

## RAMP

REMOTE ATMOSPHERIC MEASUREMENTS PROGRAM

To he Surface Air Sampling Program, part of EML's Global Sampling Network, has been in continuous operation since 1963, supplying the scientific community with basic data used to assess nuclear fallout, accidental releases of radioactivity, and levels of naturally occurring radionuclides, such as <sup>7</sup>Be and <sup>210</sup>Pb, in the surface air.



At each site, particulates from large volumes of air are collected on polypropylene filters. Traditionally, these filters were returned to the laboratory (EML) for gamma-ray analysis. However, delays in receiving samples from distant or weathered-in sites, and the relatively short half-lives of some radionuclides of interest, suggested the development of an on-site analysis system.

# EML's Global Network

In the mid 1980s the first RAMP system was developed, and in 1987, four such systems were installed in the South Pacific. These units, which are still operating, use a sodium iodide detector and multichannel analyzer (MCA) in a temperature controlled enclosure. Pseudo computer operation is achieved with customized ROMs, and the data is batch transmitted via Argos satellites in about 24 hours.



### EVL

For special situations calling for maximum sensitivity and minimum transmission time, a third generation system was built. Based on a mechanically cooled germanium detector, this computerized system can transmit detailed spectral data in 7 hours using the geostationary Meteosat satellite network.

In those applications requiring minimum human intervention, a totally automatic and unattended system -AUTORAMP- has been developed. This unit is particularly suited to continuous monitoring applications, such as nuclear decontamination and decommissioning operations or CTBT treaty verification.

#### Features:

- on-site analysis with rapid data transmission
- ▲ simple to operate computer menu choices
- ▲ no routine maintenance (long operating history)
- operates anywhere on standard residential power
- reliable satellite transmission but can use modem/phone if desired
- required manpower of less than 30 minutes/week (none for AUTORAMP)
- battery backup of 5-7 hours
- initial setup takes only a few hours
- 2' x 4' footprint or 2' x 2' if stacked

#### **Germanium RAMP System**







#### Stations:

- Perth, Australia
- Cape Grim, Tasmania
- A Norfolk Island, South Pacific
- Lower Hutt, New Zealand
- Palmer Station, Antarctica
- Marsh, Antarctica
- ▲ Mawson, Antarctica
- Reunion, Indian Ocean
- Pretoria, South Africa
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Marion Island, South Indian Ocean
- ▲ New York City, USA (2 units)
- Pinedale, Wyoming (retired)
- ▲ Eielson AFB, Alaska (retired)
- Turkmenistan, Asia (retired)
- A Cocoa Beach, Florida



floppy disk. It also reduced

data transmission time.