



**Unlocking the Stratosphere®**

# **Filling the Gaps with Attritable Stratospheric Platforms**

Paul Stevens CEO Voltitude Ltd

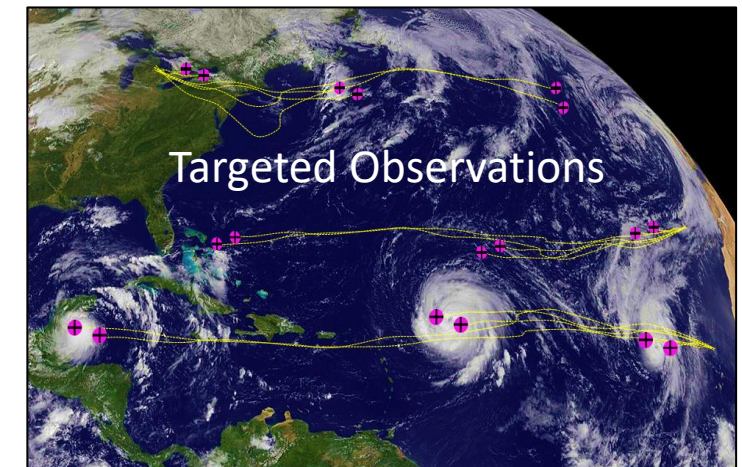
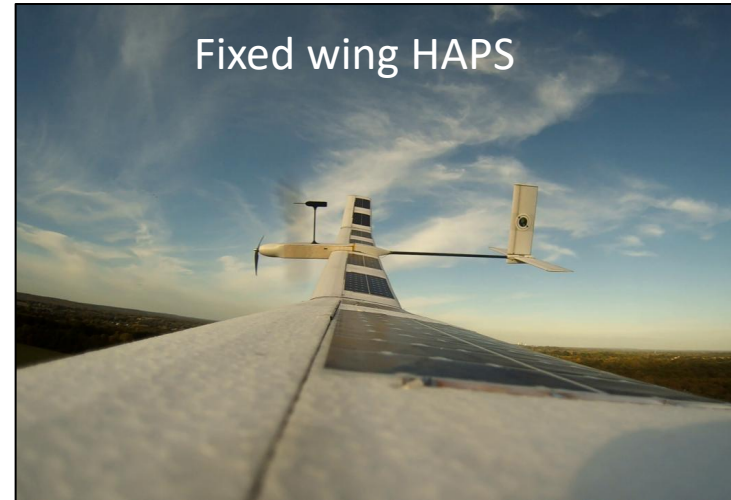
[www.voltitude.co.uk](http://www.voltitude.co.uk)

# Introducing Voltitude Ltd

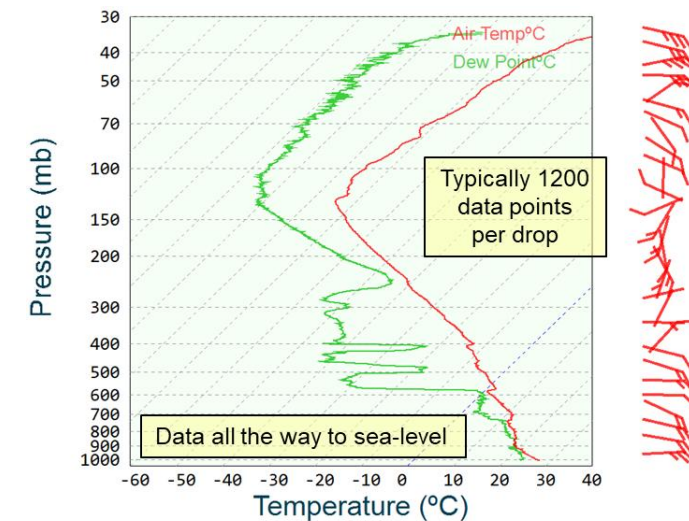
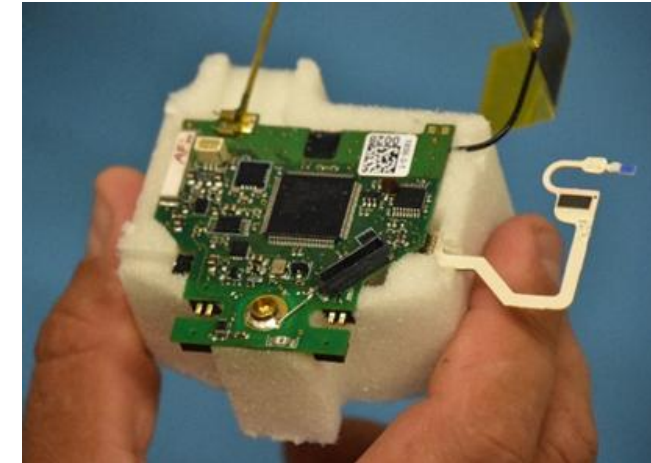
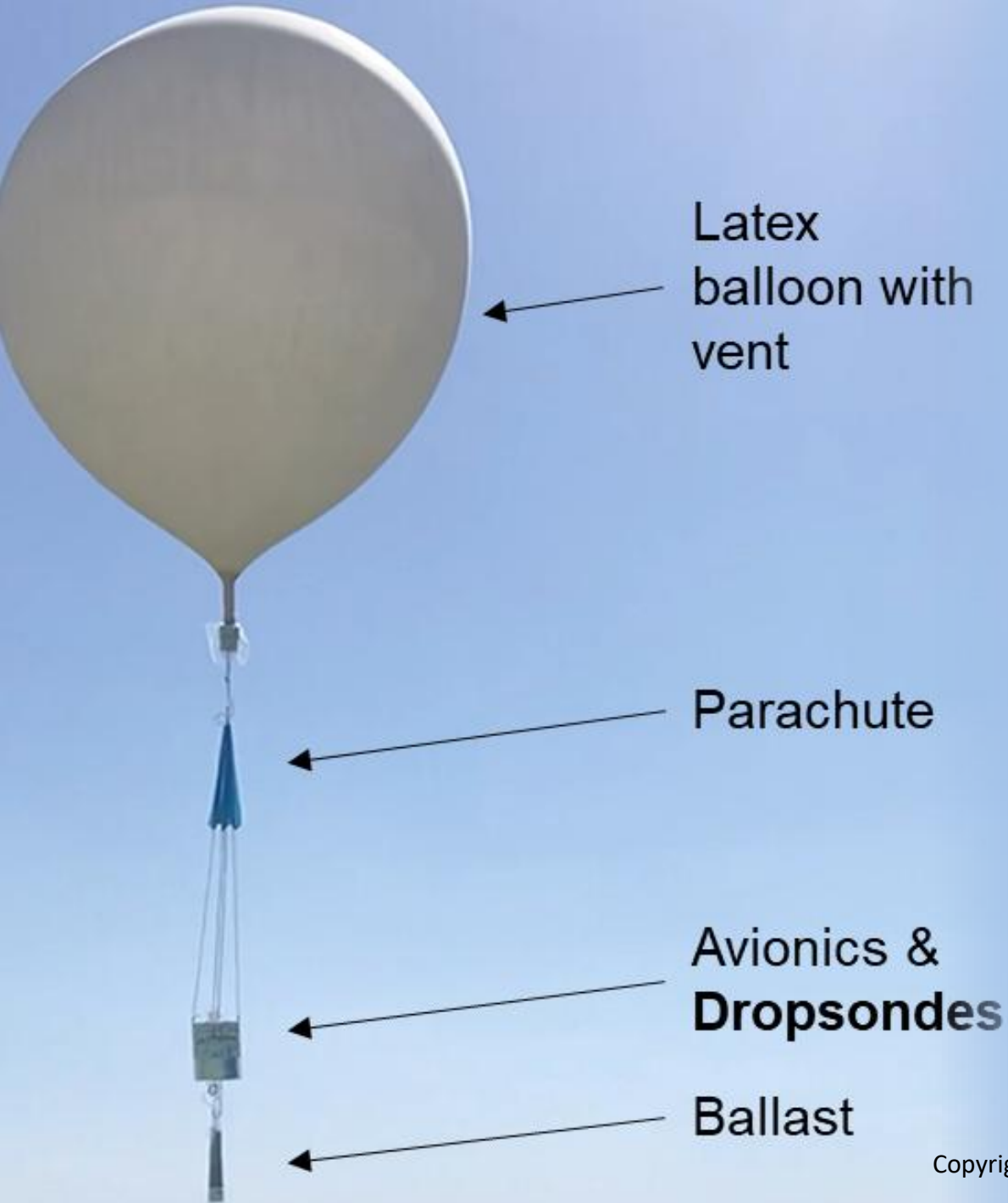
**Unlocking the Stratosphere**  
using fixed wing High Altitude  
Pseudo Satellites (HAPS) and  
micro-High-Altitude Balloons  
(mHAB).

## Primary Missions:

- Targeted meteorological observations over remote regions of the globe.
- Remote sensing from the stratosphere.
- Defense – gap filling ISR capabilities.

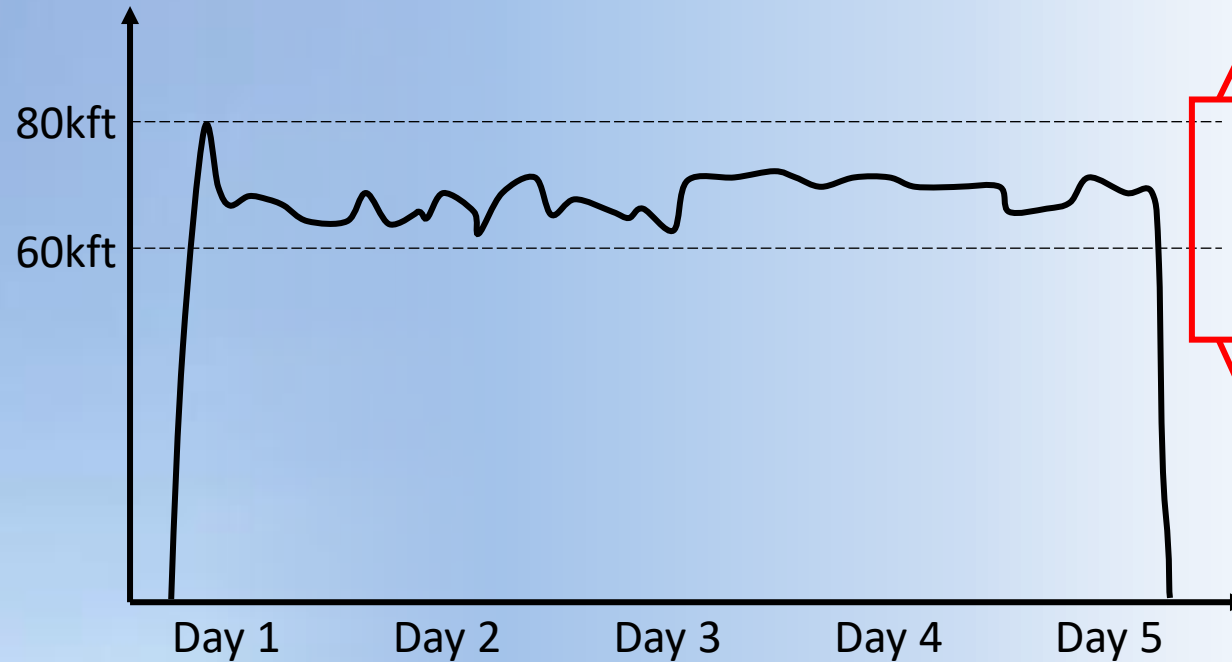


## StratoSonde<sup>®</sup> mHAB



# mHAB Navigation

Typical altitude profile and endurance in the tropics



Strong Easterly

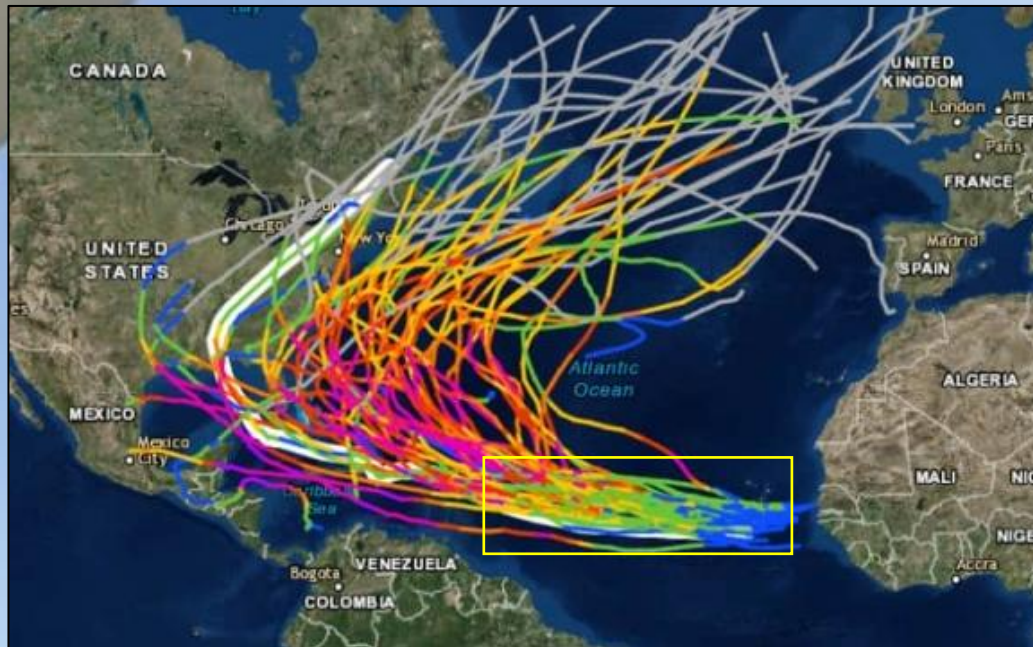
Light and  
variable winds  
just above the  
tropopause

Tropospheric  
winds



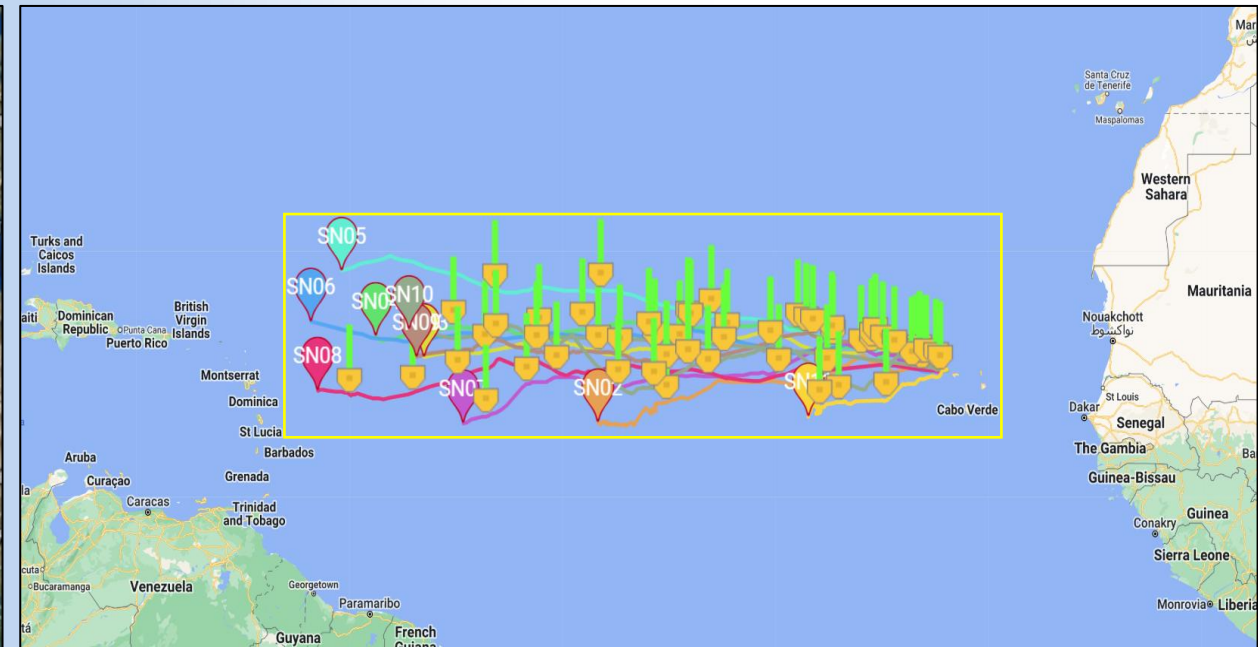
# Tropical Cyclone Research

Category 4 and 5 hurricane tracks for the past 50-years



Over 85% Cat 4&5 TC undergo genesis and intensification within the yellow box.

Launched from Cabo Verde, the StratoSonde mHAB system fully covers the regions of interest.



7-day snapshot of StratoSonde mHAB, with locations of 60-dispensed dropsondes.



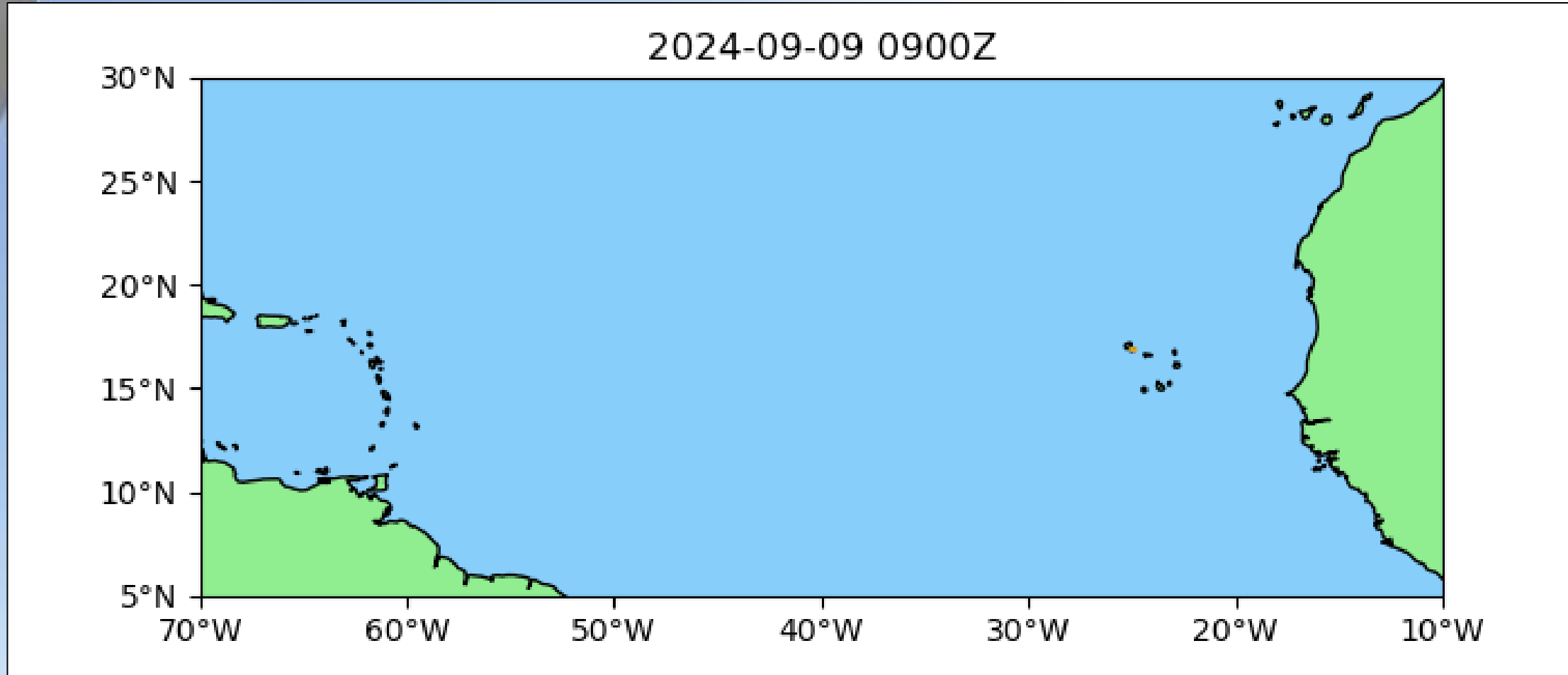


6-May-25

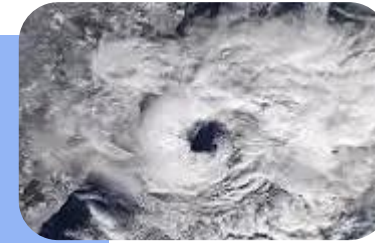
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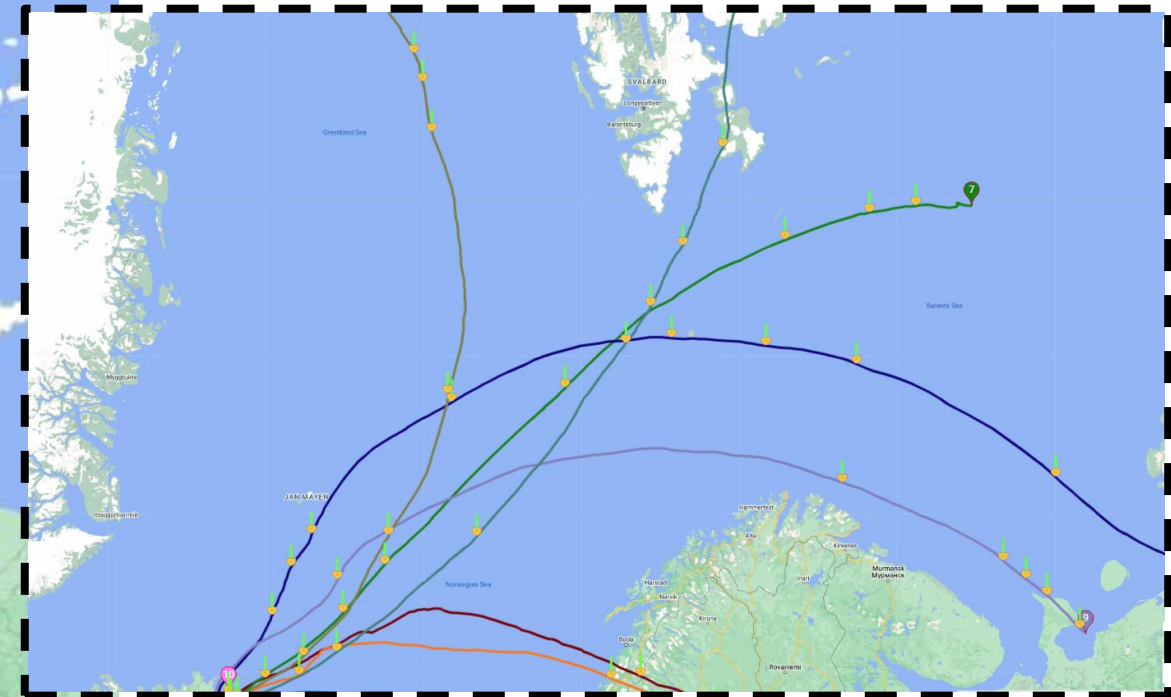
# Tropical Cyclone Research



# Polar-Low Research with UK Met Office



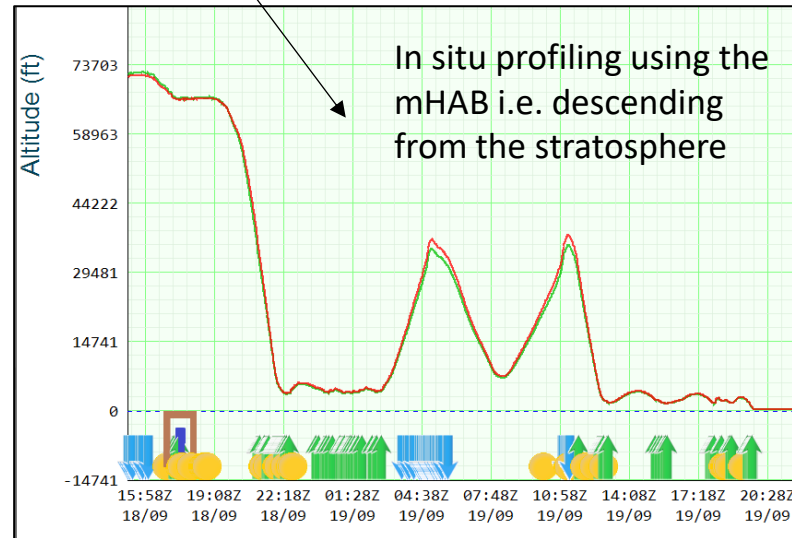
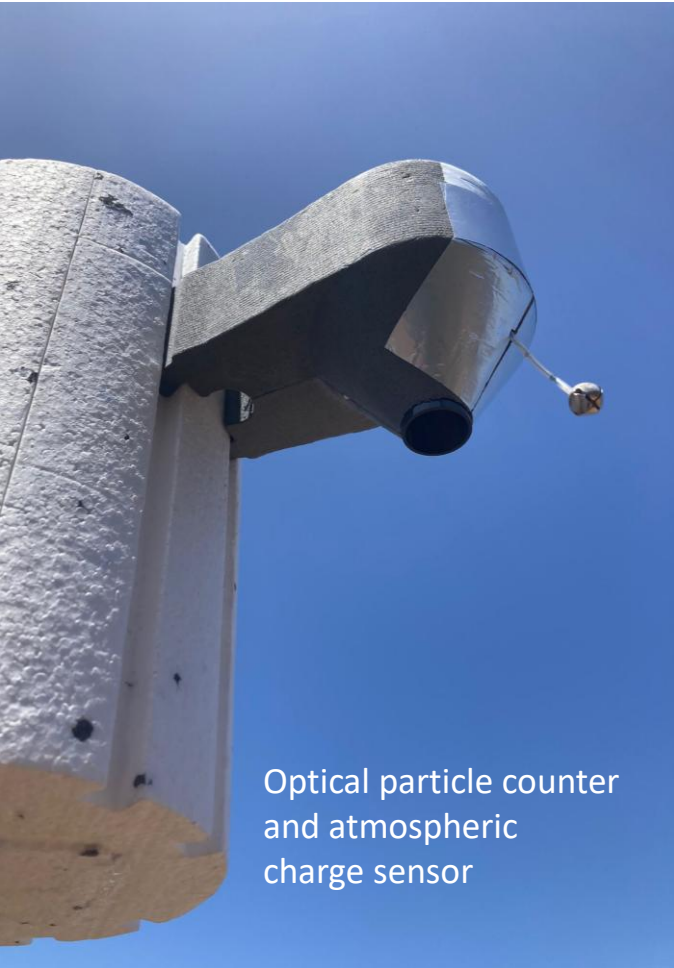
Dropsonde data from high in the arctic supporting research into destructive **polar-lows**.



60 dropsondes over a  
10-day period.



# Other 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payloads







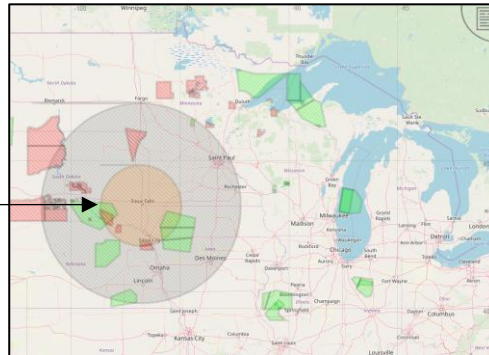
# ISR HAB Gap Filling Demonstration

**UK MOD - Project Aether** is exploring emerging technologies which enable wider area projection of ISR and Communications from the stratosphere.

Recent “**high-latitude winter**” demonstration of ISR capability from the stratosphere.

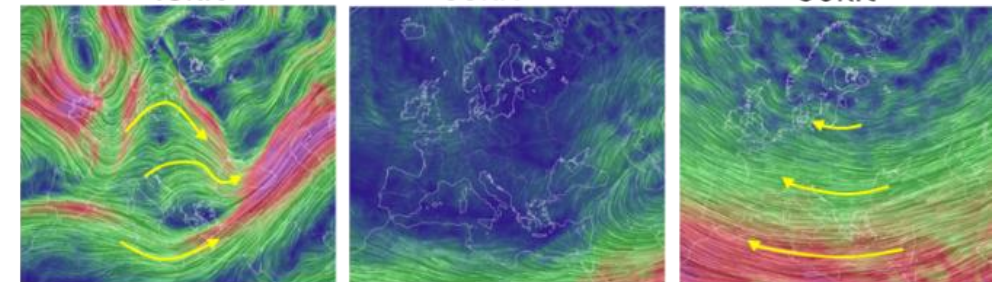
## March 2025 South Dakota Demonstration

150km radius Target Area centred on Sioux Falls

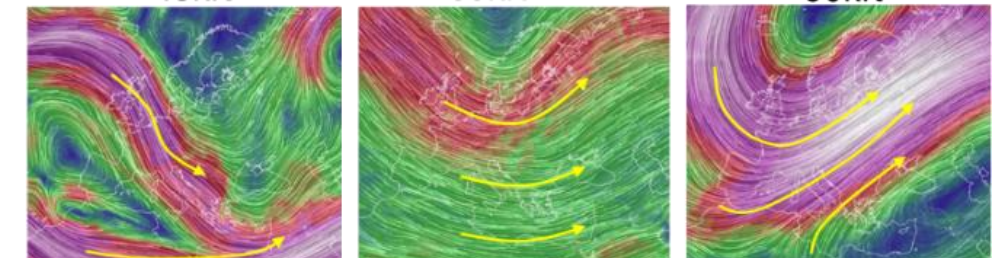


## The Challenge for High Latitude Winter HAB Navigation

Typical **summer** wind profiles over Europe



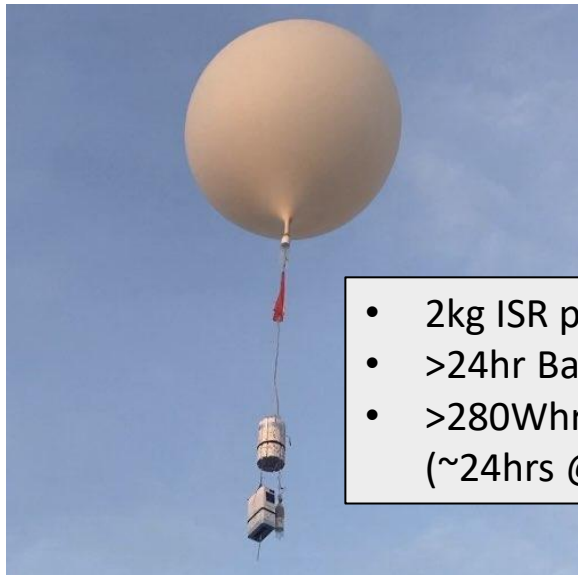
Typical **winter** wind profiles over Europe



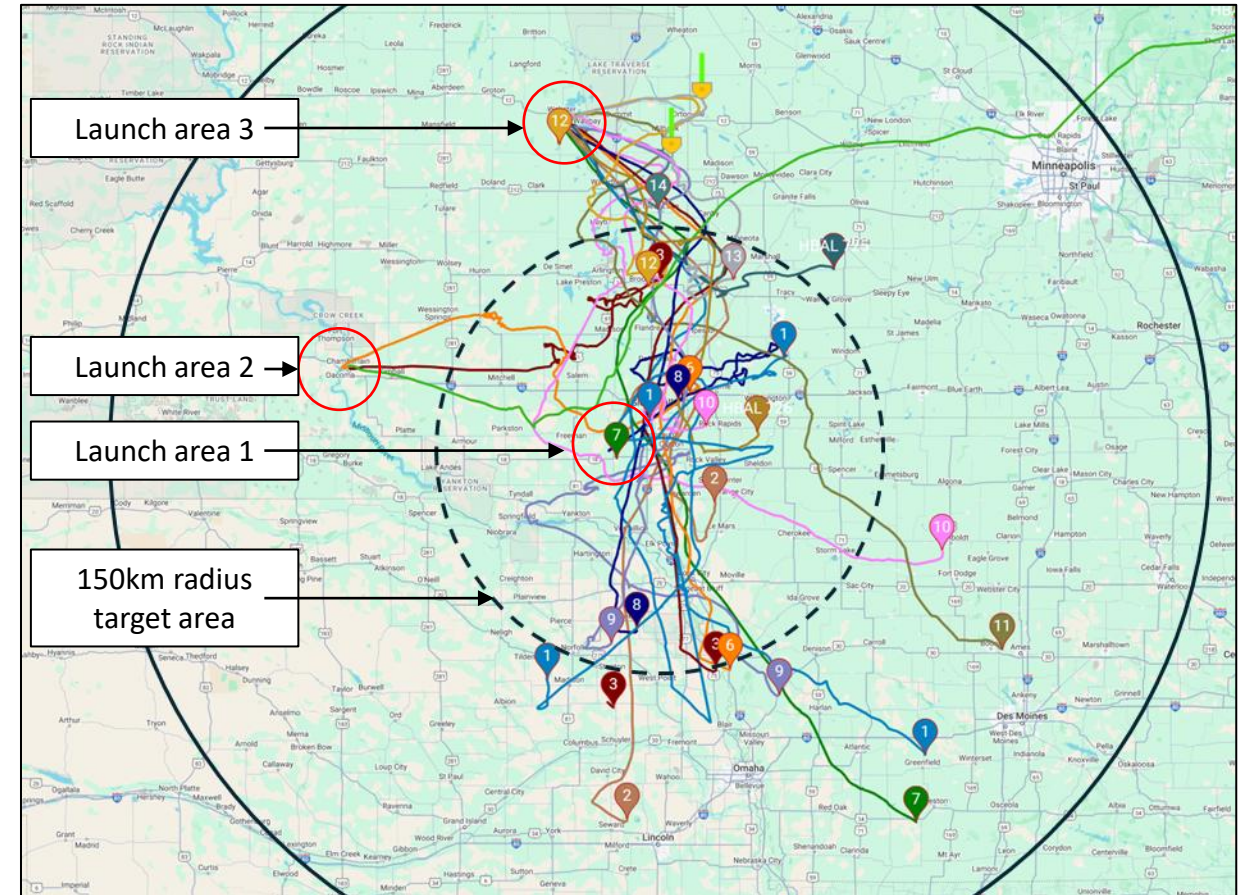
## ISR HAB Gap Filling Demonstration

### ISR Payload:

- SDR Provided by **Landguard Systems Ltd**
- Integrated on to **Voltitude StratoSonde mHAB** and **Aerostar Lightning HAB** systems.
- CONOP mHAB 'gap-fill' between Lightning flights.



- 2kg ISR payload
- >24hr Ballast
- >280Whr power (~24hrs @12W)

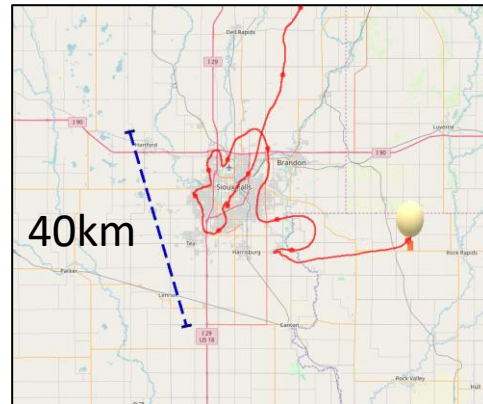




# ISR HAB Gap Filling Demonstration

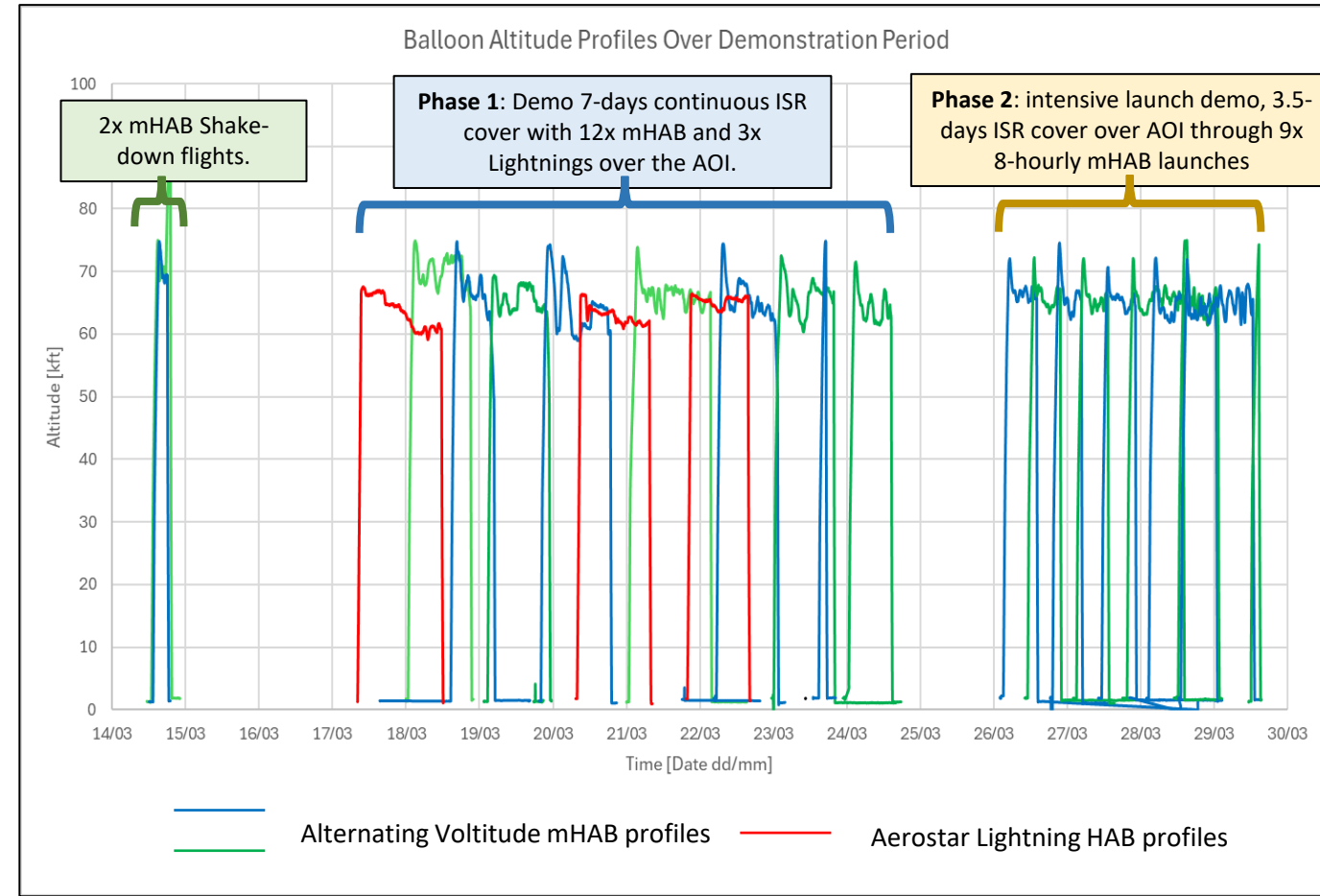
## Phase 1: 7-day continuous ISR demo

- Unseasonal stratospheric winds permitted some station-keeping over the target area.
- Extremely windy surface conditions with precipitation.
- 3x Lightning HAB and 12x mHAB Achieved **>94% coverage**, above 60kft AND within the target area.



## Phase 2: 3.5-day intensive ISR demo:

- Winter like stratospheric winds, station keeping not possible.
- 9x mHAB launched every 8hrs.
- Achieved **>100% coverage** above 60kft AND within the target area.



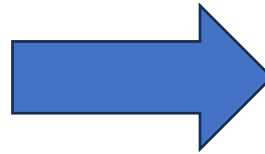
# Attritable HAPS

**StratoSonde mHAB** a 'light category' unmanned free balloon exempt from FAA Part 101.

- Operates at any latitude and time of year.
- Mission endurance between 24hrs to 6-days depending on payload and CONOPS.
- Very wide operating envelope, **ideal for gap filling**.

- 2kg ISR payload
- >24hr Ballast
- >280Whr power (~24hrs @12W)

- Dropsonde payload
- Up to 6-days endurance

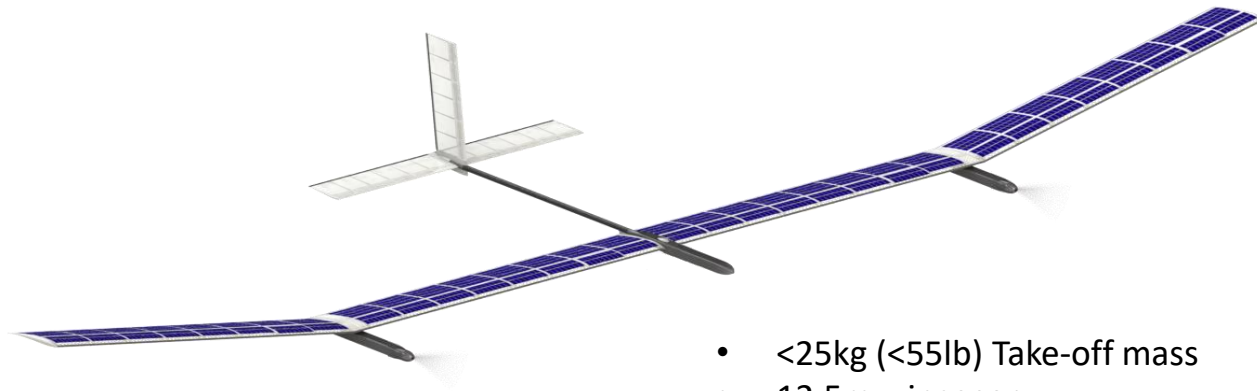
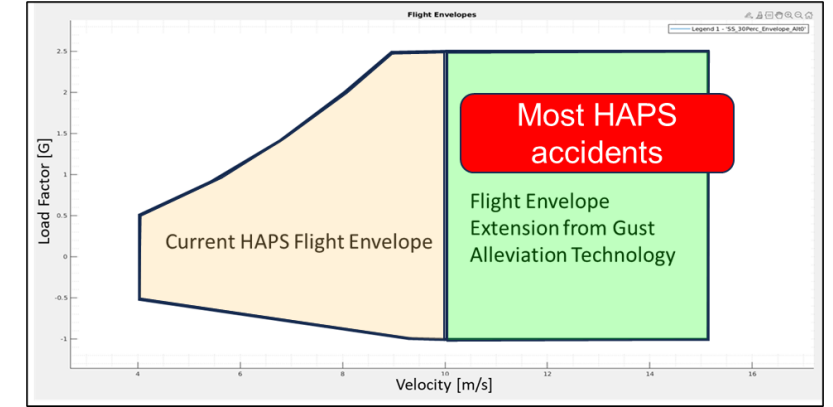
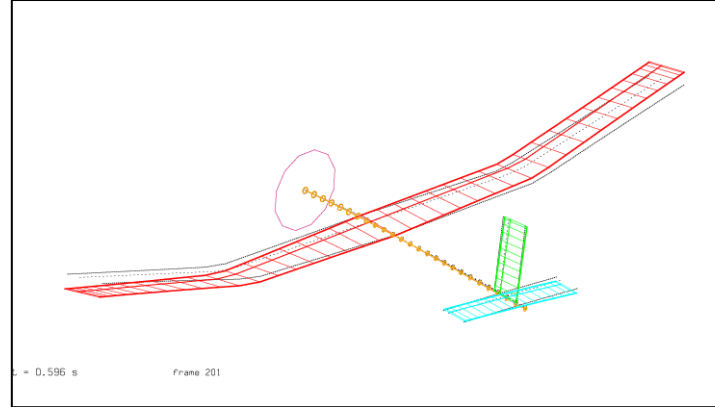


Voltitude is **prioritising high availability** and **low operating cost** to achieve equivalent 'gap filling' capabilities with small **fixed-wing solar electric HAPS**.





# StratoSat 25 – Stratospheric Work-Horse



- <25kg (<55lb) Take-off mass
- 12.5m wingspan
- 2kg payload

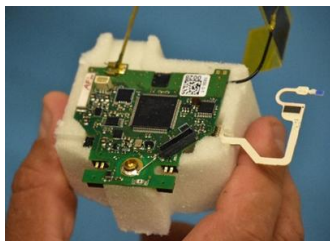
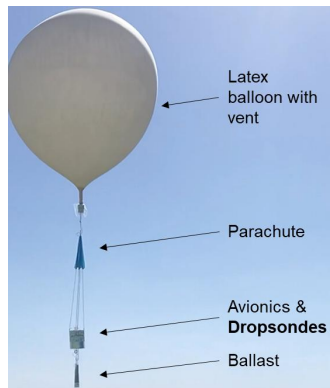
A new generation of fixed-wing solar electric uncrewed aircraft for the stratosphere.

- Featuring Voltitude's **patented gust alleviation technology**.
- Enables solar powered stratospheric aircraft to take-off and land over a much wider operating envelope.
- Reduces vulnerability to turbulence.
- Enables many new commercial services.

# Use Cases - Dropsondes

## Tropical Cyclones (TC):

- Targeted observations with dropsondes dispensed from above the TC vortex throughout the life of the TC.
- Intercept and obtain targeted observation for **extra tropical storms**.

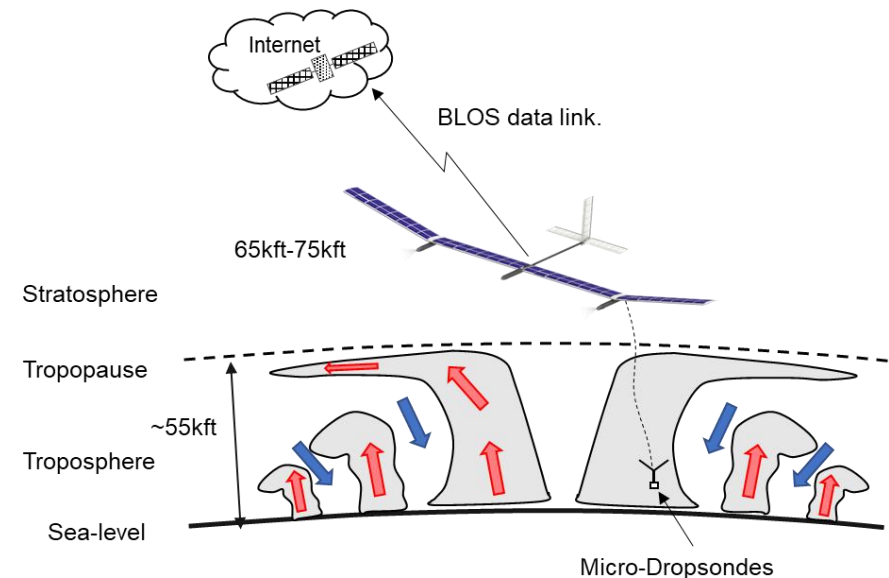
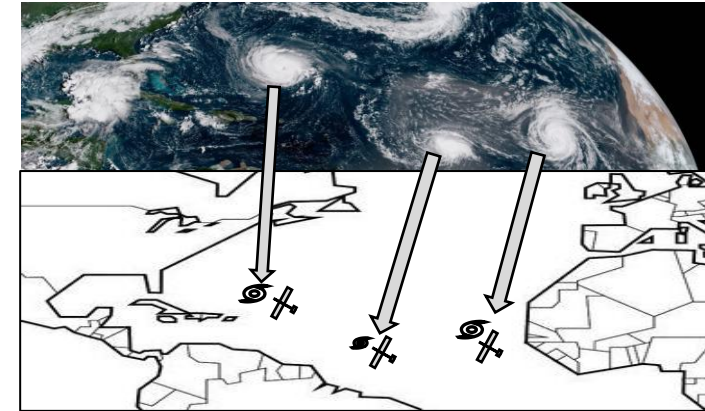


Voltitude currently achieves:

- **25 dropsondes per kilogram** of payload (400g for x10 on the StratoSonde mHAB).

Targeting:

- **50 dropsondes per kilogram** on the StratoSat-25 during the TC season.
- 100x dropsondes per aircraft with today's battery technology.

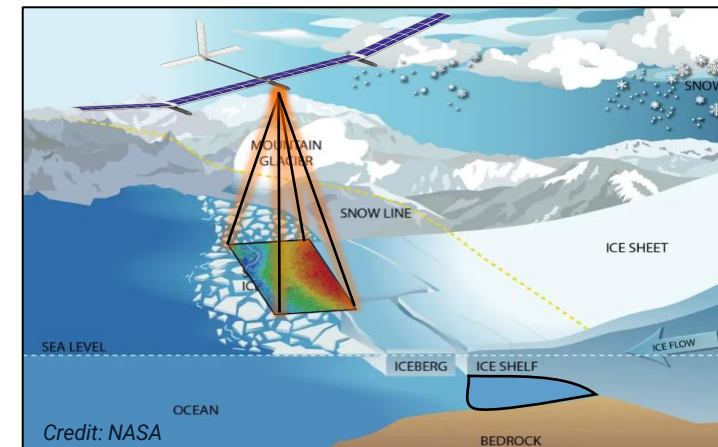


# Project CryoWatch – Funded by ARIA

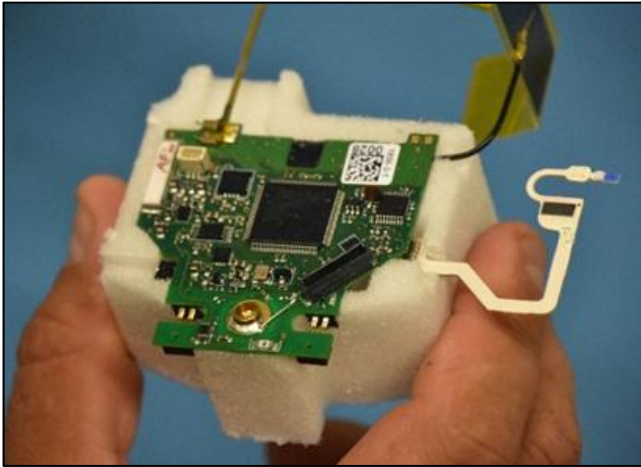
Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA), UK R&D funding agency built to unlock scientific and technological breakthroughs that benefit everyone.

**Project CryoWatch** will use ultra-persistent, solar powered, **High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (HAPS)**, stationed in the stratosphere, to present a scientific and technological breakthrough in climate monitoring and research capability.

HAPS enable high-resolution monitoring for high-frequency processes, over long-time periods, with dynamic flexibility to monitor more than one large scale region of interest. Initial mission persistent monitoring of Southeast Greenland's Icesheet Grounding Zone.







## Thank You

Paul Stevens: [www.VOLTITUDE.co.uk](http://www.VOLTITUDE.co.uk)