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# ANNALS



# GEOPHYSICS

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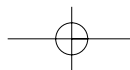


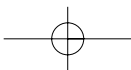
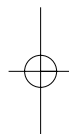
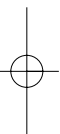
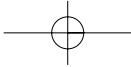
**COST 296**

Mitigation of Ionospheric Effects on Radio Systems (MIERS)

edited by

ALAIN BOURDILLON, LJILJANA R. CANDER and BRUNO ZOLESI





## Preface

*This issue of Annals of Geophysics contains a series of papers which form the Final Report of the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) 296 Action on the Mitigation of Ionospheric Effects on Radio Systems (MIERS). It is important to recognize that COST is one of the longest running European instruments supporting cooperation among scientists and researchers across Europe. Prior to the COST 296 Action, strong collaboration in the field of ionospheric research and applications had already been established under three previous actions on Prediction and Retrospective Ionospheric Modelling over Europe (PRIME), on Improved Quality of Service in Ionospheric Telecommunication Systems Planning and Operation, and Effects of the Upper Atmosphere on Terrestrial and Earth-Space Communications. The MIERS main objective was to broaden our knowledge of the effects imposed by the ionosphere on practical radio systems, and for the development and implementation of techniques to mitigate the deleterious effects of the ionosphere on such systems. As a result of all these activities, more than 130 researchers from about 40 institutions in 26 countries all over the world currently belong to the ionospheric COST community.*

*All the papers in this supplement are in the format employed in the international scientific literature. They describe the principle results achieved in the COST 296 Action. In addition to these scientific papers, an introductory paper briefly covers the background, the objectives as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding, the management structure and architecture of the action, and the technical work programme. An overview of COST 296 activities has been included together with a concluding paper summarising the overall outcomes and looking forward to further investigations in a follow-on Action.*

*We would like to thank all the participants of this Action, the Working Group and Package leaders, the secretary of the Action Mrs. Angela Vernon, and all the local organizers of the different Workshops and Management Committee meetings.*

*Lastly, we also wish to acknowledge Prof. Enzo Boschi, President of the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, for supporting the publication of this issue of Annals of Geophysics.*

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