

## **NEW ZEALAND: THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD - A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF VLF EMISSIONS?**

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Aotearoa is the most widely known and accepted Maori name for New Zealand. It is used by both Maori and non- Maori, and is becoming increasingly widespread in the bilingual names of national organisations. The common translation is "the land of the long white cloud". With such a long white cloud, one might expect that New Zealand could have significant convective activity, leading to strong thunderstorms and hence lightning and transient luminous emissions. Given New Zealand is approximately 1500 km long and may have continuous thunderstorms (from the widely accepted name), one might expect New Zealand to be a very significant VLF emitter, possibly the strongest on the planet. As such we think our presentation will be very interesting to the VERSIM community.

In this talk we will examine this idea. We will also consider man-made emissions radiated in New Zealand. While there is no officially recognised VLF communications or navigation transmitter in New Zealand, the electric fence was developed in New Zealand in the 1930's, which we suggest might be used to radiate VLF.

This is consistent with internet reports that New Zealand sheep have developed technology to trigger disasters using VLF radiated from electric fences at certain cycles of the Moon. We wonder why this has not sparked more international interest, or at least shock and awe at the ability of the New Zealand flock. There are about 31.2 million of them you know [Statistics New Zealand, Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2012, released online 17 Dec 2012].

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### **ORAL OR POSTER**

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### **MESSAGE TO ORGANISERS**

I cannot attend on the first day, please schedule me after this.