

Schedule of the project

- Start of IPY observations and model runs: 1 March 2007
- Publication of modeling challenge paper ('Ionospheric Challenges of the IPY', Sojka et al, EOS, 88(15), 171, 10 April 2007)
- Model-observation workshop at the CEDAR meeting, June 24-29, 2007, in Santa Fe, NM.
- First workshop at ISSI: 31 October - 3 November 2007. Goals:
 - Review observations and model outputs
 - Refine observational modes and model parameters,
 - Outline of first paper and poster(s),
 - Planning for follow on papers
- Second Workshop at ISSI: 13-17 May 2008. Goal:
 - Review first year of observations and model outputs,
 - Refine and progress first papers
 - Refine unified data views
- Meeting at CEDAR 18 June 2008, Zermatt, Utah
- Third Workshop at ISSI: 4-7 November 2008. Goal:
 - Progress papers,
 - Plan follow on ISSI work and future model/observation projects

Goals

- The goal of the proposed work, with the aid of three workshops at ISSI, is to capitalise on the unique opportunity represented by the huge increase in data availability during the International Polar Year (IPY) of 2007-9 to dramatically improve the quality of models, and the underlying physical understanding, and in particular to develop their capabilities in now- *and fore-casting*.
- We propose to concentrate on two main threads, the first related directly to the development of the model-data comparison and model improvement, and the second related to understanding some of the important classes of phenomena revealed by the observational and modelling programs.
- The plan is to use the year-long ISR runs not just to validate the physics of high latitude ionospheric models, but also as input data for assimilation models.