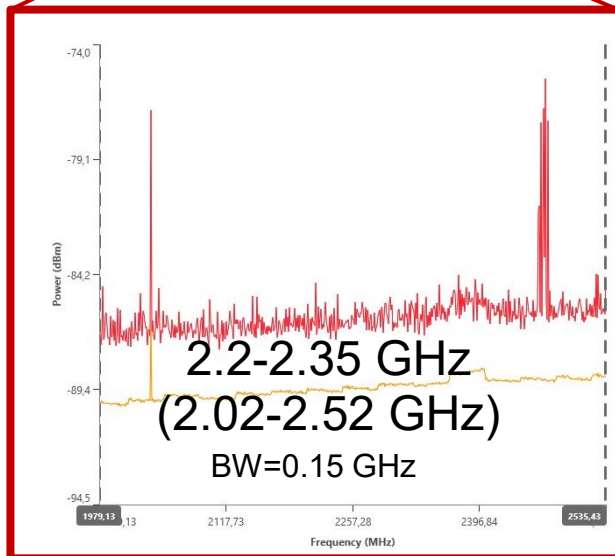
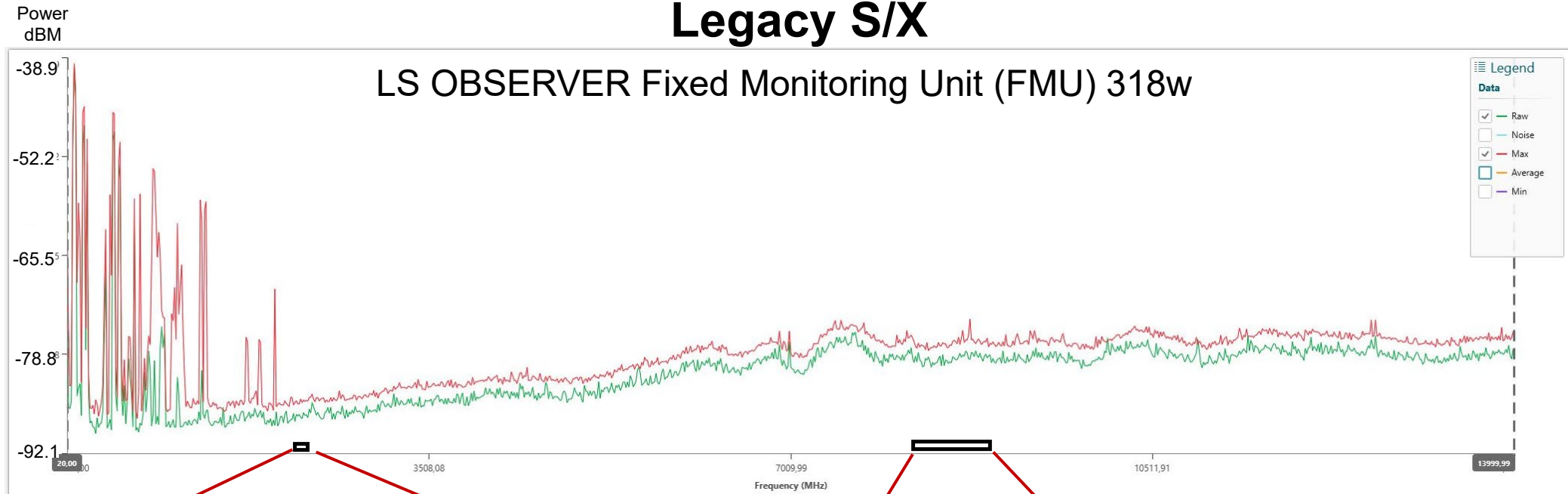
RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - **Legacy S/X**
 - GENESIS
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Legacy S/X

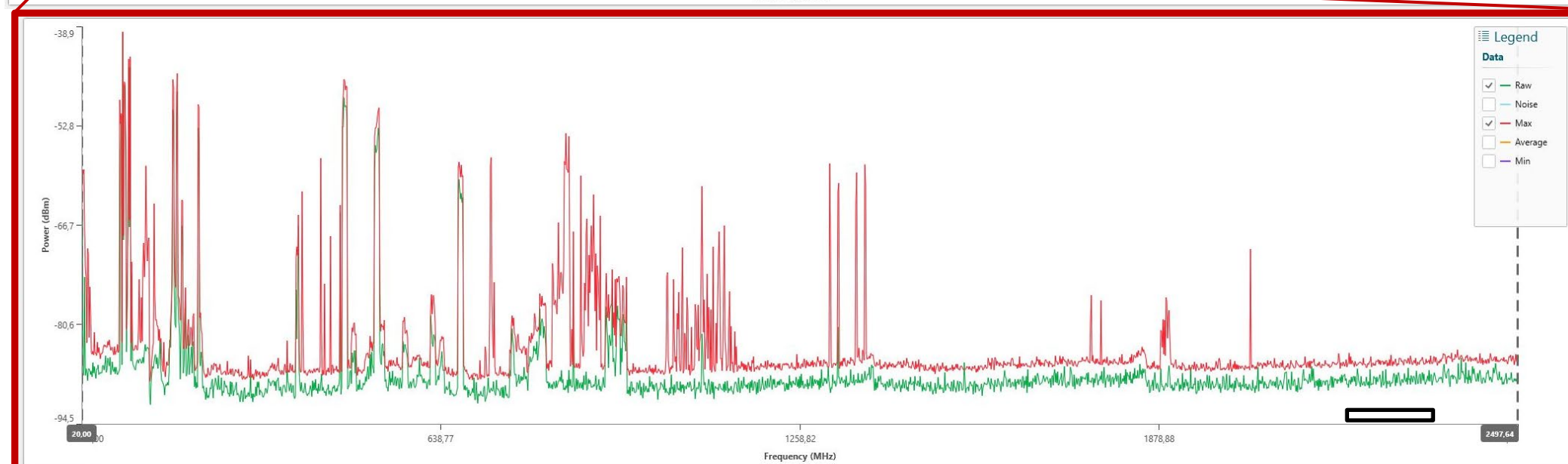
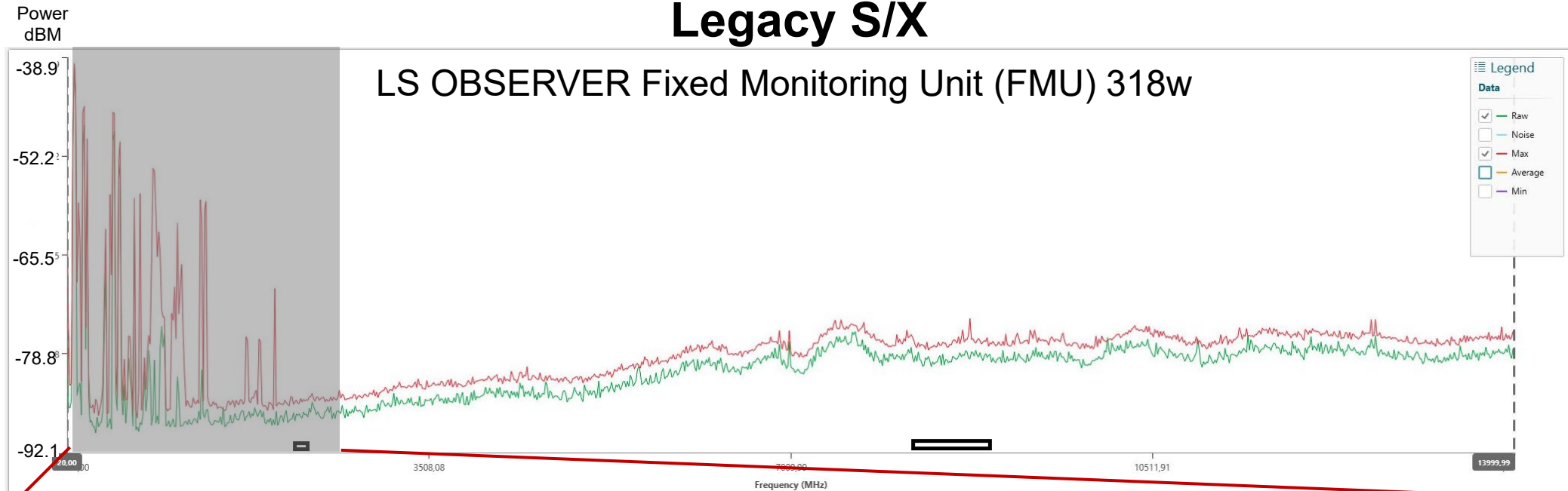
LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Legacy S/X

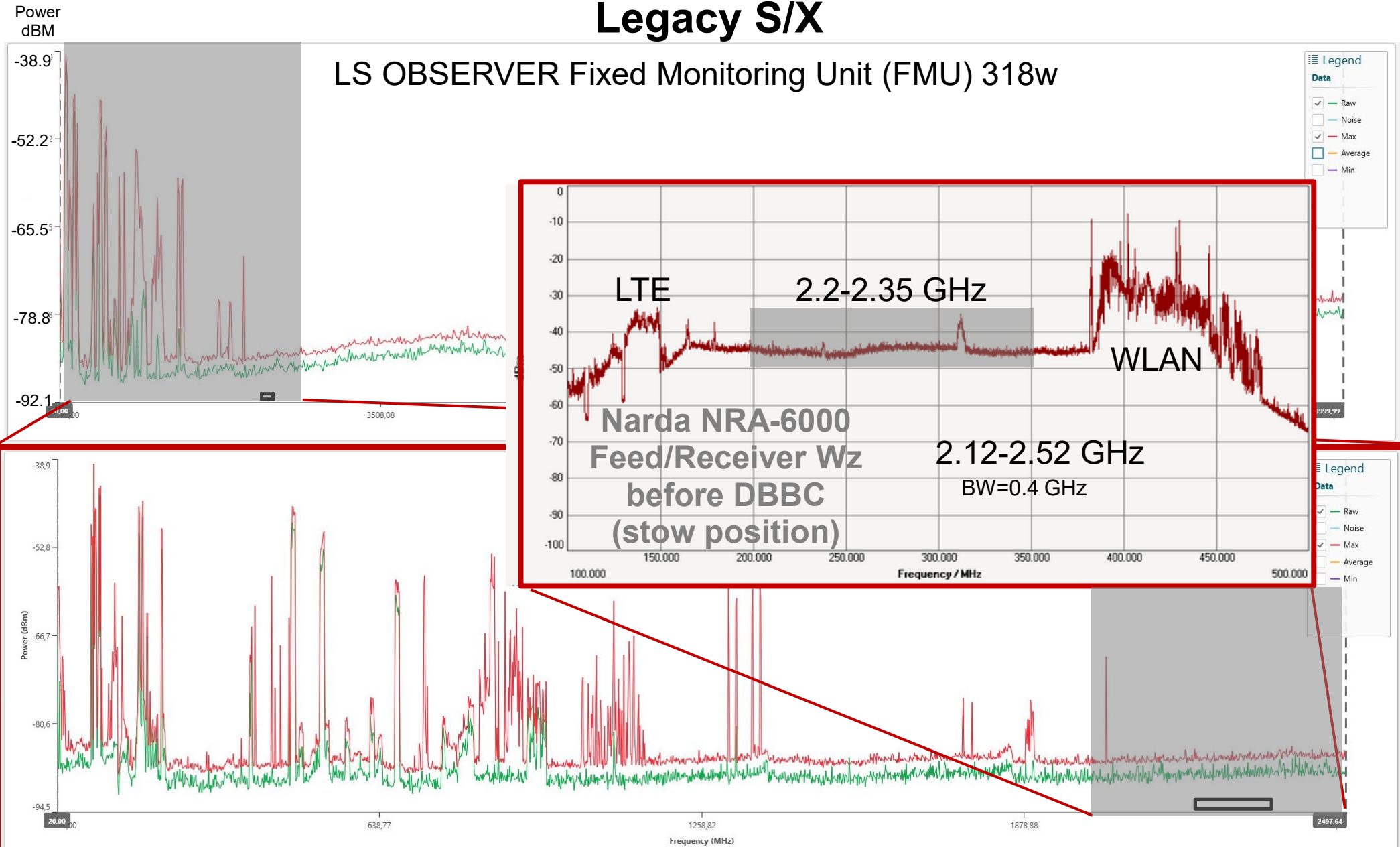
LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

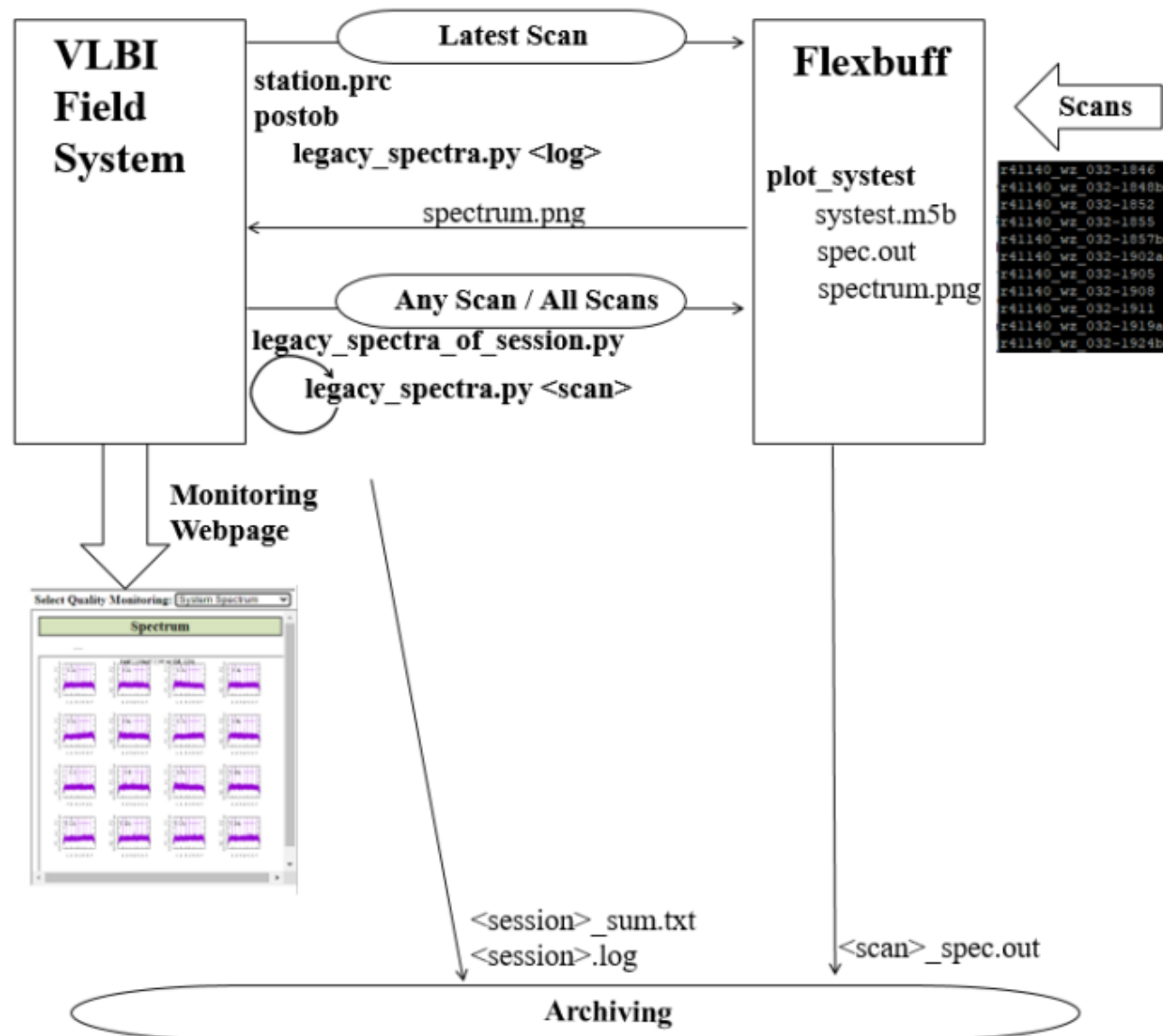
Legacy S/X

LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



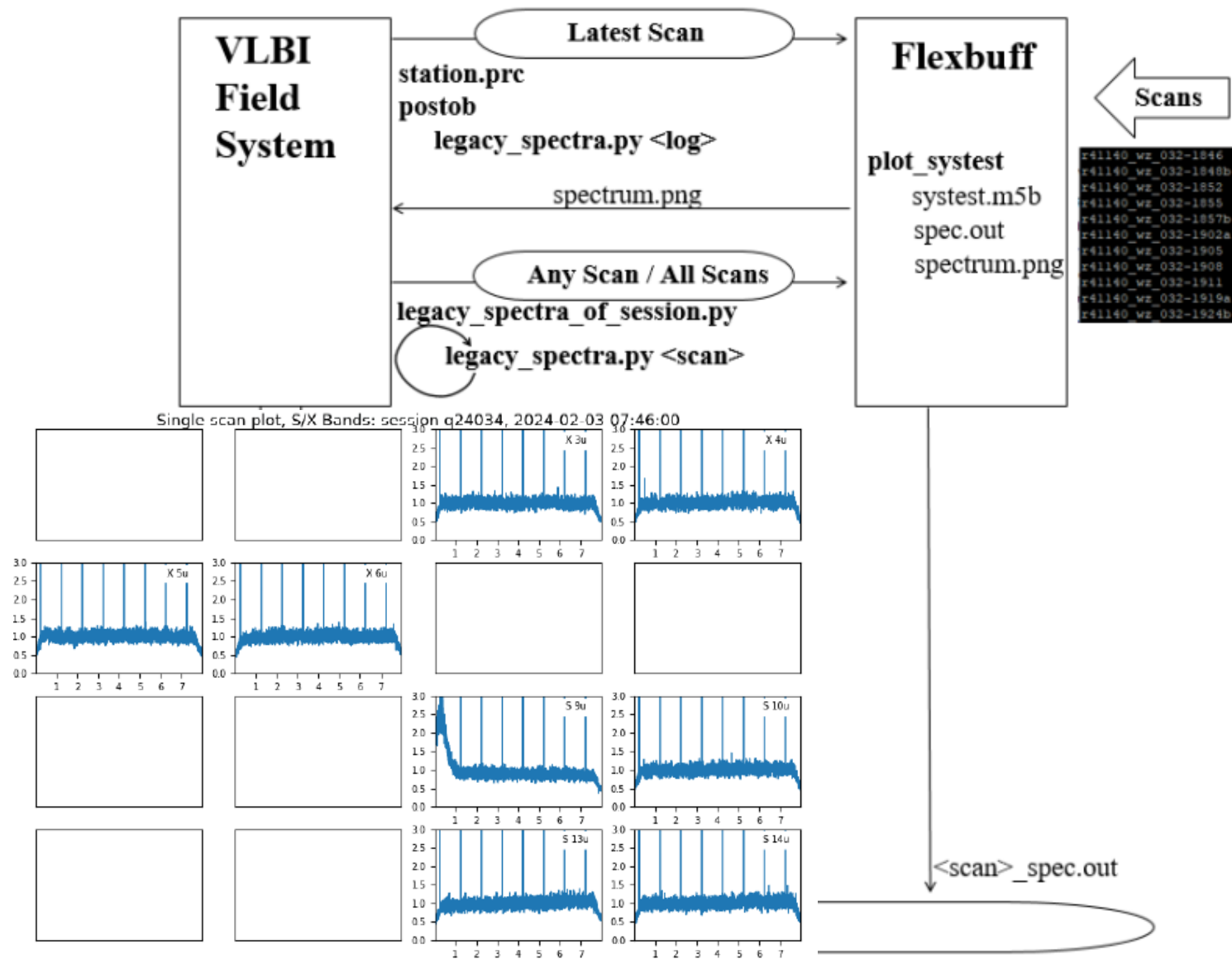
RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Legacy S/X – DiFX Onboard Methods



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Legacy S/X – DiFX Onboard Methods



RFI monitoring: IVS VLBI modes

Legacy S/X – DiFX Onboard Methods



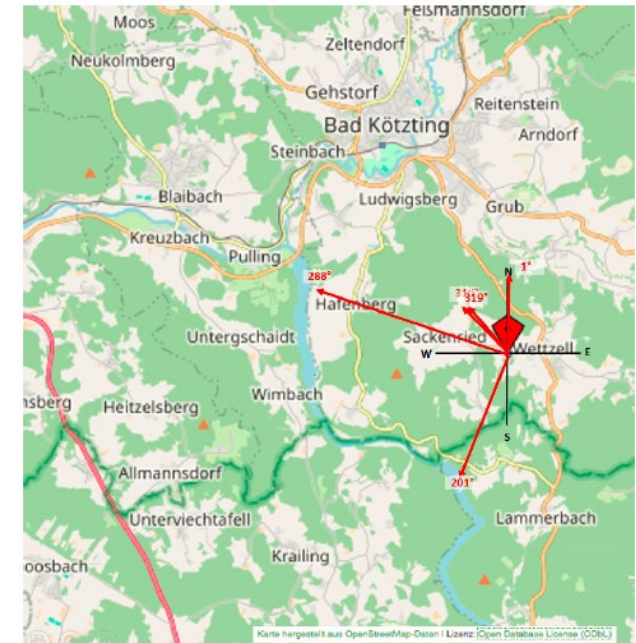
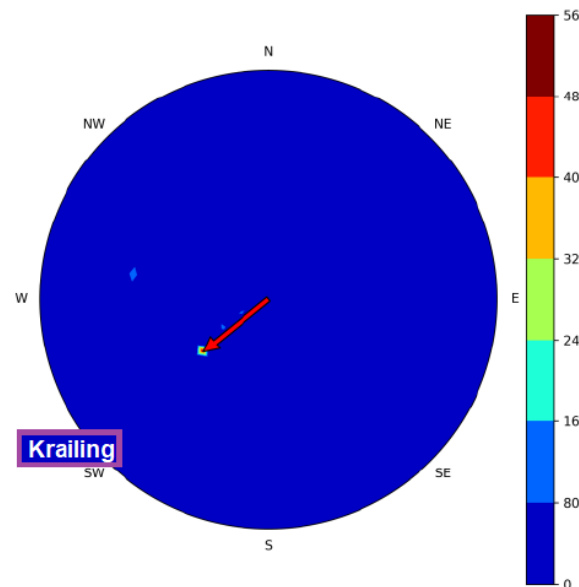
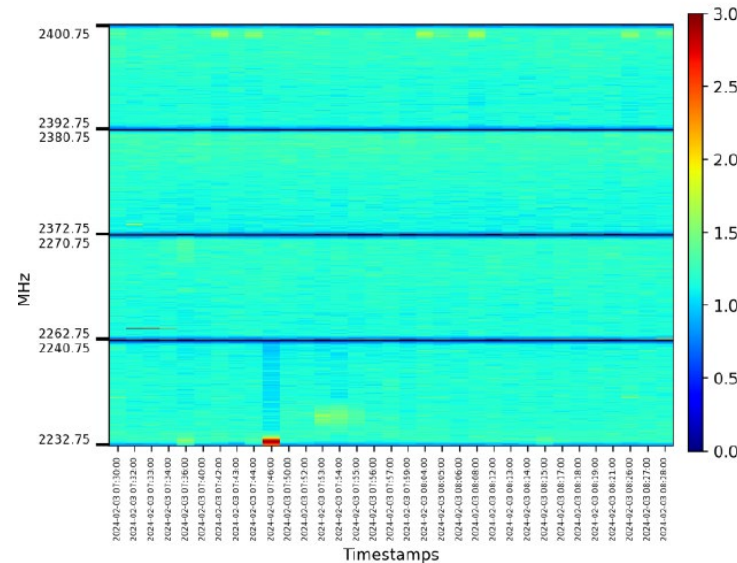
RFI Monitoring main.py
(spectra_analysis.py)

Spectrograms (waterfall plots)
for a sequence of scan

Combined, aggregated skyplots
for a sequence of scan

Map projection of
direction finding

Session q24034, S-band



<https://github.com/luca-rigon/RFImonitoring-tool>

IVS IVTW 2024

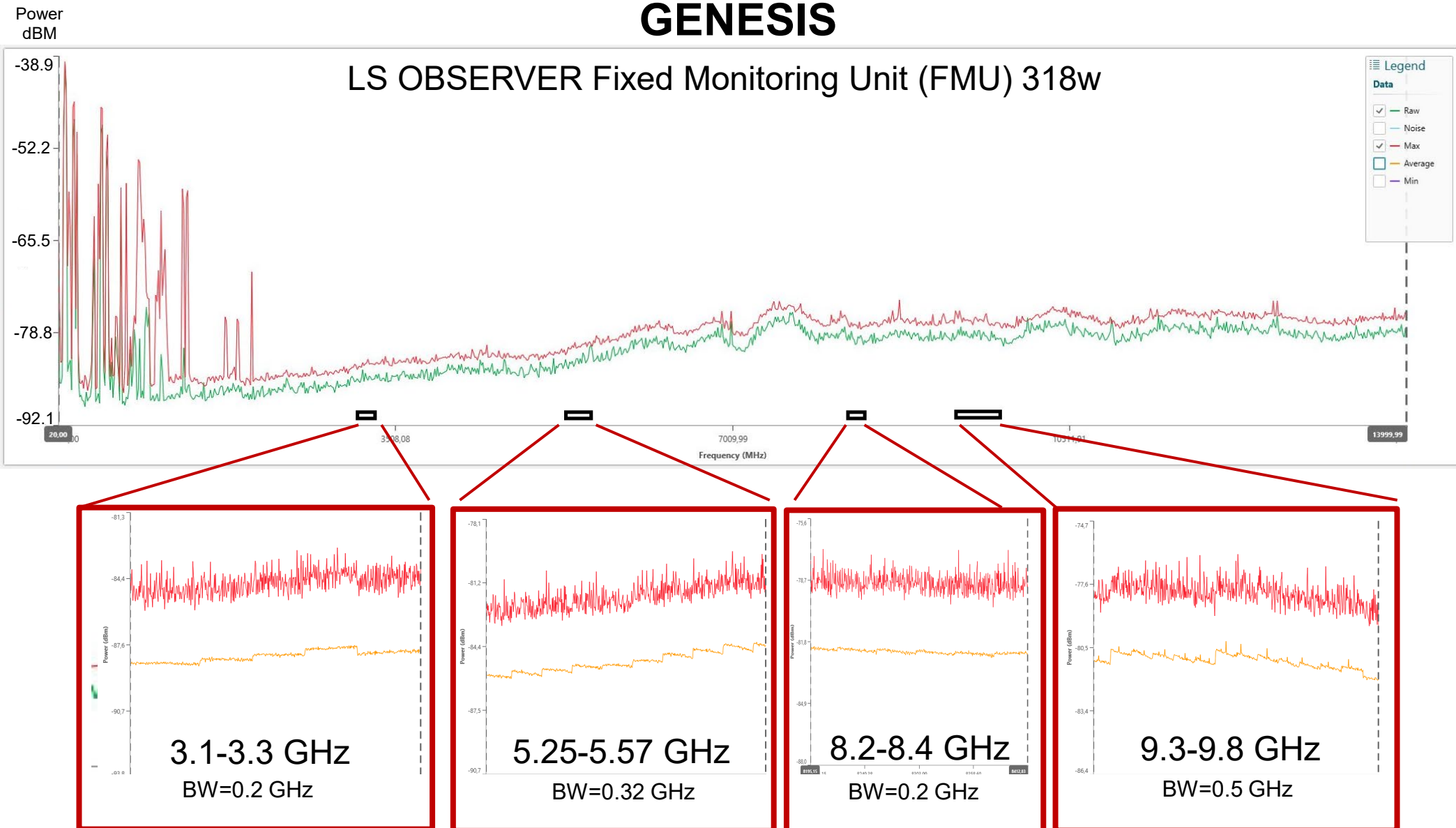
RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - **GENESIS**
- Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope

RFI monitoring: Future modes

GENESIS

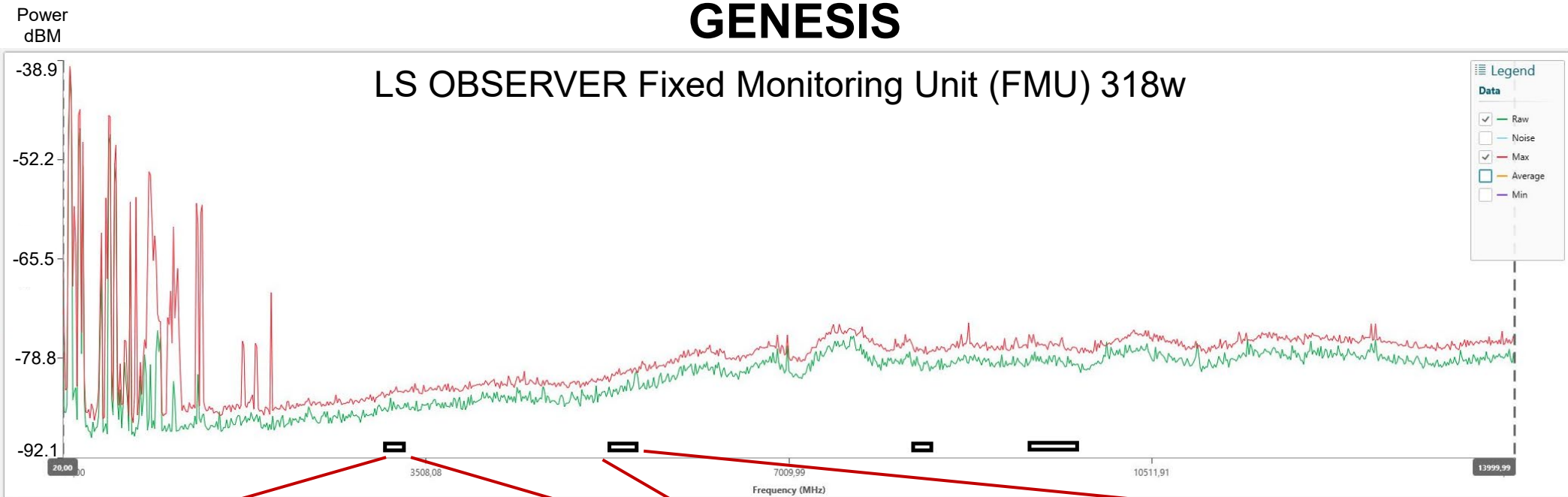
LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



RFI monitoring: Future modes

GENESIS

LS OBSERVER Fixed Monitoring Unit (FMU) 318w



3.1-3.3 GHz

BW=0.2 GHz

- 80dBm
- 90dBm
- 100dBm
- 110dBm

**Narda NRA-6000
Feed/Receiver Wn
(stow position)**

5.25-5.57 GHz

BW=0.32 GHz

- 80dBm
- 90dBm
- 100dBm
- 110dBm

**Narda NRA-6000
Feed/Receiver Wn
(stow position)**

IVS IVTW 2024

RFI Monitoring

- General situation ... big jammers
 - Frequency occupation measurement BNetzA
 - LTE/4G
 - 5G
 - Starlink
- RFI Monitoring
 - Equipment
 - VGOS
 - Legacy S/X
 - GENESIS
- **Radio horizon with Solar Flux Telescope**

RFI monitoring: Future modes

Scans of the radio horizon with the new Solar Flux Telescope

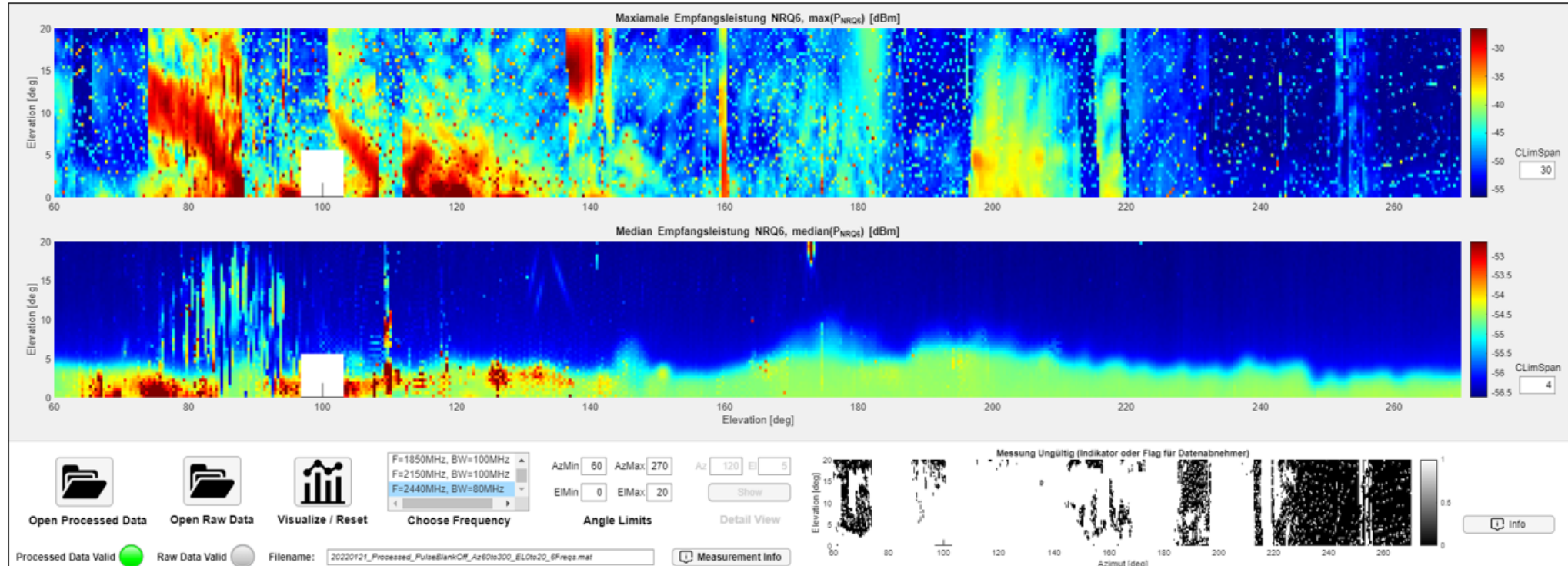
- 5m prime focus antenna
- Azimuth 0-360° Elevation 0-90°
- Max. speed 2 deg/sec
- Broadband 1-11 GHz
- 4 channel receiver with 80 MHz bandwidth each, adjustable
- Frequency 1.4GHz, 2.8 GHz, 4.9 GHz, 10.6 GHz for solar flux



RFI monitoring: Future modes

Scans of the radio horizon with the new Solar Flux Telescope

- Vermessung Radiohorizont in ISM-Frequenzband 2,4 GHz (F = 2440 MHz, BW = 80 MHz):

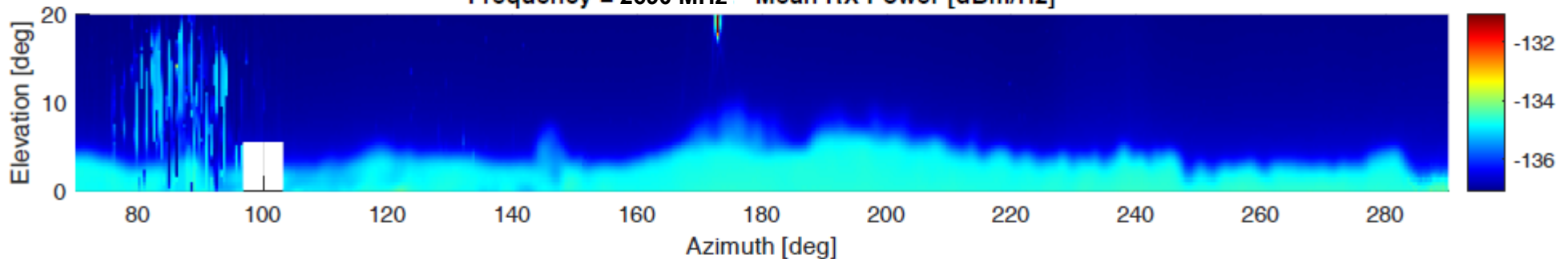


RFI monitoring: Future modes

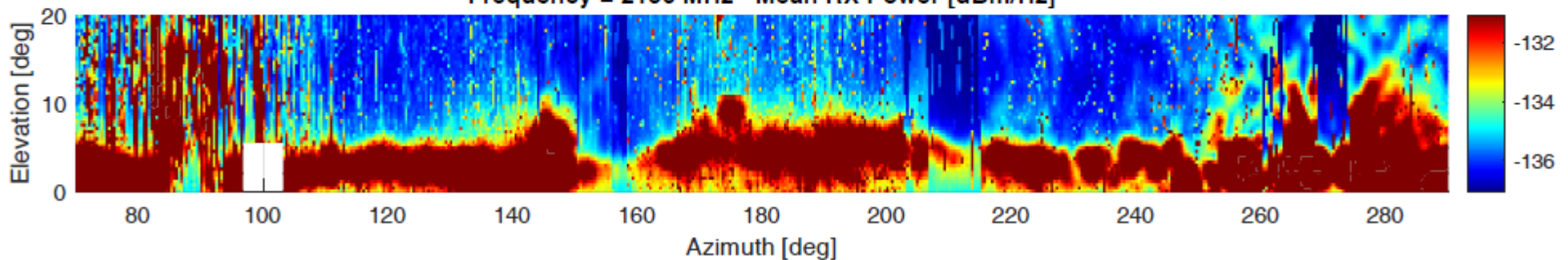
Scans of the radio horizon with the new Solar Flux Telescope



Frequency = 2690 MHz - Mean RX Power [dBm/Hz]



Frequency = 2150 MHz - Mean RX Power [dBm/Hz]



IVS IVTW 2024

Thank you ...