



SECOND CIRCULAR

THE 21st INTERNATIONAL TOVS STUDY CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague:

In 8 months' time the International TOVS Working Group (ITWG) will be meeting again (29 November – 5 December 2017), this time at the Darmstadtium in Darmstadt, Germany, and hosted by EUMETSAT.

The purpose of this Second Circular is to invite you to let us know if you plan to attend ITSC-21, and also to submit abstracts to the conference by completing the attendance and abstract form available on the web:

http://www.ssec.wisc.edu/register/index.php?action=view_form&mid=665599&fid=66559901

We would appreciate your early response if you plan to attend.

When you register, please also indicate what weekend social activities may interest you. Descriptions of the various activities are available on the website.

This circular also includes information on accommodation options. We encourage participants to book early to avoid higher rates.

Call for abstracts

- If you wish to give an oral or poster presentation at ITSC-21, please provide your abstract before the **15 July 2017 deadline**, and indicate whether you would prefer an oral or poster presentation. As the pressure on the program is increasing with every conference, participants will be allowed at most one oral presentation. We will again have several poster sessions and the posters will be on display throughout the conference. We feel that these poster sessions have been very productive and we will work to continue improving their effectiveness. We aim to publish a draft program by mid-September 2017.
- **Reports from Space Agencies** about the current status and plans for future programmes will be covered in a special poster session with brief introductions using a limited number of slides, as at previous conferences. A similar special poster session will again be dedicated to **status reports from Numerical Weather Prediction Centres**. We invite space agencies and NWP centres to submit abstracts for these special sessions. To allow more space for specific science topics, we are very unlikely to accept overview status reports as oral presentations.
- Following the conference, an electronic copy of the **Working Group Report and Proceedings** will be published on the internet. Your oral and poster PowerPoint presentations submitted to us in

electronic form will be made viewable on the ITWG web site (as .pdf files, or with your approval, as .ppt files, if animation is part of the presentation).

- Authors are strongly encouraged to submit a conference paper to be included in the proceedings. Details on the format for the papers and the paper submission will be provided in the next circular.

Accommodation

Below you will find a list of recommended hotels in the city of Darmstadt. You can select one of the 3 hotels where block bookings have been made; all 3 hotels are located at various walking distances from the Conference venue Darmstadtium, but availability is limited, so please book as early as possible to avoid higher rates. The booking deadline has been indicated for each hotel. **Please pay close attention to the cancellation policies for each hotel.**

Block bookings have been made at the Welcome Hotel (60 rooms) / IBIS Budget (20 rooms) / InterCity Hotel (20 rooms)

RECOMMENDED HOTELS	
<p>Welcome Hotel Darmstadt Karolinenplatz 4 64289 Darmstadt</p>  <p>Tel. +49 6151 3914 483 Fax +49 6151 3914 444 Email: info.dar@welcome-hotels.com https://www.welcome-hotels.com/en/welcomehotel-darmstadt/info/</p> <p>Location: next to the conference venue</p> <p>Public transportation: Shuttle AirLiner : Frankfurt Airport – Darmstadt (stop Kongresszentrum Darmstadtium) http://www.rmv.de/linkableblob/de/33548-59802/data/AirLiner_Direktbus_Darmstadt_Frankfurt_Flughafen_PDF.pdf</p>	<p>Rate – including breakfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• €119 single (standard) – 40 rooms• €129 (comfort) – 20 rooms <p>+20€ if double occupation</p> <p>For your booking, use the following link: https://goo.gl/VSLf0d</p> <p>BOOKING DEADLINE – 24 October 2017</p> <p>CANCELLATION – free of charge until 2 weeks prior to arrival then 90% of the rate for entire stay</p>  

Hotel IBIS Budget

Kasinostrasse 4
64293 Darmstadt
Tel. +49 6151 39 73 720
Fax +49 6151 397 3725



Email: H3526@accor.com
<http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-3526-ibis-budget-darmstadt-city/index.shtml>

Location: 15mn walking distance to the conference venue

Public transportation:

- Tram lines 9 / 2 – stop Rhein-Neckar to City Center (stop Schloss) then 5mn
- Bus lines H / F – stop Rhein-Neckar to Conference venue (stop Alexanderstrasse/TU)

Rate – excluding breakfast:

- Single room: €42.75 + 21€ if double occupation (**20 rooms**)
(breakfast additional €6.90)

For your booking, send an email with the reference 183547

Email: H3526@accor.com

BOOKING DEADLINE – 1 September 2017

CANCELLATION: until 7.00pm on the arrival day



Intercity-Hotel

Poststraße 12
64293 Darmstadt
Tel. +49 6151 90691-0
Fax +49 6151 90691-300



Email: Darmstadt@intercityhotel.de
<https://www.intercityhotel.com/en/hotels/all-hotels/germany/darmstadt/>

Location: 30 mn walking distance to venue

Public Transportation:

FreeCityTicket is included enabling s guests to use all of the local public transport free of charge throughout their stay.

- Tram line 2 – train station stop to City Center (stop Schloss) then 5 mn
- Tram line 5 – train station stop to City Center (stop Luisenplatz) then 10mn
- Bus line H – train station stop to Conference venue (Alexanderstrasse /TU stop)

Rate – including breakfast

- **Single room** – 99€ (standard)
- **Double room** – 115€ (standard)

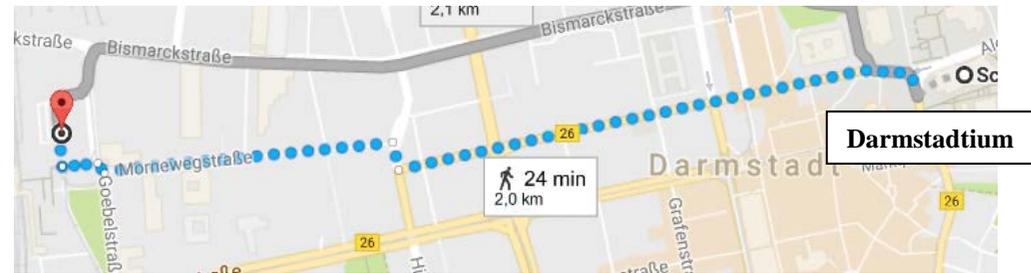
Standard rooms – train side (**20 rooms**). You may book a comfort room (city side) for an extra-charge of 10€, according to availability.

For your booking, send an email with reference ITSC-21

Email: Darmstadt@intercityhotel.de

BOOKING DEADLINE: 31 October 2017

CANCELLATION: 1 week prior arrival day, then 90% of rate for the entire stay



Travel to Darmstadt

Information on how to get to Darmstadt is available from the ITSC-21 Web page (<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/itsc/itsc21/>).

Conference Registration Fee

It is anticipated there will be a registration fee for the conference. For those paying before 30 September 2017, an early registration fee of \$475 (US) will be collected. The registration fee covers all lunches, the icebreaker, one group dinner, catering at coffee breaks, conference facilities, and logistics. Instructions on how to pay the fee online will be provided separately in the 3rd circular.

The fee for accompanying adult guests will be \$150 (US) to cover the group dinner and icebreaker. Children are free.

After 30 September, registration will cost \$575 (US). If you pay the registration fee after 31 October or at the conference, the cost will be \$675 (US), which you must pay by credit card; there will be no cash option.

Visa Applications

To find out if you will need to obtain a visa and to learn the visa application requirements, please visit: <http://www.germany-visa.org/germany-visa-requirements/>

For those conference attendees who will need a letter of invitation, please contact the Local Organising Committee at: itsc@eumetsat.int

Important Dates

3rd Circular	1 July 2017 (last call for abstracts)
Abstracts deadline	15 July 2017
Draft Program	15 September 2017
Deadline for US\$475 registration fee	30 September 2017
Final Program	15 October 2017
Deadline for US\$575 registration fee	31 October 2017
ITSC-21	29 November – 5 December 2017

The on-site registration fee will be \$675 US, collected by credit card using the on-line payment form at an on-site computer. There will be no cash option.

Conference Topics

The conference will cover a wide range of topics concerning atmospheric sounding, its applications and related issues. We propose that key issues for this meeting include:

- Evaluation of new polar microwave and infrared sounding data, such as from the JPSS-1, FY-3D, or Meteor-M N2-1 satellites;
- Evaluation of and preparation for sounding capabilities from geostationary orbit (e.g., FY-4A, MTG-IRS);
- Updates on operational processing and the exploitation of ATOVS, ATMS, SSMIS and hyperspectral sounder data (AIRS, IASI, CrIS);
- New applications of microwave and infrared sounder data in numerical weather prediction and nowcasting (e.g., new assimilation techniques, bias tuning, use of cloudy radiances), including blended products from polar orbiting and geostationary satellites;
- Use of microwave and infrared sounder data over land and ice surfaces;
- Generation of geophysical parameters from or for microwave or infrared sounding data;
- Applications of microwave and infrared sounder data in climate monitoring and GCOS activities;
- Direct readout software and retransmission services;
- Radiative transfer model development and validation, especially of fast radiative transfer models;
- Studies and results for future infrared and microwave sounders; and
- Updates on Satellite Programs and International Coordination (WMO, CGMS).

Other relevant issues include the validation and tuning of surface models, satellite sounding requirements for GEOSS, and absolute calibration and cross-calibration of the global satellite observing system.

Papers on these and related topics will be welcome.

Working Groups will review issues and provide recommendations and actions related to:

- (i) the exploitation of sounder data for data assimilation / NWP
- (ii) climate applications of satellite sounder data
- (iii) sounding products and applications, including community software for direct readout stations
- (iv) radiative transfer and surface property models
- (v) advanced sounders
- (vi) international co-ordination, including frequency protection

A report of the working group discussions and actions will be prepared after the meeting for consideration by WMO, the space agencies and users.

Financial Support

We will be able to offer limited financial support to a small number of participants needing assistance to attend the conference. If you anticipate the need for travel assistance, please contact us as soon as possible (**at the latest by the abstract deadline**), indicating your likely needs. Note that we will

only support participants that will make a formal contribution to the event. We will consider all bids for financial support in July. Note that for those receiving support we will purchase air tickets or assist with the hotel cost. No reimbursements will be made.

ITWG Web site

All information related to ITSC-21 will be posted on the ITWG Web site at: <http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/itwg/>

If you have any science or news items of interest to the ITWG membership which you would like to share with the community, please send them to our Web Master or contact the Co-Chairs, and we shall try to include them in the Web page contents.

Mailing List

It is important to continuously maintain and update the ITWG mailing list. It would help us greatly in keeping our mailing list up-to-date if you could notify us, without delay, of any changes.

Previous Reports and Publications

Reports from all meetings are available from the web page.

Concluding Remarks

The Co-Chairs serve to further the activities of the ITWG. We welcome your comments on the issues above or other topics. Please send questions and comments to both Co-Chairs at the addresses below, or use the link on the ITWG Web Page. Please forward this circular to any others you think may be interested. We hope to see you at ITSC-21.

Yours sincerely,

Niels Bormann and Mitch Goldberg
ITWG Co-Chairs



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