

-Site Inspection in a Mountainous Environment: Lessons from a Recent Field Test

Tuesday, 20 June 2023 10:34 (1 minute)

The conduct of an on-site inspection (OSI) in an area other than flat has been considered as an additional challenge to the intrinsically demanding characteristics of such a mission. An effort has been made in the past by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) to identify those difficulties that are particular to the conduct of an OSI in a mountainous environment and to develop appropriate solutions, but always as part of theoretical exercises. The Field Test of geophysical techniques for the detection of deep observables conducted in the Austrian Ybbstal Alps in September 2022 represented the first OSI field activity ever conducted in a pure alpine environment. The Field Test served to understand the current capabilities of the PTS to solve the technical and operational issues faced in such an arduous setting. This paper lists the challenges encountered during the planning and execution of the Field Test, describes the actions taken to mitigate them, and identifies lessons to be learned for the successful conduct of future OSI activities in mountainous areas.

Promotional text

The challenges of conducting an on-site inspection in a mountainous environment.

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Oral preference format

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Session Classification: Lightning talks: P1.2-1, P3.1, P3.4, P4.5

Track Classification: Theme 4. Sustainment of Networks, Performance Evaluation, and Optimization: T4.5 On-Site Inspection Team Functionality