



# SAO Explorer is blocked

out of security concerns, needs investment

07/19/2021

Good news: GIRO web portals are now open, please visit [giro.uml.edu](http://giro.uml.edu). Popular ionospheric weather services are:

- [FastChar](#) [fast ka:r] for ionogram-derived characteristics
- [GAMBIT Situation Room](#) for global weather report and IRTAM coefficients
- [DIDBase on the Web](#): ionogram images
- [Local Weather](#): 24-hour latest radio charts for HAM enthusiasts

GIRO science team most gratefully acknowledges hardware donations by Lowell Digisonde International that were required to retask server platforms and conduct necessary upgrades.

**Bad news: the expert-level interactive software tools SAO Explorer, GAMBIT Explorer, and Drift Explorer are unable to resume operations out of security concerns. A significant development and additional networking hardware is needed to satisfy tightened requirements in the aftermath of the cyber-attack on the University of Massachusetts Lowell.**

**If this situation is not resolved, the ionosonde data collection at GIRO site in Lowell may follow NOAA SPIDR fate and permanently close its expert-level access because of the unacceptable security risks operating it.**

**Lowell GIRO continues its everyday operations without financial support of the interested parties, with one notable exception:**

- **GAMBIT subscriptions to the real-time weather nowcast**

**GAMBIT subscription is a simple venue that does not require grant or contract paperwork. Similar to the journal subscriptions, it is arranged as a payment to an invoice.**

For commercial space weather applications, the subscription fee is set at \$9,995/yr. Discounted \$6,500 cost is offered to non-profit, educational, and governmental organizations. Access to historic data records of the weather computations for research and prototype testing continues to be free of charge. Additional details are available at <http://giro.uml.edu/GAMBIT/>

**Consider joining GAMBIT consortium to resolve the security issue at hand. Multiple options are available for Lowell GIRO to continue its operations and improve its accessibility and overall "experience index". Thank you.**

**Ivan Galkin**  
UMass Lowell: GIRO  
INAG Chair

**John Bosco Habarulema**  
SANSA, South Africa  
INAG Co-Chair

**Baiqi Ning**  
IGG CAS, Beijing, China  
INAG Co-Chair

and **Kehe Wang**, SWS BOM Australia, INAG Bulletin Editor

---

**Exit Note:** INAG would like to hear from you on your status and plans. To contribute an article to the INAG Bulletin please write to [bulletin@ursi-inag.org](mailto:bulletin@ursi-inag.org). Your article will be published to the URSI G.1 site and announced in this newsletter. To send a short note to INAG newsletter, simply reply to [chair@ursi-inag.org](mailto:chair@ursi-inag.org).

*Copyright © 2021 URSI Ionosonde Network Advisory Group, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email as a member of the URSI Working Group G.-1

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

---

This email was sent to [kehe.wang@bom.gov.au](mailto:kehe.wang@bom.gov.au)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

URSI Ionosonde Network Advisory Group · URSI Secretariat, c/o INTEC Ghent University · Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 41 · Ghent B-9000 · Belgium

