

CODAR Returns to Gibraltar

15 February 2010

In January 2010 the Regional Government of Andalucía has confirmed funding to a “Proyecto de Excelencia Investigadora” program that includes a 1-year temporary deployment of two 25 MHz SeaSondes in the Gibraltar Strait. This new program is under the scientific leadership of Cadiz University, with the operational coordination of Puertos del Estado and with the participation of Sasemar, Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina, Instituto Español de Oceanografía, the Harbours of Algeciras and Ceuta, Malaga University, Abdelmalek Essaâdi University of Tanger, Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, Empresa de Gestión Medioambiental de Andalucía, The Spanish and Moroccan Society for the Study of Transport Communication Across Gibraltar Strait, Natural Park of the Strait, and the engineering company QUALITAS Remos. The official project title translates roughly to “Current monitoring by means of coastal HF Radars as a core element of the Operational Oceanography System of the Gibraltar Strait”. Installation of the radars will happen in Cape Carnero and Ceuta Harbour inside 2010.

This could very loosely be described a “re-deployment”, as 28 years ago CODAR units (predecessors of the SeaSonde) operated in this Northwest Alboran Sea area. Named “Donde Va”, the 1982 field campaign objective was to study gyres created by the jet inflowing through Gibraltar from the Atlantic. This was a multinational program that included joint tests between National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Wave Propagation Lab and Naval Research Lab (NRL) in Stennis, Mississippi. NRL group focused on satellite and aircraft remote sensing with the CODAR HF radar work carried out by NOAA.

For further reading on the 1982 deployment and results, we recommend: Janopaul, M. M., Frisch, A. S., CODAR measurements of surface currents in the northwest Alboran Sea during the Donde Va experiment, *Annales de Geophysique*, vol. 2, no. 4, pp. 443-448. 1984



Carnero lighthouse at Cape Carnero.



View from the Ceuta Harbour breakwater.