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42: COVID-19 breakdown Operation and Maintenance constrains in the Azores Islands

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Located on the island of Graciosa, Azores, the infrasound station's (IS42) operation and management (O&M) activities are carried out by two station operators, a local operator and IVAR technical staff. The operation is carried out remotely from the IVAR facilities, located on the São Miguel Island. Inspection and preventive maintenance are carried out at 15-day intervals by the local operator and bimonthly by a station operator. This is performed annually by both operators, IVAR staff and subcontracted companies. Air travel between São Miguel and Graciosa last two hours, including Terceira island.

The first COVID-19 active case occurred in the Azores on March 15. On the nine islands with 243 000 inhabitants and initially only one with a limited yet COVID-19 capable health care infrastructure, the Government of the Azores implemented restrictive measures to mitigate the virus propagation and monitored the related epidemiology. The IVAR also implemented restrictive actions in its contingency plan. Those constraints included, among others, closure of public and private services; confinement of visitors and residents; establishment of sanitary fences; suspension of air links, etc.

We present here a timeline of the active cases, the related constraints and O&M actions taken, with the PTS support, to guarantee the mission capability of the station.

Promotional text

In a remote archipelago, with limited health system response to the COVID-19, where regional authorities have taken very restrictive measures to mobility and access to IS42 station infrastructures, a timeline shows how O&M activities have been adapted to keep Mission Capability.

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