

## ***A Canadian satellite mission for continuous imaging of the northern latitudes***

**Louis Garand, Guennadi Kroupnik, Ron Buckingham,  
Alexander P. Thrischenko**

The Polar Communications and Weather (PCW) mission of the Canadian Space Agency has the dual goal of providing communications and weather information pertaining to latitudes 50-90 N in continuous fashion from two satellites in a highly elliptical orbit. The presentation will focus on the meteorological aspect of the mission, its uniqueness and motivation. The main payload will be an advanced radiometer providing imagery with a refresh time of the order of 15 minutes. An industrial consortium is currently evaluating the various aspects of the mission based on user requirements defined by Environment Canada and other federal departments. PCW could be realized as early as 2013, either as a standalone Canadian mission or with international partners.