

DBCP Iridium Pilot Project

An update









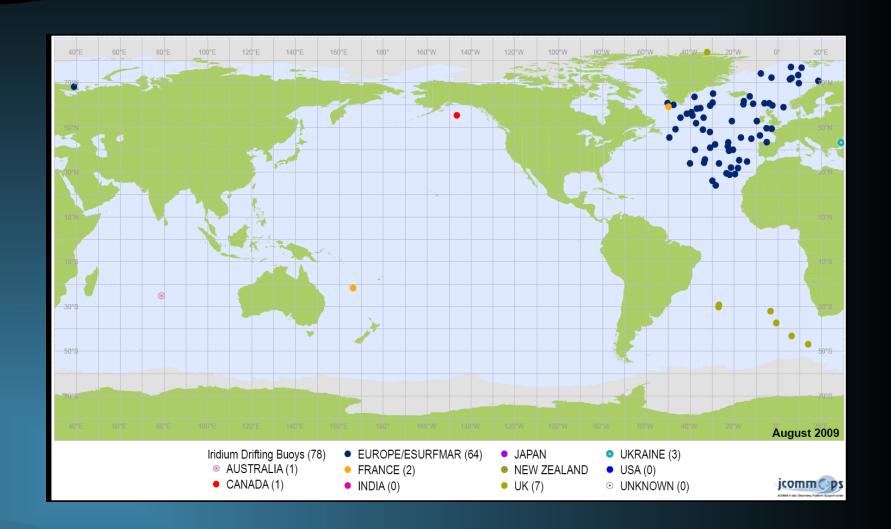
Current situation

- DBCP no longer funding any Pilot Project deployments
- Residual (\$15k) funds paying for Iridium upgrades to ESURFMAR SVPBs for deployment in areas that traditionally suffer from large Argos GTS delays
 - Delays > 120 mins
 - Blind orbits and no LUT coverage (S Atlantic and S Pacific)
 - LUT reliability
- ESURFMAR now exclusively using Iridium for SVPBs
- Pilot Project now entering analysis phase
- Some funds will be needed to pay for airtime for surviving SVPBs





Iridium buoys: Aug 2009

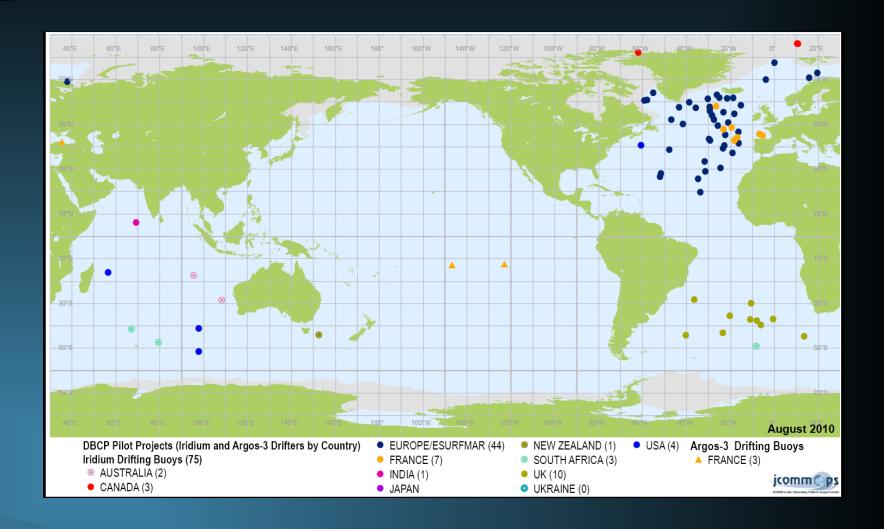








Iridium (and Argos-3) buoys: Aug 2010

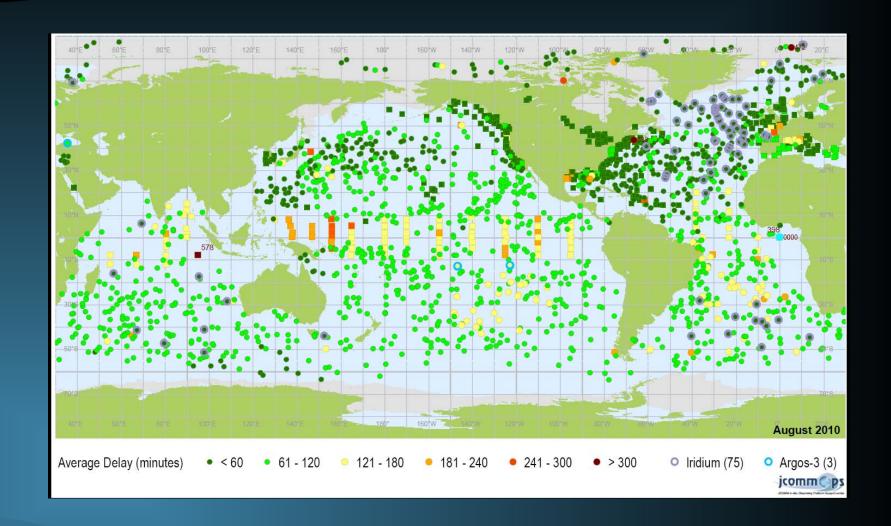








GTS delays – all platforms

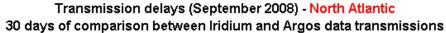


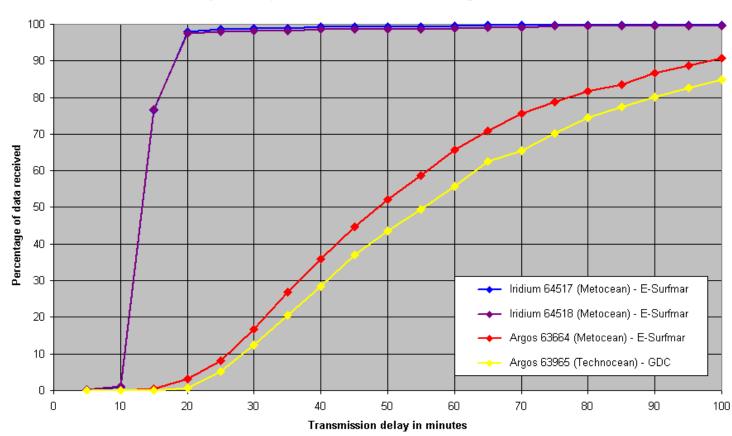






GTS delays - Iridium

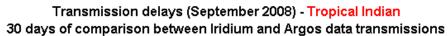


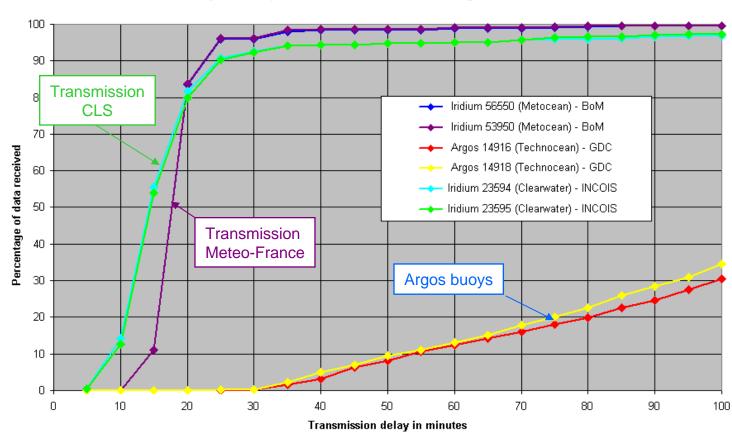






Delays for two different GTS insertion agencies





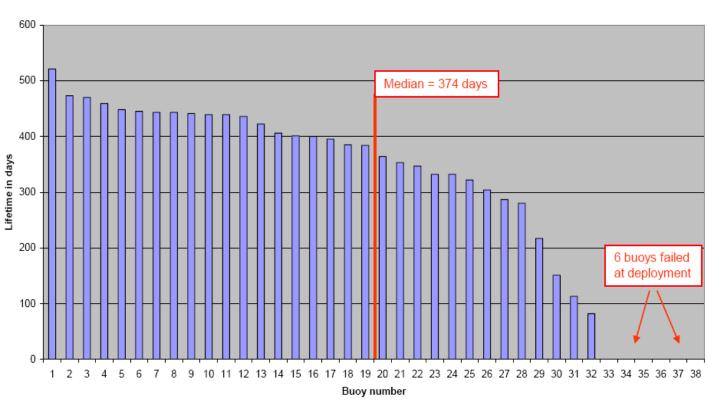






Lifetimes - no GPS

Iridium SVP-B lifetimes - 38 operational E-SURFMAR buoys which stopped transmitting (out of 100 deployed)

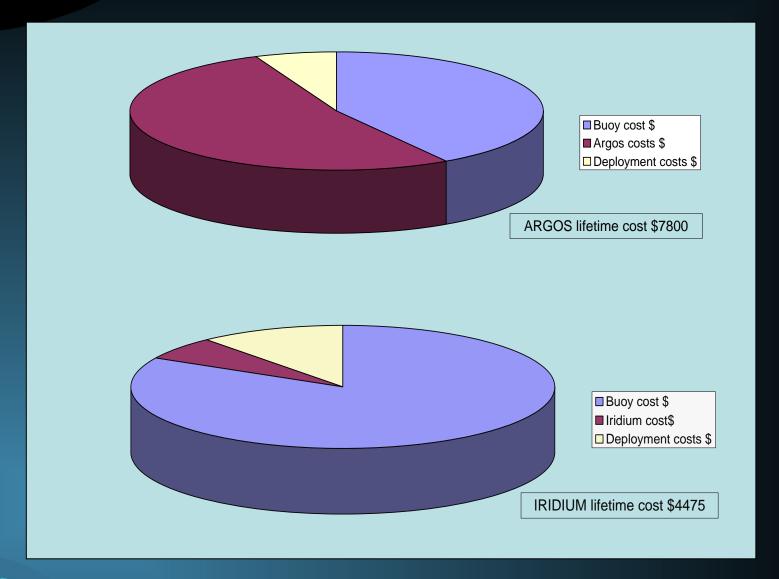


NB: These buoys had no GPS





Lifetime costs







Key issues

- Timeliness
 - Performance has already been proven
- Lifetimes
 - Still room for improvement through proper power management of GPS receiver, etc
- Global tests
 - Global coverage has not been achieved
- Demonstration of value of money and overall costs
 - Under analysis
- System management and QC
 - Now have multiple agencies inserting data on to the GTS
 - A worry!
- Development of best practices for Iridium drifters
 - All five drifter manufacturers now producing Iridium SVP-Bs
 - Collective experience should lead to publication of a best practice manual
 - Action for DBCP Exec!

