

The THEMIS and CLUSTER satellite missions: status, operational planning and opportunities for collaboration

J.A. Wild (1) and the SuperDARN Spacecraft Working Group

(1) Department of Communication Systems, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4WA, UK [j.wild@lancaster.ac.uk]

The international scientific community is currently in the unique position of being able to exploit data from several major multi-satellite missions. The ESA Cluster mission, now in its extended phase, continues to return unique multi-point measurements as it explores regions not traversed in earlier years of operations. The Cluster quartet were joined in 2007 by the five probes of the NASA THEMIS mission which exploit an alternative, but highly complementary inter-spacecraft configuration. Meanwhile, the veteran Geotail spacecraft continues to return invaluable in situ measurements of the magnetosphere. Coupled with a truly global array of ground-based experiments, these missions are providing unique insights into the near-Earth space plasma environment. Mission capabilities, status and opportunities for exploitation in association with the SuperDARN radars will be presented.