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**The Future of Broadband Passive Seismic Acquisition**

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## 1 **Abstract**

2  
3 It is an exciting time to be a seismologist. In November 2018, the InSight lander touched down  
4 on Mars and the first seismometer was deployed on another planet. This incredible feat  
5 means planetary seismologists are currently searching for marsquakes and will hopefully soon  
6 be providing images of its interior and helping us to understand how rocky planets form.  
7 However, we have been doing this for a long time in more familiar territory back home on  
8 Earth, where the field of terrestrial seismology has reached a turning point with significant  
9 developments in instrumentation and the manner of their deployment in recent years.  
10 However, equipment available to the UK community has not kept pace and needs urgent  
11 regeneration if the UK is to lead in the field of passive seismology in the future. To begin the  
12 process of redesigning the UK's equipment for the next few decades, the British Geophysical  
13 Association sponsored a meeting in Edinburgh in late 2018 to discuss the future of passive  
14 seismic acquisition. What follows is a historical account of how and why we arrived at the  
15 present day UK seismological research and resource base, a summary of the Edinburgh  
16 meeting, and a vision for the passive seismic facilities required to support the next 20 years  
17 of seismological research.

## 18 19 **History of passive seismology**

20  
21 In 1883, John Milne postulated that earthquake energy could be recorded at great distances.  
22 This was proven in 1889 when a recording of a teleseismic earthquake (from Japan) was made  
23 by Ernst Von Rebeur-Paschwitz on a seismometer in Potsdam, Germany. Von Rebeur-  
24 Paschwitz soon realised that a set of seismometers deployed at stations globally could  
25 enhance our understanding of the Earth, stating in 1895:

26  
27 *“Primarily we would seek the establishment of an international network of earthquake*  
28 *stations, whose purpose would be to systematically observe the propagation of movements*  
29 *generated at earthquake centers, along the Earth's surface and through its interior.”*

30  
31 Pioneering seismologists undertook the task of realising this vision and the discipline of  
32 seismology was born. Early successes included identification of different waves travelling  
33 through the Earth at increasing speed with depth (Oldham, 1900). As data increased, more  
34 and more features became apparent with the identification of the crust mantle boundary,  
35 commonly known as the Moho (Mohorovičić, 1910a,b,c), the core (Gutenberg, 1914), deep  
36 earthquakes in subduction zones (Wadati, 1928, Benioff, 1949) and the inner core (Lehman,  
37 1936).

38  
39 The need for a robust method to detect underground explosions after the second world war  
40 led to an explosion in recorded data, and to the advent of modern day seismology. A  
41 ‘conference of experts’ in 1958 was held in Geneva with a focus on how to identify nuclear  
42 tests. It was recognised that a global network of seismometers would be an effective way to  
43 monitor underground explosions (Department of State, 1960), an effort in which the UK  
44 played a leading role (Keen et al., 1965). From this, the first global seismic network was

45 formed, the Worldwide Standardized Seismograph Network (WWSSN) (Figure 1) (see  
46 Peterson & Hutt, 2014 for a review). Importantly, this network relied on technological  
47 advances through development of high precision, accurate seismometers that could be  
48 deployed anywhere. The WWSSN was superseded in the 1970s when a consortium of  
49 academics took ownership of the network through the Incorporated Research Institute for  
50 Seismology (IRIS). Many seismometers were digitised and the WWSSN became the Global  
51 Digital Seismic Network (GDSN) and finally replaced in the 2000s with the Global Seismic  
52 Network which now has over 150 permanent stations transmitting real time data that are  
53 provided openly through the IRIS-DMC (Figure 1) (Buttler et al., 2004). These networks  
54 allowed not only nuclear tests to be monitored, but through their pioneering open data model  
55 meant that seismologists could develop detailed seismic tomography models of the 3D  
56 structure of the Earth (e.g., Dziewonski & Anderson, 1981) providing evidence for whole  
57 mantle convection (e.g., van der Hilst et al., 1997, Grand et al., 1997), large low shear-wave  
58 velocity provinces (LLSVPs) at the core-mantle boundary (Trampert et al., 2004, Ishii & Tromp,  
59 2004) and continue to help us understand the deep Earth as resolution improves.

60 As technology continued to develop, in particular led by the private sector through production  
61 of low power sensors and improvements in data storage, it became feasible for seismologists  
62 to purchase and deploy their own instruments in targeted dense networks in areas of  
63 scientific interest. One of the first examples of this was the NARS (Network of Autonomously  
64 Recording Seismographs), the first digital mobile broadband seismic network (Nolet & Vlaar,  
65 1982), deploying 14 seismometers in 1983 across Europe and further afield in targeted arrays.  
66 Another, the SKIPPY project, deployed up to 12 seismometers starting in 1994 in Australia for  
67 5 months before moving to a new location (Figure 1). Eventually, through this method, the  
68 Australian continent was covered with a station spacing of ~400 km over a 5 year period (Van  
69 der Hilst et al., 1994). This model is now being repeated on a much larger scale, with a  
70 moveable array in the USA (USArray) at ~40 km station spacing (IRIS Transportable Array,  
71 2003), China at ~35 km station spacing (ChinArray, 2006) and parts of Europe such as the  
72 AlpArray at ~50 km station spacing (Hetényi et al., 2018).

73 To accommodate the enthusiasm of the seismological community to deploy networks of  
74 seismometers, many countries established pools of seismometers for use by their national  
75 communities. Some of the first included PASSCAL<sup>1</sup> (Program for Array Seismic Studies of the  
76 Continental Lithosphere) in the USA, GIPP<sup>2</sup> (Geophysical Instrument Pool Potsdam) in  
77 Germany, ANSIR<sup>3</sup> (Research Facilities for Earth Sounding) in Australia and New Zealand and  
78 SEIS-UK<sup>4</sup> in the UK (see box for a review of SEIS-UK). These pools provided seismologists  
79 access to state-of-the-art equipment, often free at the point of use and the key engineering  
80 and logistical support to deploy seismic networks in any location around the world. They  
81 almost all follow the early approach of the global seismic networks by promoting the open  
82 access of seismic data. This means that archives such as the IRIS-DMC now hosts datasets  
83 from thousands of seismometers covering a large part of the global land mass (Figure 1).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.passcal.nmt.edu>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/section/geophysical-deep-sounding/infrastructure/geophysical-instrument-pool-potsdam-gipp/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://ansir.org.au>

<sup>4</sup> <https://seis-uk.le.ac.uk>

85 However, a large part of the Earth is not covered by instrumentation: the oceans. While a  
 86 submarine global seismic network has not yet materialised, great strides have been made in  
 87 deploying seismometers in the oceans. As early as 1937, seismometers were deployed on the  
 88 ocean floor (Ewing & Vine, 1938), but technological problems linked to the high-pressure  
 89 environment, access to power and communication presented significant challenges.  
 90 Seismologist rose to these challenges by developing self-contained systems that can sit on the  
 91 sea-floor before floating back to the surface on receiving a signal from a ship above (see  
 92 Suetsugu & Shiobara, 2014 for a review). Initially, these focussed on relatively short  
 93 deployments (a few weeks) to support active source experiments imaging the crust, or small  
 94 deployments to identify and locate earthquakes. However, as power requirements reduce,  
 95 and data storage improves broadband seismometers can now be deployed for months or  
 96 longer on the sea floor to facilitate the kind of imaging experiments more common on land.  
 97 These have allowed detailed studies of mid-ocean ridge processes (Forsyth & Scheirer, 1998),  
 98 extended dense onshore seismic networks offshore to study continental margins or  
 99 subduction zones (e.g., Hicks & Rietbrock, 2015) (Figure 2), and seismometers have been  
 100 deployed around ocean islands to understand mantle plumes (e.g., Lasket et al., 2009, Barruol  
 101 & Sigloch, 2013) and are helping us understand the oceanic plates in more detail (Bogiatzis et  
 102 al., 2017, Takeo et al., 2018). However, we must look to the private sector for the most  
 103 ambitious seafloor instrumentation, with ground-breaking arrays deployed over Ekofisk and  
 104 Valhall oilfields beneath the North Sea. These contain thousands of narrow-band  
 105 seismometers deployed permanently on the seafloor providing episodic monitoring of the  
 106 uppermost crust through both active and passive sources

107

108 We have come far in a relatively short period of time, but with new advances in low power  
 109 instrumentation, autonomous vehicles, super computers and other disruptive technologies  
 110 of the 21st century, seismologists have an opportunity to take a major step forward in using  
 111 seismology for Earth observation. With this in mind the British Geophysical Association  
 112 sponsored a 'New Advances of Geophysics' (NAG) meeting in November 2018 in Edinburgh  
 113 on the 'Future of Passive Seismic Acquisition'<sup>5</sup>. This was attended by over 100 seismologists  
 114 from the UK, Europe, US and Japan with attendees from academia and industry. What now  
 115 provide a summary of the meeting and a vision for the passive seismic facilities required to  
 116 support the next 20 years of seismological research.

117

### 118 **Current advances in broadband passive seismic acquisition: Oceans**

119

120 Day 1 of the NAG meeting focussed on new technologies, methods and experiments in the  
 121 oceans. Many talks described new developments in broadband instrumentation that would  
 122 allow long term deployments of broadband seismometers in the oceans. John Orcutt (*Scripps  
 123 Institute of Oceanography*) showed that, with effective shielding, where the seismometer is  
 124 protected from ocean currents, broadband seismometers on ocean floors have similar  
 125 performance to those on land. Yann Hello (*CNRS-Geoazur*) and John Collins (*Woods-Hole  
 126 Oceanographic Institute*) developed this point further, showing that with effort in decoupling  
 127 the seismometer from the casing by direct burial using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV)  
 128 (Suetsugu & Shiobara, 2014), drilling boreholes (Collins et al., 2001, McGuire et al., 2018) or  
 129 through automated deployment methods (Hello et al., 2017), even better performance can

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<sup>5</sup> See <https://nagedinburgh.wordpress.com> for more details

130 be obtained. Gerrit Hein (*University of Hamburg*) also presented detailed noise models for  
131 the German OBS pool, showing how it is important to understand deployment methods as  
132 well as the instrumentation. These examples showed that instrumentation is now capable of  
133 capturing very subtle signals that can help us understand the Earth, from the Earth's hum (the  
134 continuous oscillations of the Earth) (Deen et al., 2017) and normal modes where the Earth  
135 rings like a bell after major events (Bécel et al., 2011), to slow-slip events and non-volcanic  
136 tremor at subduction zones (McGuire et al., 2018).

137  
138 The meeting also heard from a number of scientists leading large deployments of ocean  
139 bottom seismometers to answer fundamental questions about the Earth. Two talks from  
140 Catherine Rychert (*National Oceanography Centre, Southampton*) and Hitoshi Kawakatsu  
141 (*ERI-Tokyo*) described how large deployments are allowing for a new understanding of the  
142 lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary, helping us to investigate what makes up a tectonic  
143 plate and how mantle convection drives tectonics (Harmon et al., 2018, Takeo et al., 2018).  
144 Catherine Rychert also discussed new results from the VOILA project, using land and ocean  
145 bottom seismometers to understand subduction processes in the Caribbean (Collier et al.,  
146 2017). Karin Sigloch (*University of Oxford*) presented new results from the RHUM-Rum  
147 experiment, which aims to image a mantle plume beneath Reunion (e.g., Stähler et al., 2016).  
148 These experiments again demonstrate that OBS systems are now capable of performance  
149 similar to that available on land, meaning these ambitious imaging projects are achievable.  
150 However, a point that recurred at the NAG meeting was that, despite many countries  
151 investing in pools of broadband ocean bottom seismometers (e.g., US, China, Australia, Japan,  
152 Poland, Germany, Ireland, Canada) and despite the UK playing a leading role in many large  
153 projects using OBS, we currently have no access to these instruments from within the UK and  
154 must rent instruments from overseas.

155  
156 Finally, much discussion was given to future developments in ocean based seismology. One  
157 highlight came from Giuseppe Marra (*National Physical Laboratory*), who showed the  
158 potential use that ocean bottom fibre optic cables have in measuring passing seismic waves  
159 (Marra et al., 2018). If applicable to existing ocean cables (and access given by the private  
160 contractors), this could offer a solution to the missing data in the oceans. We also heard from  
161 a number of manufacturers of ocean bottom seismometers who emphasised the continuing  
162 development of their instrumentation. Many of these developments in OBS technology are  
163 conducted through partnerships between academia and industry, highlighted by Bruce  
164 Townsend (*Nanometrics*) in his talk describing developments they are making in collaboration  
165 with Scripps Institution of Oceanography. However, several of the manufacturers of seismic  
166 instrumentation at the meeting requested that academics work far more closely with them  
167 when developing proposals for new instrumentation and not just rely on them to deliver pre-  
168 specified products, otherwise opportunities for new development will be missed. This  
169 presents an opportunity for academia to benefit from and even to enhance the innovation  
170 that is driven by competition between the various manufacturers.

## 171 172 **Current advances in broadband passive seismic acquisition: Land**

173  
174 Day 2 of the NAG meeting focussed on passive seismological applications and technology for  
175 use on land. Talks in this session could be divided into two themes; a long-term vision  
176 involving new technologies that have the potential to revolutionise how we collect seismic

177 data and shorter-term opportunities that, while no less revolutionary in the kind of science  
178 we can achieve, can be delivered today.

179

180 Two areas of long-term vision were presented. Heiner Igel (*Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität*  
181 *München*) outlined the current status of rotational seismology, a technique that not only  
182 measures velocity/displacement on 3 components, but also their rotational motions (see  
183 Schmelzbach et al., 2018 for a review). This allows for more accurate tilt measurements,  
184 important for OBS, volcano deformation and free oscillations and for more accurate wavefield  
185 constructions, key for seismic tomography and seismic source inversions or maximising data  
186 in sparse networks (e.g., deployments on other planets, Brokesova et al., 2012). Excitingly,  
187 while noise performance is not yet at the level of more traditional seismometers, a portable  
188 rotational seismometer has been developed (blueSeis, Bernauer et al., 2018). Again, the  
189 instrumentation has been developed through academic/industry partnerships showing how  
190 this model can help to drive innovation in seismology.

191

192 Other speakers, following on from Giuseppe Marra's talk on day 1 discussed the use of fibre  
193 optic cables to measure seismic signals. This method uses the fact that deformation in the  
194 fibre optic cable, which occurs when a seismic wave passes through, will change the scattering  
195 properties of the cable. As a result, a pulse of light fired through the fibre optic cable will  
196 return with a phase shift, from which can be extracted a seismogram. Excitingly, this provides  
197 a distributed signal along the whole fibre optic cable meaning the full wavefield can be  
198 reproduced across a wide range of frequencies (so-called distributed optical fibre acoustic  
199 sensor (DAS)). Charlotte Krawczyk (*GFZ Potsdam*) showed an application of this in Iceland  
200 where a 15 km long fibre-optic cable clearly recorded anthropogenic and earthquake signals,  
201 thus permitting the imaging of faults and dykes at exceptional resolution (Jousset et al., 2018).  
202 Mike Kendall (*University of Bristol*) in a review of reservoir microseismicity (e.g., Kendall et al.,  
203 2011) argued that this technology could revolutionise the hydrocarbon industry, with dense  
204 monitoring and easy deployments down boreholes. Mengmeng Chen (*University of*  
205 *Southampton*) presented the DAS system developed at the University of Southampton and  
206 used to monitor submarine cables and monitor train speed (Chen et al., 2018). This  
207 demonstrates a point mentioned by all speakers in this session; this technology has vast  
208 unexplored potential to monitoring Earth vibrations, with applications in transport, security  
209 and monitoring large infrastructure to name a few. Another example of this use of seismology  
210 beyond traditional approaches was presented by Celine Hadziioannou (*University of*  
211 *Hamburg*) showing how seismic data can help us understand how atmospheres, oceans and  
212 solid Earth are coupled and can potentially be used to model long term variations of climate  
213 related ocean wave weather (Juretzek & Hadziioannou, 2017).

214

215 Other speakers focussed on the current and near future of passive seismology on land.  
216 Hanneke Paulssen (*Utrecht*) reviewed the history of the NARS network and highlighted the  
217 revolution these mobile networks had on broadband passive seismology (Nolet & Vlaar,  
218 1982). Fiona Darbyshire (*Université du Québec à Montréal*) described similar efforts in  
219 Canada, starting with the pioneering LITHOPROBE experiment (Rondenay et al., 2000), that  
220 focussed more on active source seismology up to today and the vision of a future network  
221 EON-ROSE, building a multi-instrument network across the continent involving broadband  
222 seismometers, GNSS and magnetospheric sensors (Boggs et al., 2018). Corinna Roy (*University*  
223 *of Leeds*) presented a novel inversion method to better image crustal velocity structure and



224 to improve characterisation of small earthquakes in a mining setting; of key importance now  
225 that local detection of earthquakes of a given magnitude triggers suspension of industrial  
226 operations until an investigation into whether the operations induced the earthquake has  
227 been carried out (Kendall et al., 2019). Jessica Johnson (*University of East Anglia*) showed  
228 results from a new, urgency deployment to collect a truly unique dataset to investigate  
229 changes in anisotropy in response to the recent eruptions on Hawaii (e.g., Johnson & Poland,  
230 2013). Diana Roman (*Carnegie Institute for Science*) described the Quick Deployment Box  
231 (QDP), a new novel deployment method ideal for use in these rapid, urgent deployments,  
232 which are common when responding to volcanic/earthquake events (Wagner et al., 2017).  
233 This shows how experience from academia can drive innovation in ways that may not be  
234 apparent to manufacturers themselves.

235  
236 Finally, a number of speakers discussed an exciting development in land seismology that has  
237 borrowed from pioneering work in industry; the deployment of large, dense deployments of  
238 seismometers in targeted arrays, so called large-N arrays. Sjoerd de Ridder (*Total E & P*)  
239 showed how industry are pioneering this method, outlining the Ekofisk life of field seismic  
240 system of almost 4000 multicomponent seismometers deployed in the North Sea among  
241 other examples (e.g., de Ridder & Dellinger, 2011). He emphasised that the information  
242 recorded by these dense networks is much greater compared to individual instruments or low  
243 density arrays, thus allowing for the use of the full wavefield for inversion (de Ridder & Biondi,  
244 2015). This was a message repeated by many other speakers. Larry Brown (*Cornell University*)  
245 showed how dense arrays allow reflection seismic methods, normally relying on expensive  
246 explosive seismic sources, to be applied by using natural earthquake sources (Quiros et al.,  
247 2017). Brandon Schmandt (*University of New Mexico*) highlighted the varied use of these  
248 networks, looking at temporal changes in river and groundwater transport (Schmandt et al.,  
249 2017), seismic imaging (Ranasinghe et al., 2018), monitoring volcanoes (Glasgow et al., 2018)  
250 (Figure 2) and imaging on crustal and lithospheric scales. John Hole (*Virginia Tech*) showed a  
251 drastic improvement in earthquake location, improving accuracy and magnitude  
252 completeness in experiments in Virginia (Davenport et al., 2015). Importantly, all these  
253 studies use relatively high frequency instruments, so called seismic nodes, that are small, low  
254 power and often include battery, geophone and digitizer in a single package (see Karplus &  
255 Schamndt (2018) and references within for a review). This removes the need for solar panels,  
256 strong vaults cemented to bedrock and extensive cables that typify broadband seismometer  
257 deployment. Despite their lack of broadband response, these simple instruments can be used  
258 to detect relatively broadband signals through the application of stacking (e.g., Chapman,  
259 2009). This was summed up by John Hole with the provocative message that for many  
260 applications, it may be best to move away from the high data quality given by sparse very  
261 broadband instrument networks towards data quantity through the dense deployment of  
262 nodes.

### 263 264 **What next for broadband passive seismology?**

265  
266 The meeting showed that we are at a turning point for broadband passive seismology.  
267 Historically, a big step forward came when manufacturers developed broadband  
268 seismometers to the degree that they were reliable, with low power consumption and cheap  
269 enough that many could be purchased for deployment in networks. Instrument pools, such  
270 as SEIS-UK in the UK were developed to facilitate this for the wider community leading to

271 major break throughs in tectonics, volcanology and earthquake dynamics among others. It  
272 appears we have now reached this point for broadband ocean-bottom seismometers where  
273 reliable, excellent performance sensors can be purchased off the shelf.

274

275 However, this does not mean that academia has no role in future instrument development.  
276 Excellent examples came from the ocean-bottom seismology community, where groups from  
277 SCRIPPS, CNRS-Lyon and Woods-Hole are developing the next generation of instruments in  
278 partnership with industry (e.g., Nanometrics, OSEAN). These have the potential to be  
279 deployed for years, rather than months, transmitting data from the ocean floor via  
280 autonomous vehicles (e.g., Sukhovich et al., 2015, Berger et al., 2016a), release of small  
281 capsules carrying data to the surface (e.g., Hello et al., 2015) or using future satellite internet  
282 networks. Potentially, these instruments may even be able to deploy and recover themselves  
283 (Berger et al., 2016b). There is an ambition to completely map the ocean floor by 2030 (Mayer  
284 et al., 2017). With advances in technology we should aim to extend this to the subsurface too  
285 through a transportable, ocean bottom seismic network in the oceans as proposed at the NAG  
286 meeting by Hitoshi Kawakatsu (e.g., Pacific Array) (Kawakatsu, 2012) (Figure 2). The  
287 development of methods to interrogate existing fibre-optic cables already installed across  
288 long transects of the seabed may also provide a revolutionary way to obtain ocean-bottom  
289 data, and would solve the power consumption problem since power for the interrogation  
290 system can then be provided by laser interrogators installed on land. This technology already  
291 exists and has been demonstrated, and raises the question of the extent to which innovative  
292 future ocean-bottom systems should be nodal (composed of individually-deployed  
293 instruments) or should comprise fibre-optic cables for transects.

294

295 On land, the main question is what sort of instrumentation do we as a community want for  
296 the next 20 years? This comes at a timely point as the UK passive seismic facilities are under  
297 review, providing a chance to implement a strong community vision. The UK and  
298 international community reached a consensus at the NAG meeting that dense deployments  
299 of hundreds to thousands of low power, easy to deploy instruments, combined with fewer  
300 broadband instruments, is the future of land passive seismology providing big improvements  
301 in earthquake location and seismic imaging, and will open up new areas of Earth observation  
302 in future. However, challenges exist with this model. The vast quantities of data these new  
303 arrays produce will require not just new facilities to provide instrumentation, but  
304 computational resources and long-term data storage to support them. Scientifically, new  
305 methodologies are needed to process the large amounts of data that are generated. These  
306 are clearly being developed, with novel methods for locating earthquakes presented by  
307 Brandon Schmandt and John Hole and new methodologies for imaging presented by Larry  
308 Brown, Sjoerd de Ridder and Corinna Roy at the NAG meeting.

309

310 Power issues mean that instruments for large, dense arrays are still developing rapidly and it  
311 could be argued that they are not yet ideal for use on multi-year deployments common in  
312 seismic deployments. As a result, is it wise for the UK community through SEIS-UK to purchase  
313 thousands of these instruments, or alternatively to work more closely with the manufacturers  
314 in a partnership to guide the innovation of these instruments in future, while providing access  
315 to the instruments in the short-term? in a provocative challenge, the industrial participants  
316 at the meeting asked what the UK scientific community actually want from a facility,  
317 suggesting they could move beyond manufacturing to a larger service, deploying and even



318 processing data for the academic community. This model is supported by past developments  
319 in the hydrocarbon industry in which the emergence of service companies who do exactly  
320 analogous tasks created competition which led to diverse and innovative acquisition and  
321 processing products and services. A concern with this model is that it might limit innovation  
322 and importantly training for young UK scientists within universities, but it shows that  
323 manufacturers of seismometers are keen to have a discussion and identify a mutually  
324 beneficial model for the future provision of passive seismic equipment.

325  
326 While the idea of handing responsibility of seismic instrument design from universities, who  
327 have a strong track record in this area and have a deep understanding of what we want as a  
328 community, to private industry may be controversial, it does allow us to embrace the  
329 innovation and importantly investment in research and development that is not easy to  
330 obtain from traditional research funders. For example, Guralp stated that 20-30% of their  
331 profits is invested in to research and development and other manufacturers have similar  
332 models. In today's environment of super-competitive research funding, the possibility to  
333 influence that research may be too good an opportunity to ignore. This would also free up  
334 time for academics to work on developing new techniques to maximise the use of these big  
335 datasets or concentrate on long-term instrumentation design such as fibre optics or rotational  
336 seismology. This is not a new model. An example of where this was done successfully in the  
337 UK was the BIRPS project, a consortium aiming to image deep crustal and lithospheric  
338 structure in the seas around the United Kingdom and further afield using reflection  
339 seismology (e.g., Klemperer & Hobbs, 1993). The group, starting in the late 1970s and working  
340 for 20 years, collaborated with the hydrocarbon industry providing ground-breaking insights  
341 into tectonics, while providing an opportunity for contractors to experiment with new  
342 equipment. While this model may not be perfect for passive seismology, it shows that a  
343 partnership can create innovation that industry and academia cannot provide individually.

344  
345 The NAG meeting shows that passive seismology has a bright future, with new  
346 instrumentation and techniques providing more and better data than ever before, revealing  
347 new and ground-breaking images and theories about the Earth's interior, and pushing the  
348 discipline beyond Earth structure and into wider Earth observation. While the exact model of  
349 how we achieve this is unclear, there is an enthusiasm for innovation and a new model of how  
350 we conduct passive seismic experiments. The challenge for us as a community is to take  
351 advantage of this, identifying the science we want to achieve over the next 20 years and  
352 planning how we should build future facilities to enable this. We plan future meetings to  
353 develop this consensus and we encourage the community, in particular early career scientists,  
354 to engage in this process. The International community has shown how major investment in  
355 equipment built around big science questions (e.g., USArray, ChinArray, AlpArray) has  
356 revolutionised our discipline in many regions. We have an opportunity to develop this in the  
357 UK and lead this area of geoscience in the future.

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365 SEISUK box:  
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SEIS-UK, based at the University of Leicester, was established in 2000 with the purpose of supporting onshore seismic research projects involving UK researchers. Since 2003 it has been funded by the UK's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and is part of the research council's Geophysical Equipment Facility.

It provides seismic equipment and data management facilities to the UK academic community and their research partners for use in the deployment of temporary seismic arrays on land. This model has led to some high impact science in areas as wide ranging as active tectonics, crustal, mantle and deep earth structure, science-based archaeology, glaciology, climate change, sedimentology, volcano monitoring and magma chamber imaging, environmental hazards, geothermal resource mapping and global sea-level and ice mass-balance studies. These projects have been conducted in all five continents of the Earth from the tropics to the Polar Regions and SEIS-UK provided instruments for benchmark testing the seismometers now on Mars. It has supported loans varying in size between 1 and 150 instruments and of duration of a few weeks up to 2 years. The facility has enabled UK researchers to lead in major international seismic experiments during the last 20 years and has supported over 120 individual experiments.

A particular strength of SEIS-UK is the provision of training and support for researchers who may be new to seismology and need help with experiment design or data processing. This has been key to the increased use of seismic methods in physical geography and in zoology (e.g., the mating behaviour of seals was studied using SEISUK seismometers). Its instruments have even been used to detect the vibrations generated by premier league footballers scoring goals, helping widen the public awareness and interest in seismology in a country with very few naturally occurring earthquakes.

The data collected during projects supported by SEIS-UK is initially used by the project's researchers and PhD students but then publicly released through IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology, based in the United States of America). This enables the data to be used by researchers worldwide with on average 850 Gb of data downloaded from SEISUK experiments per month. This is the equivalent of over 550 seismometers running continuously at 100 samples per second each month.

Anyone interested in applying to use the equipment should go to SEIS-UK's website <https://seis-uk.le.ac.uk/> where there is further information about the facility. For information about current loans and activities follow the twitter feed @SEIS-UK or contact [seis-uk@le.ac.uk](mailto:seis-uk@le.ac.uk).

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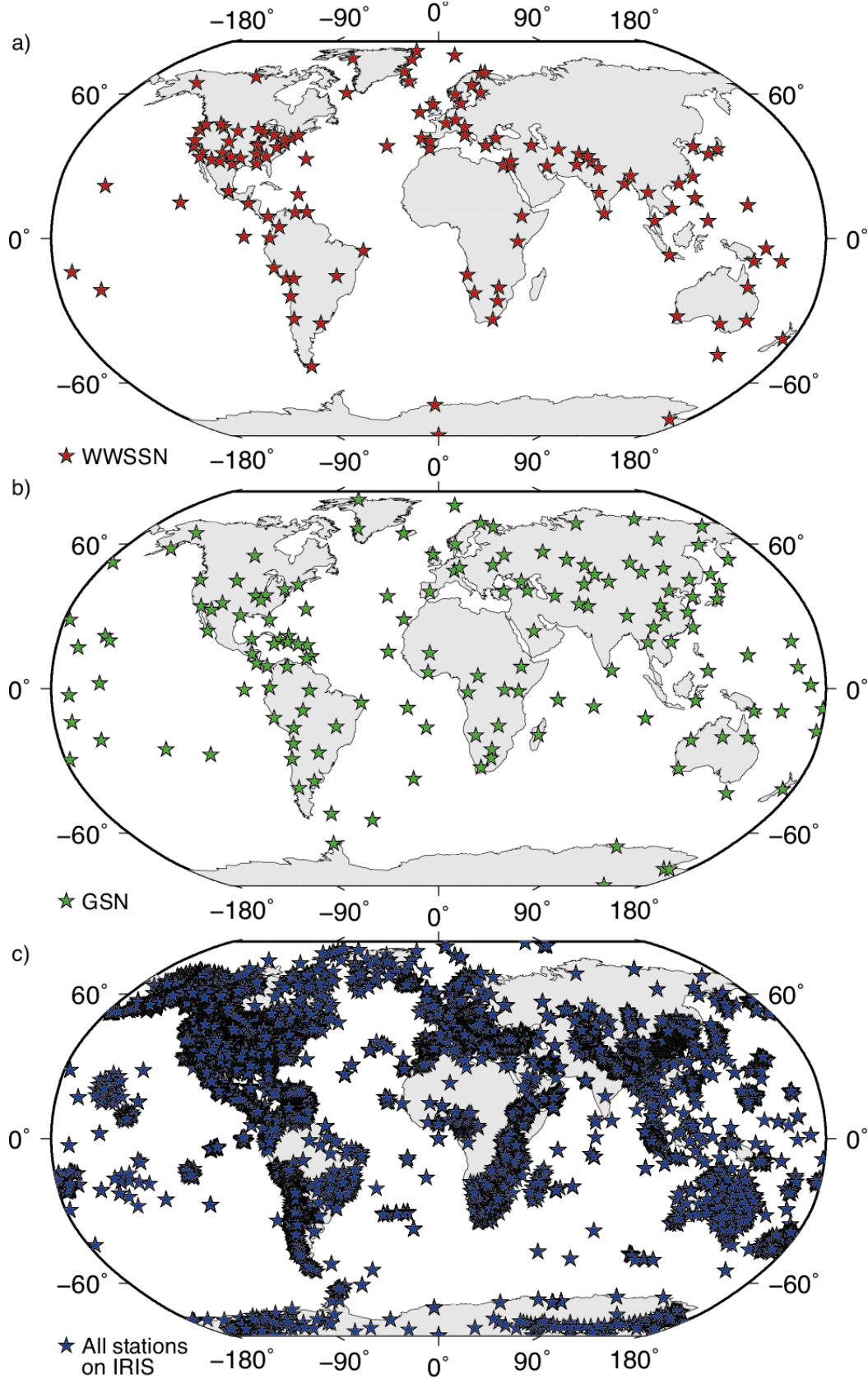
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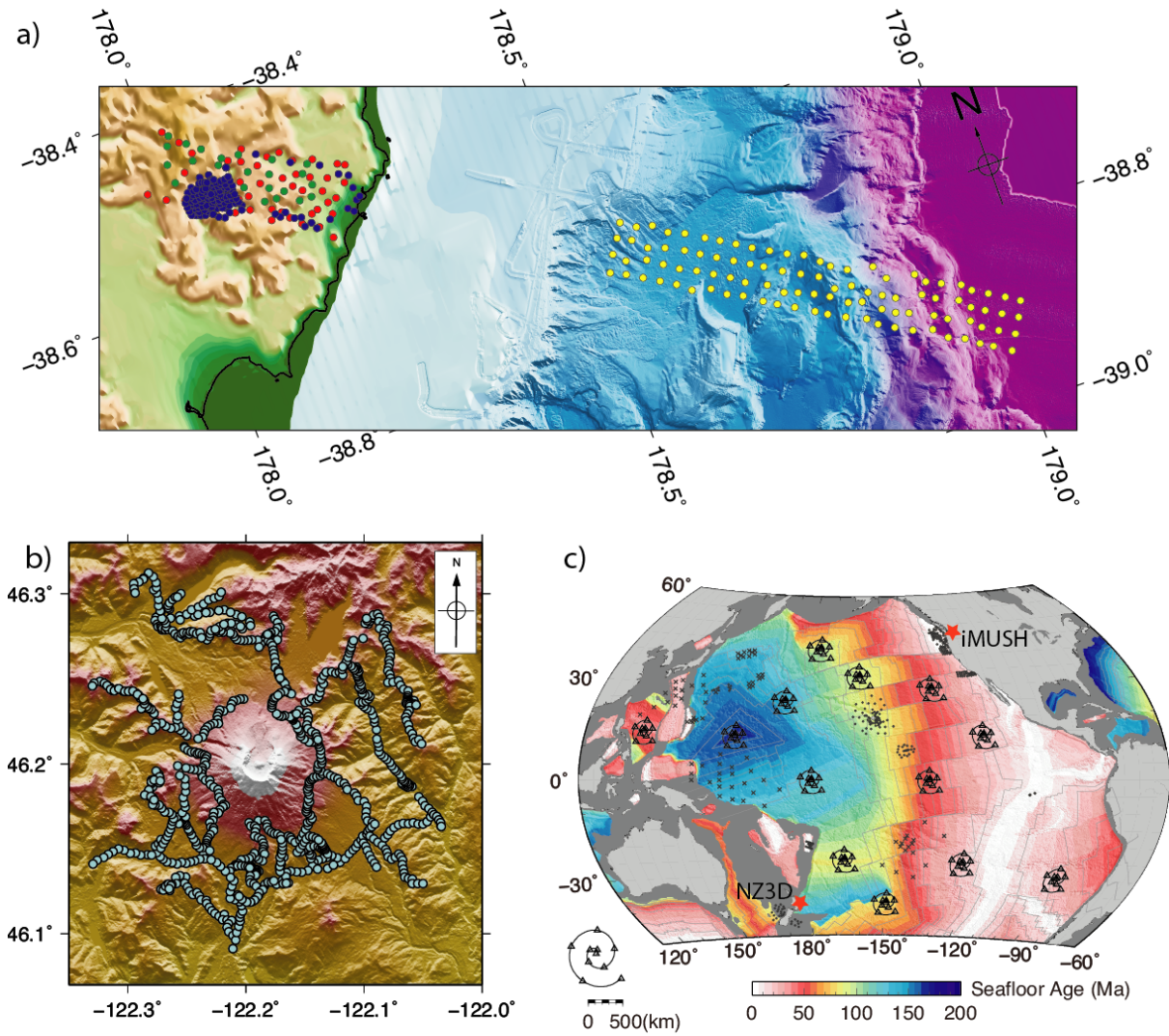


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590 Figure 1: a) The Worldwide Standardised Seismic Network (WWSSN) (after Peterson & Hutt,  
591 2014), b) The current Global Seismic Network, c) All seismic stations archived on the IRIS-DMC  
592 from 1980-2019.



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 594 Figure 2: a) The NZ3D FWI (New Zealand 3D Full Waveform Inversion) experiment. Yellow  
 595 circles show Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) owned  
 596 broadband OBS stations deployed form December 2017 – April 2018, red circles show SEISUK  
 597 owned broadband Guralp 6TD seismometers, green circles show Earthquake Research  
 598 Institute (ERI), University of Tokyo owned Geospace GSX nodes and blue circles show GIPP  
 599 owned DSS cube nodes (see <https://nz3dfwi.weebly.com> for more details of the project). (b)  
 600 The Mount St Helens nodal deployment as part of the iMUSH experiment (Hansen &  
 601 Schmandt, 2015). 904 nodes were deployed for a period of 2 weeks in July 2014. (c) The  
 602 proposed Pacific Array including 13 deployments consisting of 10 broadband OBS deployed in  
 603 a spiral form for good wavenumber coverage. Crosses and circles show existing OBS  
 604 deployments by Japanese and US scientists (after Hitoshi Kawakatsu, personal  
 605 communication). Red stars show the approximate locations of the iMUSH and NZ3D FWI  
 606 experiments.  
 607