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# **DESCRIPTION OF THE 406-MHz PAYLOADS USED IN THE COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR SYSTEM**

C/S T.003  
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**DESCRIPTION OF THE 406-MHz PAYLOADS USED  
IN THE COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR SYSTEM**

**History**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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The Cospas-Sarsat space segment consists of the Cospas and Sarsat satellites and their respective search and rescue (SAR) payloads. The SAR payload consists of the SAR repeaters (SARR), SAR processors (SARP) and SAR antennas. The Cospas satellites and SAR payloads are provided by Russia. The Sarsat satellites and SAR antennas are provided by USA and Europe. The Sarsat SARR and SARP are provided by Canada and France respectively.

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the performance parameters of each generation of the Cospas and Sarsat payloads and of the downlink signals for nominal operational satellites. This document is intended to be used to ensure the interoperability of the Cospas and Sarsat satellites and to sufficiently define the downlink to ensure compatible design of LUTs. This document is not intended to be used as a specification for the procurement of hardware for the space segment.

### **1.2 Scope**

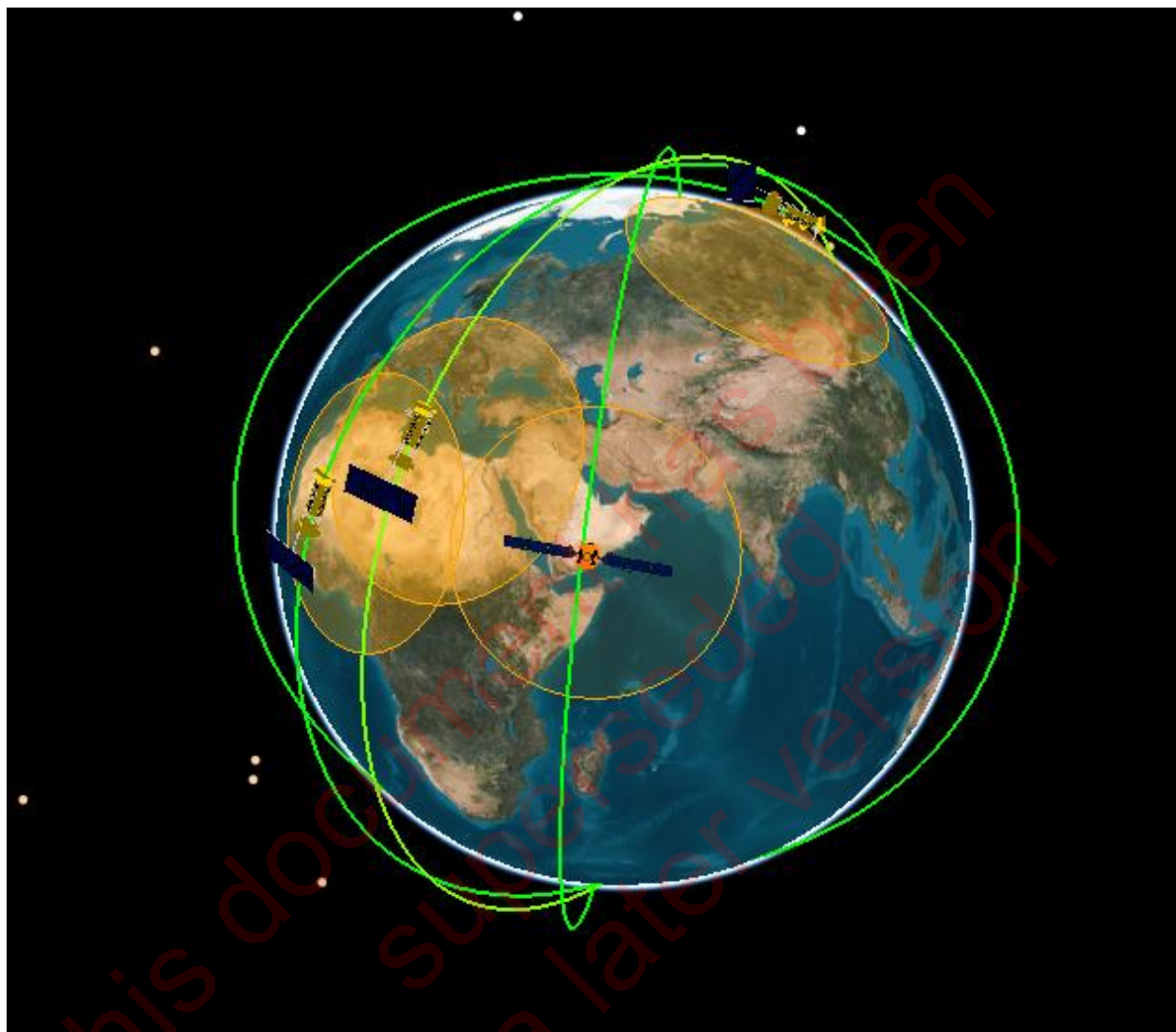
This document presents the technical definition and parameters of the Cospas-Sarsat space segment. It is divided into the following sections, where part 1 of each section covers Cospas payloads and part 2 covers Sarsat payloads:

- a) section 2 describes the Cospas and Sarsat payloads and the interoperability parameters;
- b) section 3 gives the technical parameters of all repeaters;
- c) section 4 gives the technical parameters of all processors; and
- d) section 5 gives the technical parameters of all antennas.

### **1.3 Reference Documents**

- a) C/S G.003 : Introduction to the Cospas-Sarsat System;
- b) C/S S.011 : Cospas-Sarsat Glossary;
- c) C/S T.001 : Specification for Cospas-Sarsat 406 MHz Distress Beacons;
- d) C/S T.002 : Cospas-Sarsat LEOLUT Performance Specification and Design Guidelines; and
- e) C/S T.006 : Cospas-Sarsat Orbitography Network Specification.

**Figure 1-1 Illustration of Cospas and Sarsat LEOSAR Satellites**



Note: Under nominal operating conditions, the Cospas-Sarsat LEOSAR Space Segment consists of four satellites, two Cospas and two Sarsat, in near-polar orbit.

- END OF SECTION 1 -



## **2. COSPAS-SARSAT PARAMETERS**

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The payloads and interoperability parameters for the Cospas-Sarsat space segment are summarised in this section.

### **2.1 Cospas-Sarsat Payloads**

#### **2.1.1 Cospas-Sarsat Payload Summary**

The Cospas payload is composed of:

- a) a SAR repeater (SARR);
- b) a SAR processor (SARP); and
- c) uplink and downlink antennas.

The SARR provides local mode coverage for the 406 MHz band.

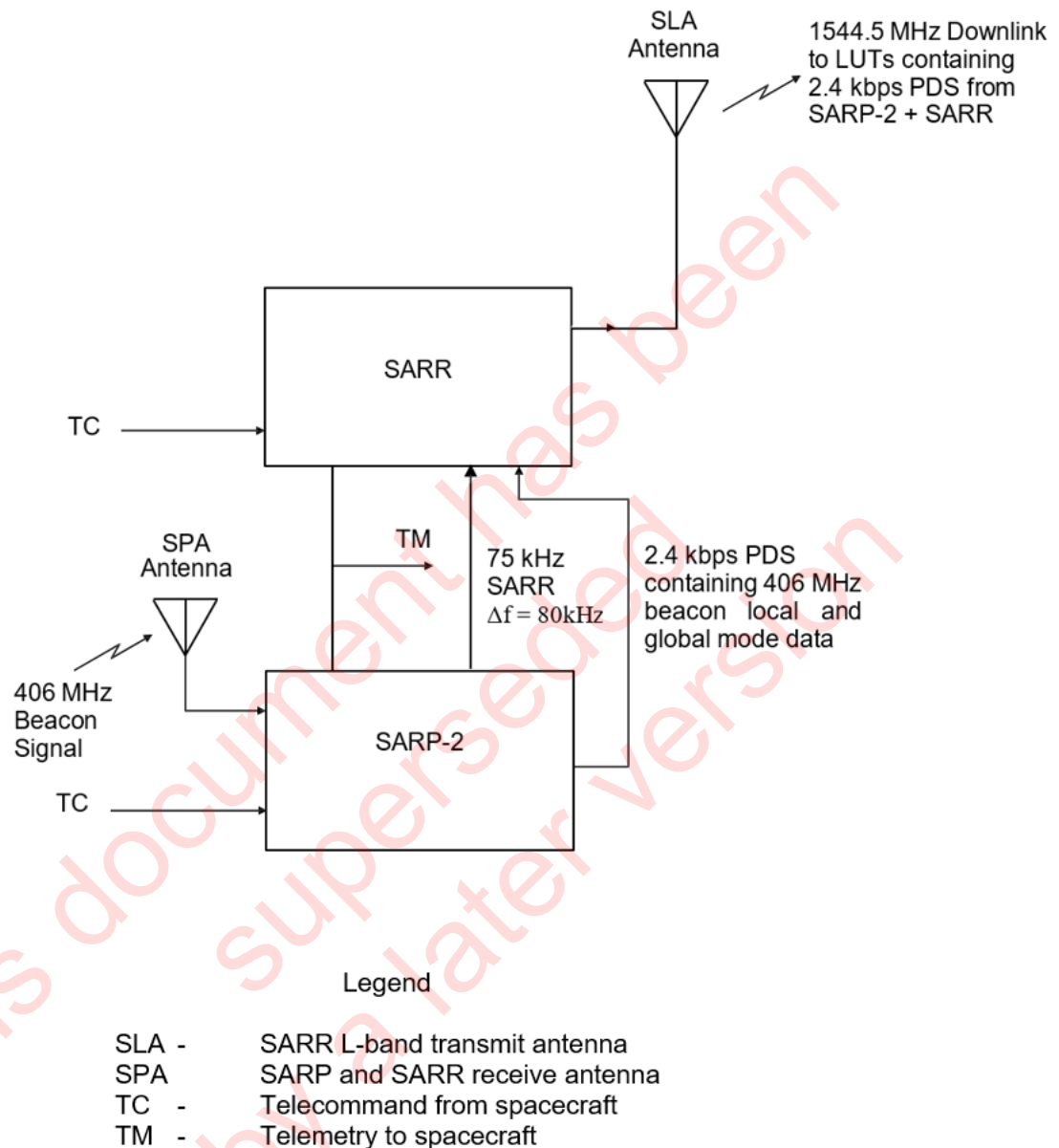
The SARP provides both local mode and global mode coverage for the 406 MHz band. Cospas satellites have an improved SARP with memory (SARP-2). Processed data is transmitted to the ground stations via the downlink transmitter.

Cospas SARR and SARP are described in sections 3.1 and 4.1 respectively. Processed data is transmitted to the ground stations via the downlink transmitter.

Antenna parameters are given in sub-section 5.1.

#### **2.1.2 Cospas Payload System Functional Diagram**

The Cospas payload system functional diagram is shown in Figure 2.1. The downlink signal from the SAR L-Band transmit Antenna (SLA) can be detected by any Cospas-Sarsat Local User Terminal in the LEOSAR satellite system (LEOLUT).

**Figure 2-1: Cospas-Sarsat System Functional Diagram**

## 2.2 Sarsat Payload

SARSAT payload descriptions in this document cover payloads on-board TIROS, METOP and the future SIDAR satellites.

The first generation of SAR Repeaters (SARR-1) is currently in service on TIROS and METOP satellites. The second generation of SAR Repeaters (SARR-2) will be on-board any future Sarsat-LEOSAR satellites and has been designed with the PDS channel exclusively.

The second generation of SAR Processors (SARP-2) is in service on TIROS satellites (Sarsat-7 to Sarsat-10). The third generation of SAR Processors (SARP-3) is in service on METOP-A (Sarsat-11), the last TIROS satellite (Sarsat-12), METOP-B (Sarsat-13) and any future Sarsat-LEOSAR satellites.

### **2.2.1 Sarsat Payload Summary**

The Sarsat payload is composed of:

- a) a SAR repeater (SARR);
- b) a SAR processor (SARP); and
- c) uplink and downlink antennas.

The SARR provides local mode coverage for the 406 MHz band and its parameters are given in sub-section 3.2 for SARR-1 and PDS only coverage as given in sub-section 3.3 for SARR-2.

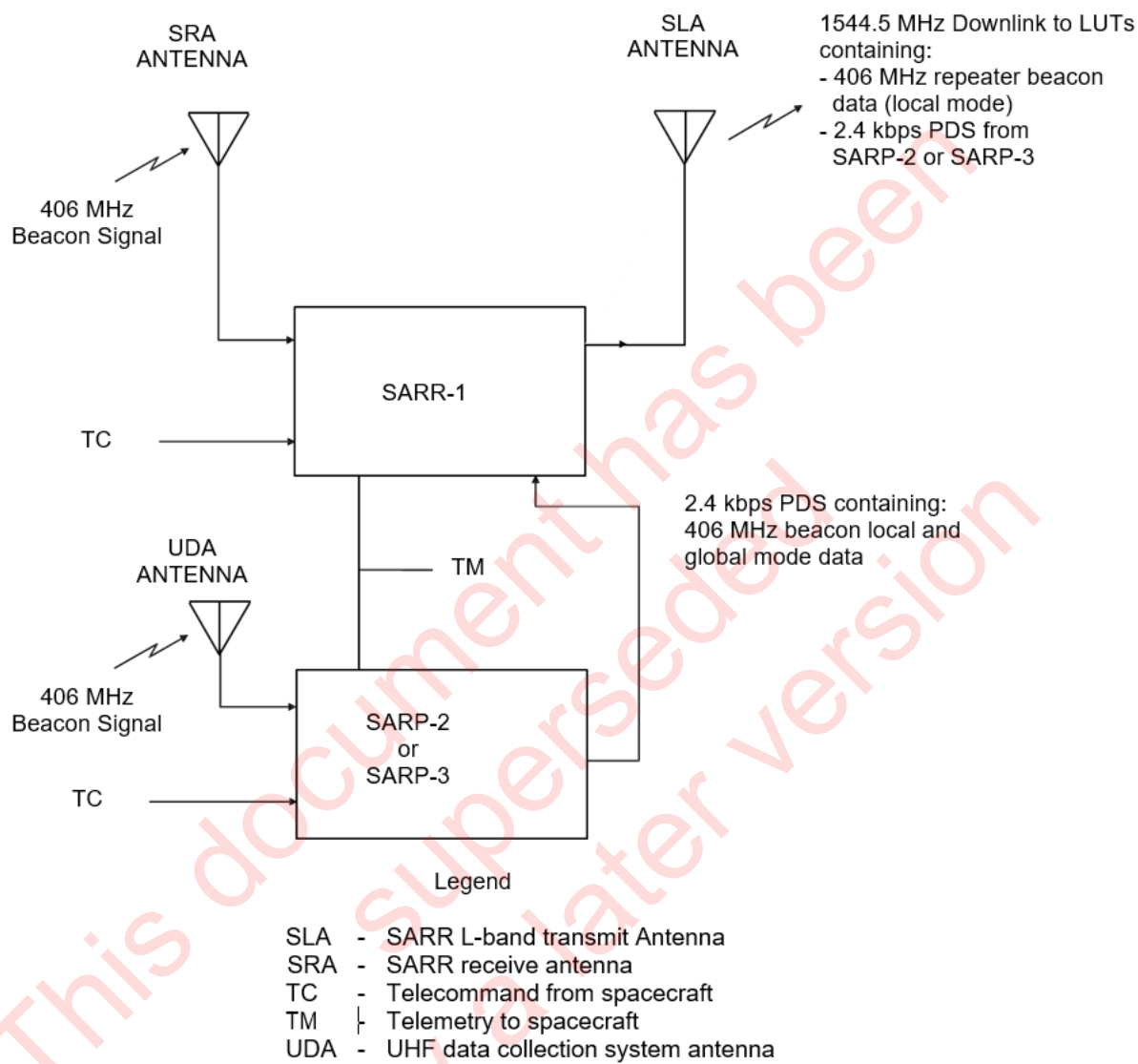
The SARP provides both local mode and global mode coverage for the 406 MHz band. Sarsat satellites may have one of two possible SARP configurations installed: SARP-2 or SARP-3. These processors are described in sub-sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 respectively. Processed data is transmitted to the ground stations by the repeater downlink transmitter.

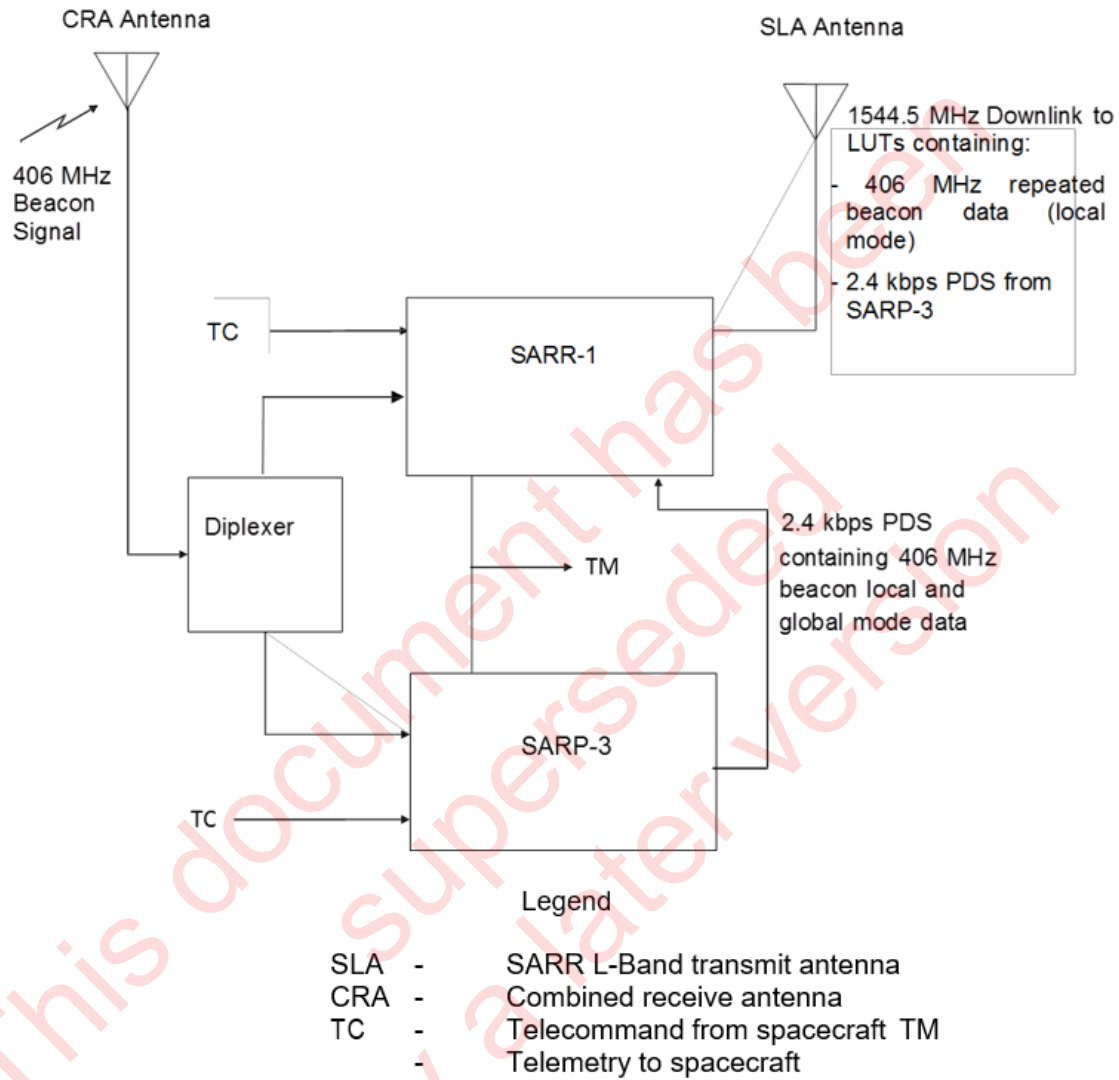
Antenna parameters for the payload are given in sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 for the TIROS, METOP and SIDAR satellites respectively.

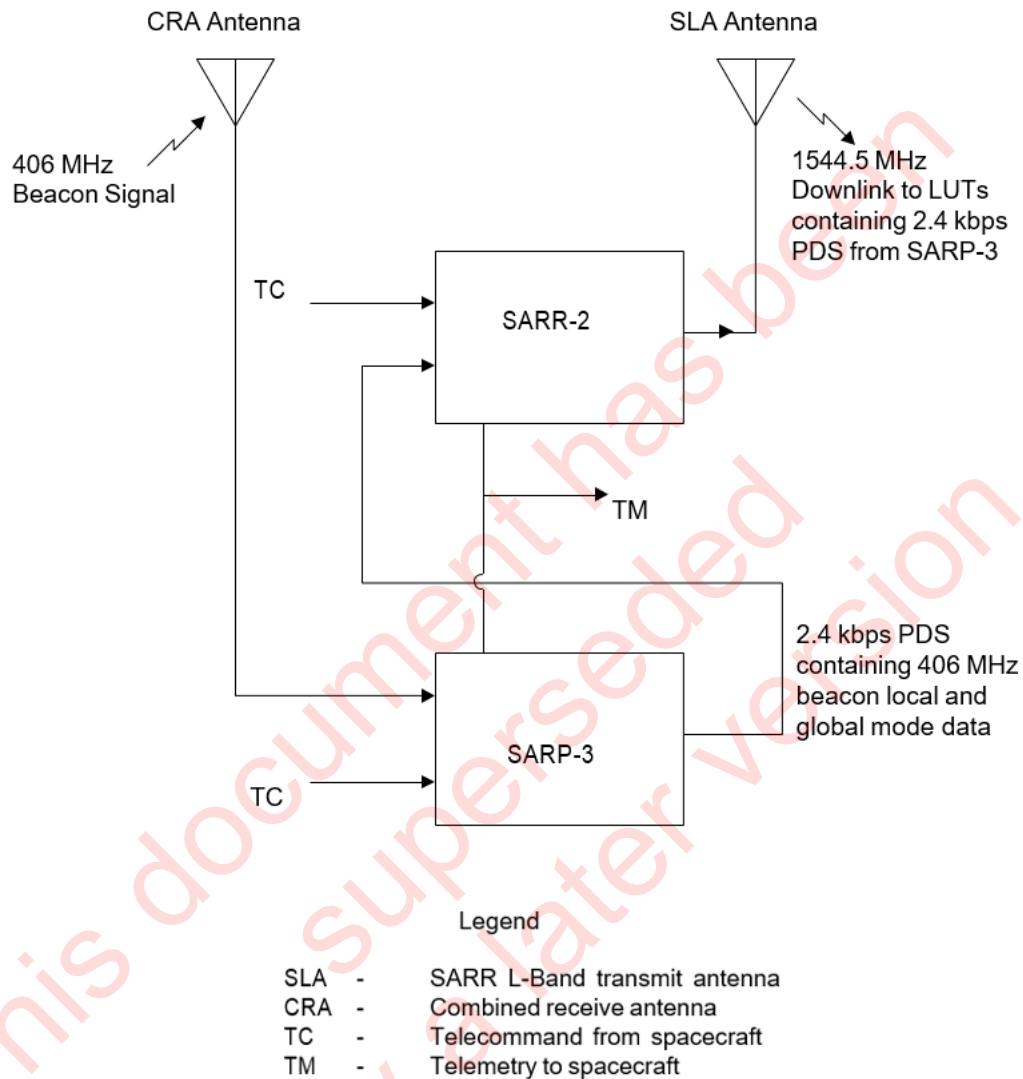
### **2.2.2 Sarsat Payload System Functional Diagram**

As shown on the Sarsat payload functional diagram in Figures 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, the 2.4 kbps digital data is routed directly to the SARR.

**Figure 2-2: Sarsat-TIROS Payload and Spacecraft Interface Functional Diagram with SARR-1 and SARP-2 or SARP-3**



**Figure 2-3: Sarsat-METOP Payload and Spacecraft Interface Functional Diagram with SARR-1 and SARP-3**

**Figure 2-4: Sarsat Payload and Spacecraft Interface Functional Diagram with SARR-2 and SARP-3**

## 2.3 Interoperability Parameters

### 2.3.1 Orbit Parameters

Basic orbital parameters for Cospas and Sarsat satellites are listed in Table 2.1. Each satellite is in a different orbital plane.

**Table 2.1: Cospas and Sarsat Satellites Orbital Parameters**

| Parameters   | Unit | Cospas on Meteor-M                    |  | Sarsat on TIROS           | Sarsat on METOP           |
|--------------|------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Orbit Type   | N/A  | Circular, Sun-Synchronous, Near-Polar |  | Circular, Sun-Synchronous | Circular, Sun-Synchronous |
| Altitude     | km   | 832 (mean value)                      |  | 833 to 870                | 800 to 850                |
| Inclination  | Deg  | 98.85                                 |  | 98.7 to 98.86             | 98.7                      |
| Period       | min  | 101.41                                |  | 101.35 to 102.12          | 100 to 101.7              |
| Eccentricity | N/A  | 0.00124                               |  | <0.001                    | 0.001165                  |

### 2.3.2 Input Parameters

Table 2.2 lists the functions that are provided by each type of satellite and identifies where they are described within this document.

**Table 2.2: Functions Provided by Cospas and Sarsat Satellites**

| Functions         | Cospas      | Sarsat                                       |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| 406 MHz Repeater  | Section 3.1 | Section 3.2 (SARR-1)<br>Section 3.3 (SARR-2) |
| 406 MHz Processor | Section 4.1 | Section 4.2                                  |

Table 2.3 lists input parameters for individual functions provided by the satellites.

**Table 2.3: Cospas and Sarsat Input Parameters**

| Parameters   | Unit               | Cospas           | Sarsat              |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>406 MHz Repeater:</b>                                       |                    |                  |                     |
| Centre Frequency   | MHz                | 406.05           | 406.05 (See note 4) |
| 1 dB Bandwidth   | kHz                | 80.0             | 80.0 (See note 4)   |
| Receiver Noise Temperature                                     | K                  | 600              | 350 (See note 4)    |
| S/C Antenna Polarisation                                       | N/A                | RHCP             | RHCP (See note 4)   |
| Nominal Background Noise                                       | K                  | N/A              | 1000 (See note 4)   |
| <b>406 MHz SARP Processor:</b>                                 |                    |                  |                     |
| Centre Frequency   | MHz                | See Note 1       | See Notes 2 and 3   |
| 1 dB Bandwidth   | kHz                | See Note 1       | See Notes 2 and 3   |
| Receiver Noise Temperature                                     | K                  | 600              | 300                 |
| Input Signal from Beacon                                       |                    |                  |                     |
| a. Power Flux Density:<br>(Nominal orbit) Maximum:<br>Nominal: | dBW/m <sup>2</sup> | -121.4<br>-142.4 | -120.0<br>-141.0    |
| b. Polarisation:   | N/A                | Linear/RHCP      | Linear/RHCP         |
| S/C Antenna Polarisation                                       | N/A                |                  | RHCP                |
| Nominal Background Noise                                       | K                  |                  | 1000                |

Note 1: SARP-2 allows selection of three different centre frequencies and bandwidths, as listed in Table 4.1.

Note 2: SARP-2 allows selection of three different centre frequencies and bandwidths, as listed in Tables 4.2 and 4.3.

Note 3: SARP-3 has a fixed bandwidth of 80 kHz centered at 406.050 MHz.

Note 4: SARR-1 only.

### 2.3.3 Output Parameters

Table 2.4 provides downlink signal parameters for each type of satellite. The modulation index given in the table for each channel is the Root-Mean-Square (RMS) value of the carrier phase deviation due to that channel. The composite modulation index (RMS) is equal to the square root of the sum of the squares of the individual channel modulation indices. The RMS values are related to other common methods of measurement as follows.

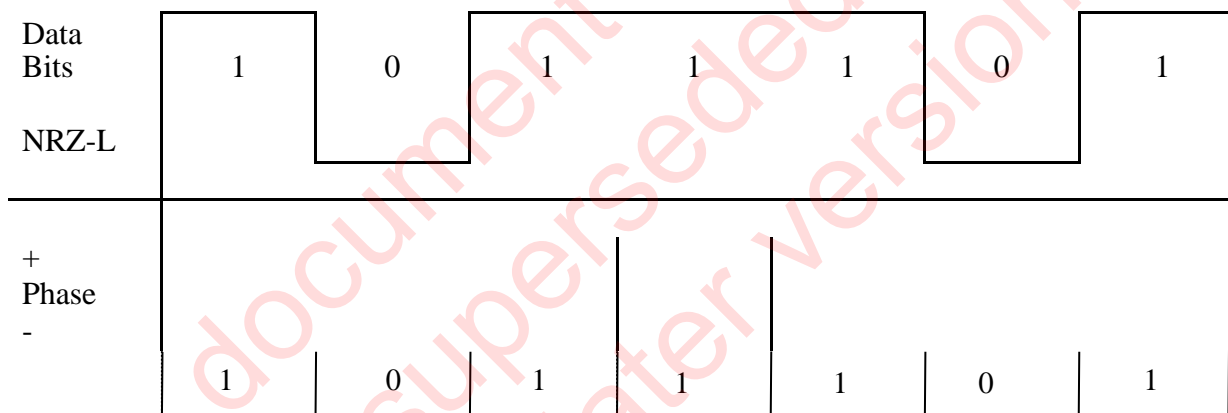


- a) For the Processed Data Stream (PDS) digital channel, the full excursion of the phase deviation, also called the peak-to-peak value, is two times the RMS value. The peak value equals the RMS value (i.e. signal is basically a square wave).
- b) For an analogue channel, when a single unmodulated carrier is present at a level sufficient to suppress the noise, the peak value of the deviation is approximately 1.414 times the RMS value (i.e. signal is basically a sine wave).

### 2.3.4 Biphase-L Data Encoding

A biphase-L data encoding scheme is used in the downlink for the processed 406 MHz data from processors. It is shown in Figure 2.5.

**Figure 2-5: Processed Data Encoding Scheme**



Notes:

Biphase-L is defined as a transition occurring at the centre of every bit period.

Symbol "1" is transmitted as:

" + phase": the first part of the bit

" - phase": the second part of the bit; and

Symbol "0" is transmitted as:

" - phase": the first part of the bit

" + phase": the second part of the bit

**Table 2.4: Cospas and Sarsat Output Parameters**

| Parameter   | Unit      | Cospas                  | Sarsat SARR-1 | Sarsat SARR-2  |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Transmitted Signal                                  |           |                         |               |                |
| Centre Frequency                                    | MHz       | 1544.5                  |               |                |
| Nominal Power Output of Transmitter                 | W         | 4.0                     | 7.2           | 4.0 EOL min    |
| Phase Jitter (in 50 Hz Bandwidth)                   | ° (RMS)   | ≤ 10                    |               |                |
| Occupied Bandwidth <sup>1</sup> (including Doppler) | kHz       | ≤ 800                   |               |                |
| Modulation Type                                     |           | Linear Phase Modulation |               |                |
| Nominal Composite Mod. Index                        | rad (RMS) | 0.69 to 0.87            | 0.70 ± 10%    | 0.347 to 0.476 |
| 406.05 MHz Repeater Channel Baseband                |           |                         |               |                |
| Centre Frequency                                    | kHz       | 75.0                    | 170.0         | N/A            |
| Frequency Translation                               | N/A       | Uninverted              | Uninverted    | N/A            |
| Nominal Modulation Index                            | rad (RMS) | 0.63 to 0.75            | 0.58 ± 10 %   | N/A            |
| 1 dB Bandwidth                                      | kHz       | 80                      | 80            | N/A            |
| PDS Channel   |           |                         |               |                |
| Bit Rate  | bps       | 2400 ± 0.1%             | 2400±0.5%     |                |
| Nominal Modulation Index                            | rad (RMS) | 0.28 to 0.44            | 0.39 ± 10%    | 0.347 to 0.476 |
| Data Encoding (see Figure 2.3)                      | N/A       | Biphase-L               |               |                |
| Doppler Measurement Accuracy <sup>2</sup>           | Hz (RMS)  | ≤ 0.35                  |               |                |
| Time Tagging Accuracy <sup>3</sup>                  | ms        | < 10                    |               |                |
| Frequency Measurement Period                        | ms        | 200                     | 120           |                |
| Prob. of Good Signal Processing                     | N/A       | > 0.99                  |               |                |

Note 1: The occupied bandwidth, defined by ITU Radio Regulation no. S1.153, remains within the 1,000 kHz allocated by the ITU in normal operating conditions.

Note 2: Both payloads are accurate and stable such that the value of the received frequency at the spacecraft can be determined to the indicated accuracy from the data received by the LUT and from equations provided in section 4.

Note 3: The Cospas satellites have an on-board clock providing absolute time which is maintained to the required accuracy. The SARP-2 and SARP-3 instruments on Sarsat satellites do not use an onboard absolute time clock. The absolute time tagging may be calculated by the ground stations using the on-board relative time scale and the time calibration (TCAL) routinely provided by the FMCC.

### 3. COSPAS-SARSAT REPEATERS

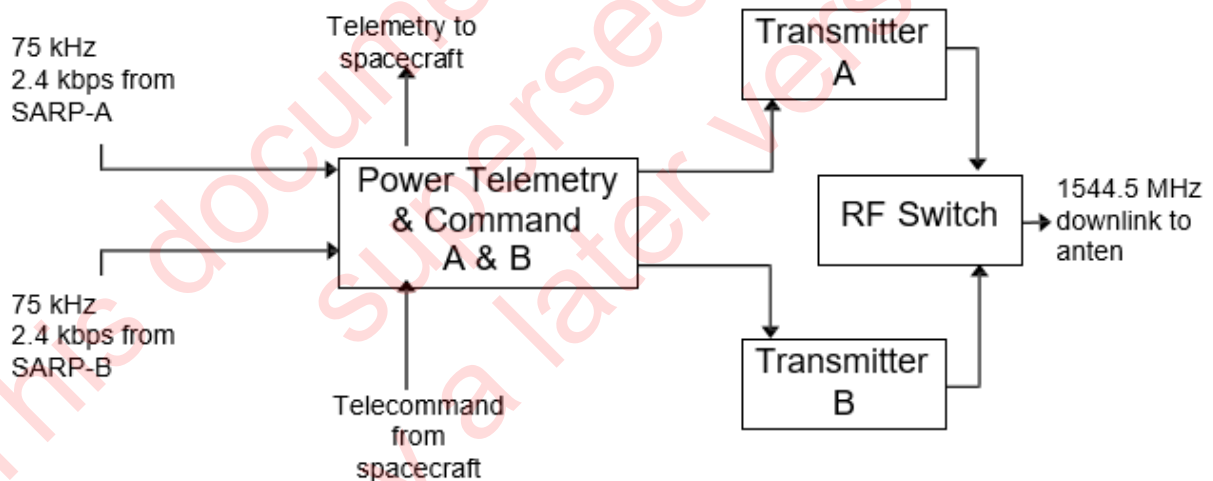
#### 3.1 Cospas Repeater

As shown in Figure 3.1, the Cospas SARR is redundantly configured and consists of the following units:

two 4.0 W phase modulated L-band transmitters; and  
two Power, Telemetry and Command (PTC) units.

Redundant units (A side and B side) are selected by commands from the ground which are processed by the PTC. The PTC also generates necessary voltages for the repeater system and contains interfaces to the spacecraft for all repeater telemetry and command channels.

**Figure 3-1: Cospas Repeater Functional Diagram**



A functional diagram of the Cospas transmitter is given in Figure 3.2. It employs a temperature controlled crystal oscillator. The linear modulator operates at a frequency of 386.125 MHz. After modulation, the output frequency is multiplied by 4 and the final amplification takes place on the 1544.5 MHz frequency.

Before entering the linear phase modulator, modulation signals are amplified by a wideband linear amplifier. There is a two-level limiter in this amplifier, which prevents the instantaneous value of the summed modulating signal to exceed a certain level.

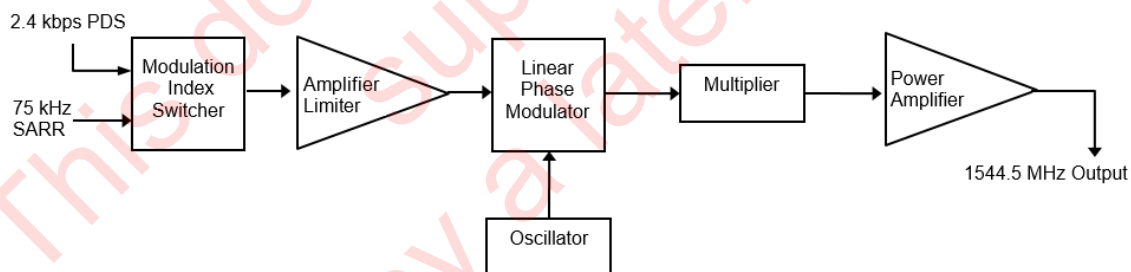
The modulation index adjustment is achieved by means of change of signal modulating voltage, which is subsequently passed to the input of the wideband linear amplifier.

The Cospas 1544.5 MHz transmitter parameters given in Table 3.1 are in addition to those given in section 2. The downlink signal observed on the ground is illustrated in Figure 3.3.

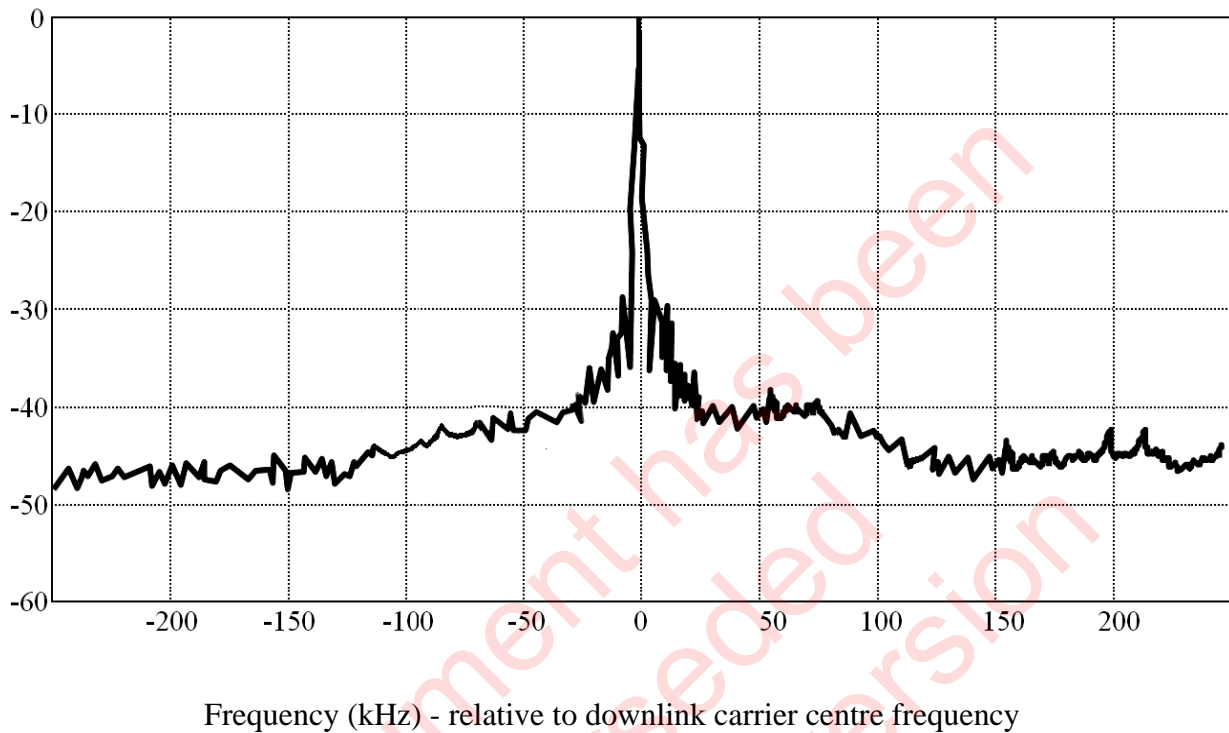
**Table 3.1: Cospas 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Parameters**

| Parameters                      | Unit        | Values              |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Downlink Baseband Spectrum      | N/A         | Figure 3.3          |
| Incidental AM                   | %           | $\leq 5$            |
| Spurious Output Level           | dBW         | $\leq -60$          |
| Frequency Stability             |             |                     |
| Long term (5 yr.):              | kHz         | $\pm 1.5$           |
| Medium term (15 min.):          | N/A         | $5 \times 10^{-8}$  |
| Short term (0.1 sec.):          | N/A         | $5 \times 10^{-10}$ |
| Maximum Modulation Index Level: |             |                     |
| PDS:                            | rad. (peak) | 0.92 (max. setting) |
| Composite:                      | rad. (peak) | 2.80 (hard limiter) |
| Amplitude Ripple                | dB          | $\leq 2.5$          |

**Figure 3-2: Cospas 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Functional Diagram**



Relative Signal Power (dB)

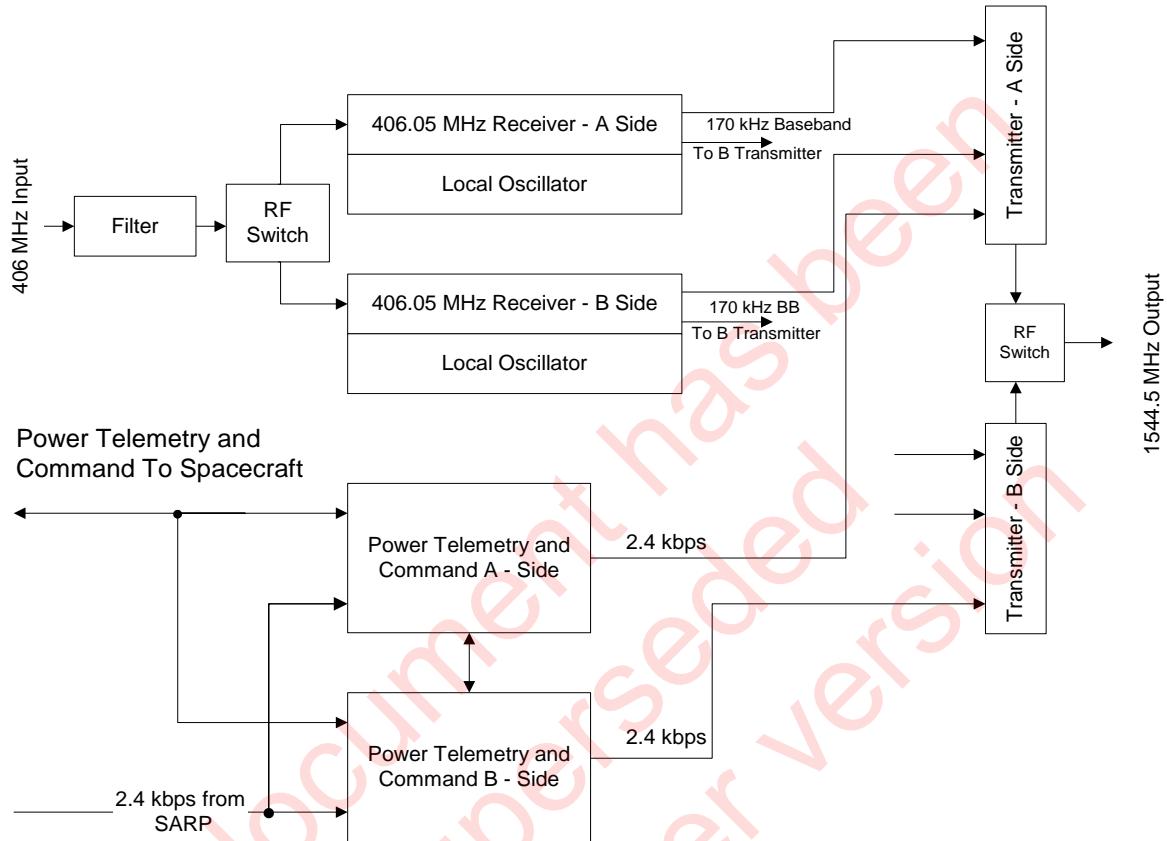
**Figure 3-3: Typical Cospas 1544.5 MHz Observed Downlink Signal**

### 3.2 Sarsat Repeater SARR-1 (Sarsat-13 and earlier)

As shown in Figure 3.4, the Sarsat SARR is redundantly configured and consists of the following units:

- a) two dual-conversion 406.05 MHz receivers (Sarsat-1,-2,-3 and -4 have only one 406.05 MHz receiver mounted on the A side);
- b) two 7.2 W phase modulated L-band transmitters; and
- c) two Power, Telemetry and Command units.

Redundant units (A side and B side) are selected by commands from the ground which are processed by the PTC. The PTC also generates necessary voltages for the repeater system and contains interfaces to the spacecraft for all repeater telemetry and command channels.

**Figure 3-4: Sarsat SARR-1 Functional Diagram**

### 3.2.1 Sarsat SARR-1 Receivers

As shown in Figure 3.5, the 406 MHz receiver contains AGC and provides two outputs to drive the two transmitters. The Sarsat SARR receiver parameters given in Table 3.2 are in addition to those given in section 2.

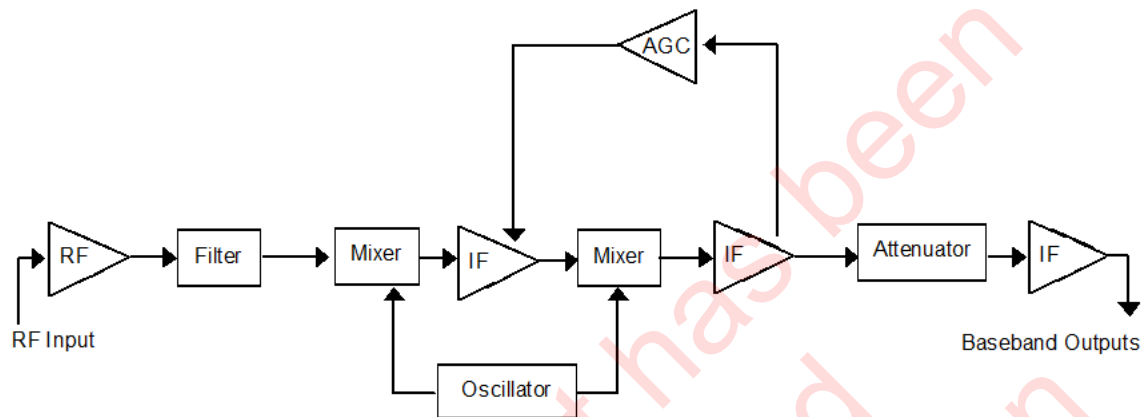
**Table 3.2: Sarsat SARR Receiver Parameters**

| Parameters                       | Unit   | Values for 406.05 MHz Receiver |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Nominal Input Level <sup>1</sup> | dBW    | -143                           |
| Maximum Input Level              | dBW    | -50                            |
| Dynamic Range                    | dBW    | -164.3 to -137.2               |
| Linearity                        | N/A    | Note 2                         |
| Group Delay Slope                | μs/kHz | 13                             |
| Image Rejection                  | dB     | 120                            |
| AGC Time Constant                | ms     | 10 - 85                        |
| AGC Dynamic Range <sup>3</sup>   | dB     | > 50                           |
| Transient Recovery Time          | ms     | < 2                            |
| Frequency Stability              |        |                                |
| Long term (2 yr.):               | N/A    | $1 \times 10^{-6}$             |
| Medium term (15 min.):           | N/A    | $1 \times 10^{-10}$            |
| Short term (1 sec.):             | N/A    | $1 \times 10^{-10}$            |

Note 1: Nominal input level for 406 MHz is defined as the nominal noise of 1000 K plus ten simultaneous signals, each of -147.6 dBW.

Note 2: With receivers in AGC mode and with nominal level settings, two out-of-band (for bandwidths in Figure 3.8) signals of -92 dBW at the receiver input, or two inband signals of -110 dBW, do not produce intermodulation products within the same baseband exceeding an output level of -170 dBW with respect to the receiver input.

Note 3: The peak modulation index limit of each repeater band is set such that any single inband signal of up to -110 dBW will not cause the composite modulation index limit to be reached before the AGC reduces the receiver output level back to nominal.

**Figure 3-5: Sarsat SARR Receiver Functional Diagram**

Medium term frequency stability (over a 15 minute period) for the receiver is given as:

Nominal Temperature:

Mean Slope:  $\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}/\text{minute}$   
Residual Noise:  $\leq 3 \times 10^{-10}$

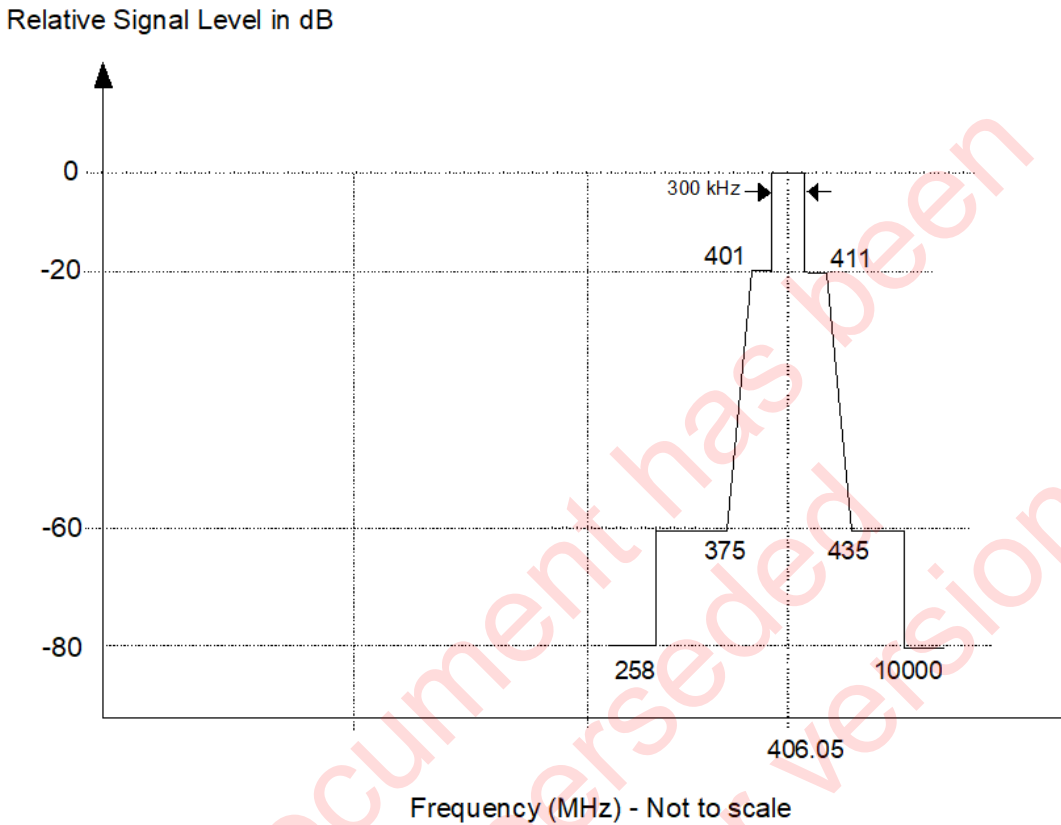
Full Temperature Range:

Mean Slope:  $\leq 1 \times 10^{-9}/\text{minute}$   
Residual Noise:  $\leq 3 \times 10^{-9}$

The baseband filtering characteristic for the 406 MHz channel is given in Figure 3.6. Signals at frequencies indicated are attenuated by the corresponding amount with respect to the 0 dB level. Within this band, the receiver provides gain for those frequencies which fall within the band as specified in Table 2.4.

Inband interfering signals in the band do not induce unwanted signals in the band exceeding -175 dBW referred to the input and do not cause the modulation index to exceed the maximum level.



**Figure 3-6: Sarsat SARR Receiver Bandpass Characteristics**

### 3.2.2 Sarsat SARR-1 1544.5 MHz Transmitter

As shown in Figure 3.7, each one of the transmitters has four inputs; one for each of the two 406 MHz receivers, one for the PDS channel and one spare.

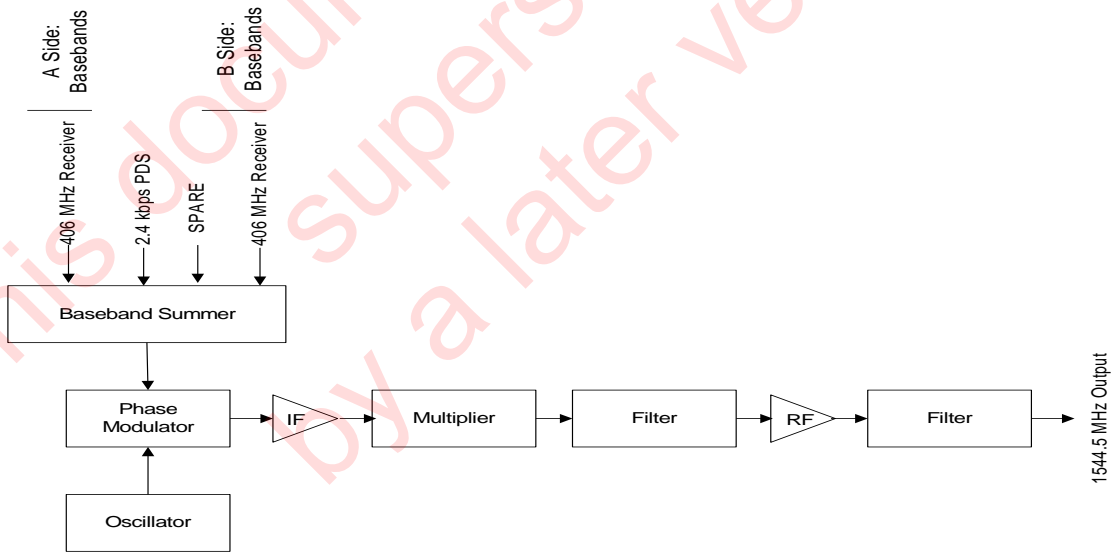
Sarsat transmitter parameters given in Table 3.3 below are in addition to parameters given in section 2. The downlink baseband frequency spectrum and an example of the signal observed on the ground are given in Figures 3.8 and 3.9.

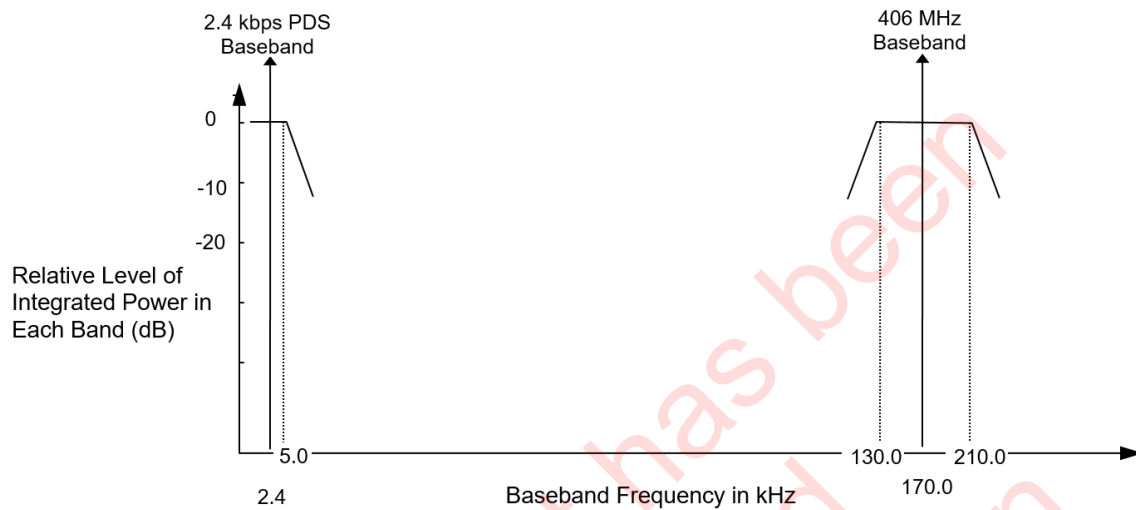
When the receiver input is illuminated by a sinusoidal signal at the maximum frequency and level, and by the processed data stream, no single discrete sideband is produced which exceed the limits shown in Figure 3.10. Noise-like emissions do not exceed the levels specified in Figure 3.10.

With a receiver in AGC mode and nominal level setting, spurious output in the demodulated downlink spectrum do not exceed -175 dB with respect to a receiver input.

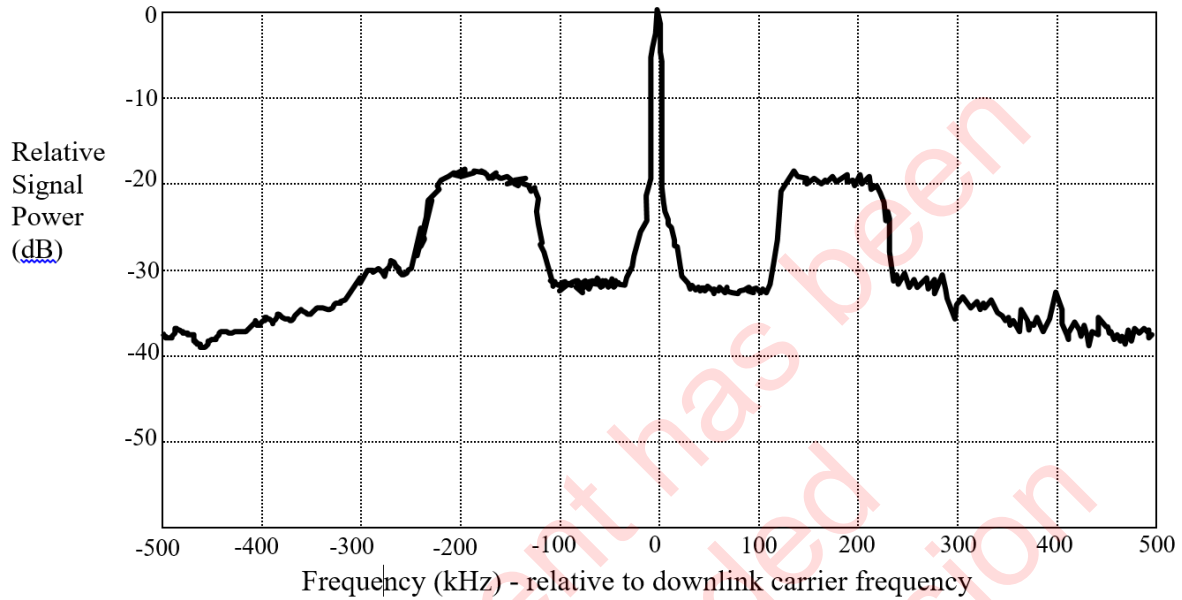
**Table 3.3: Sarsat SARR-1 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Parameters**

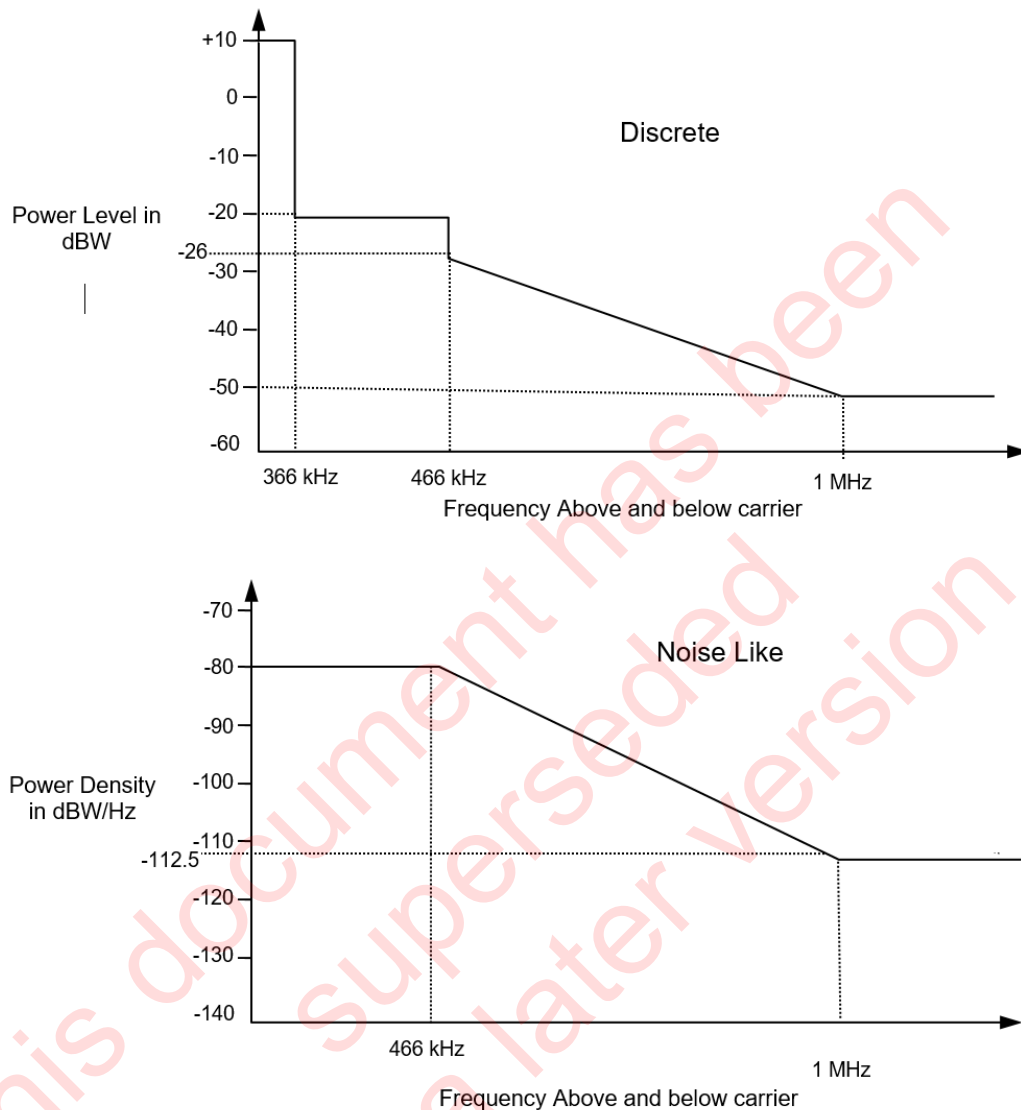
| Parameters  | Unit                                      | Values  |
|---|---|---|
| Downlink Baseband Spectrum  | N/A                                       | Figures 3.8 and 3.9   |
| Incidental AM   | %   | $\leq 5$  |
| Spurious Output Level   | dBW                                       | Figure 3.10   |
| Frequency Stability<br>Long term (2 yr.):<br>Medium term (15 min.):<br>Short term (1 sec.): | kHz<br>N/A<br>N/A                         | $\pm 3.2$<br>$\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}$<br>$\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}$ |
| Maximum Modulation Index Level:<br>406.05:<br>PDS:<br>Composite:                            | rad. (peak)<br>rad. (peak)<br>rad. (peak) | 1.30 (hard limiter)<br>0.39 (max. setting)<br>2.10 (hard limiter) |
| Amplitude Ripple  | dB  | $\leq 2.5$  |

**Figure 3-7: Sarsat SARR-1 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Functional Diagram**

**Figure 3-8: Sarsat SARR-1 Baseband Frequency Spectrum**

Note: Drawing not to scale and bandwidths given are 1 dB bandwidths

**Figure 3-9: Typical Sarsat SARR-1 1544.5 MHz Observed Downlink Signal**

**Figure 3-10: Sarsat SARR Transmitter Spurious Emission Limits**

### 3.3 Sarsat Repeater SARR-2 (Sarsat-14 and after)

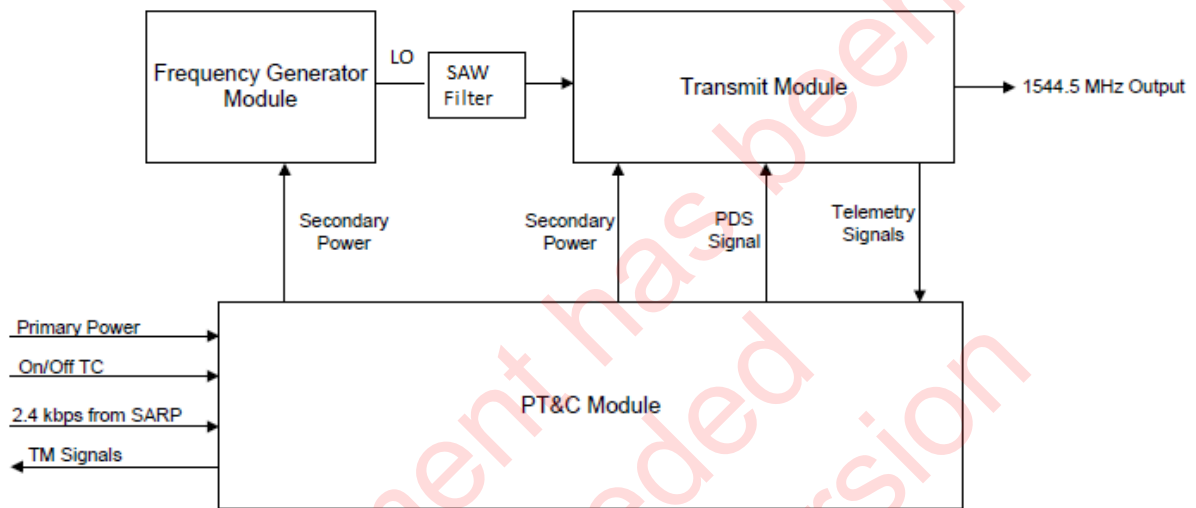
As shown in Figure 3.11, the Sarsat SARR-2 consists of the following modules:

- one Power, Telemetry and Command (PT&C) module;
- one Frequency Generator module;
- one SAW filter; and
- one phase modulated L-band transmitter module.

### 3.3.1 SARR-2 Power, Telemetry and Command

The PT&C generates necessary voltages for the repeater system and contains the interfaces to the spacecraft for the repeater telemetry and command channels.

**Figure 3-11: Sarsat SARR-2 Functional Diagram**



### 3.3.2 SARR-2 Frequency Generator

In SARR-2, a portion of the transmitter has been separated into a module of its own. The module consists of a stable 10MHz reference and synthesizer to generate the L-Band (1544.5 MHz) carrier. This L-Band LO is then supplied to the phase modulator in the Transmit module where the baseband signal is modulated onto the carrier. The Sarsat SARR-2 transmitter functional diagram is presented in Figure 3.12 and includes the functionality in the frequency generator module.

### 3.3.3 SARR-2 SAW FILTER

The SAW filter is placed between the frequency generator and the transmitter modules on the LO/Carrier signal path. The SAW filter is a band-pass filter used to reduce the out of band spurious and noise emission levels from the frequency generator module.

### 3.3.4 Sarsat SARR-2 1544.5 MHz Transmitter

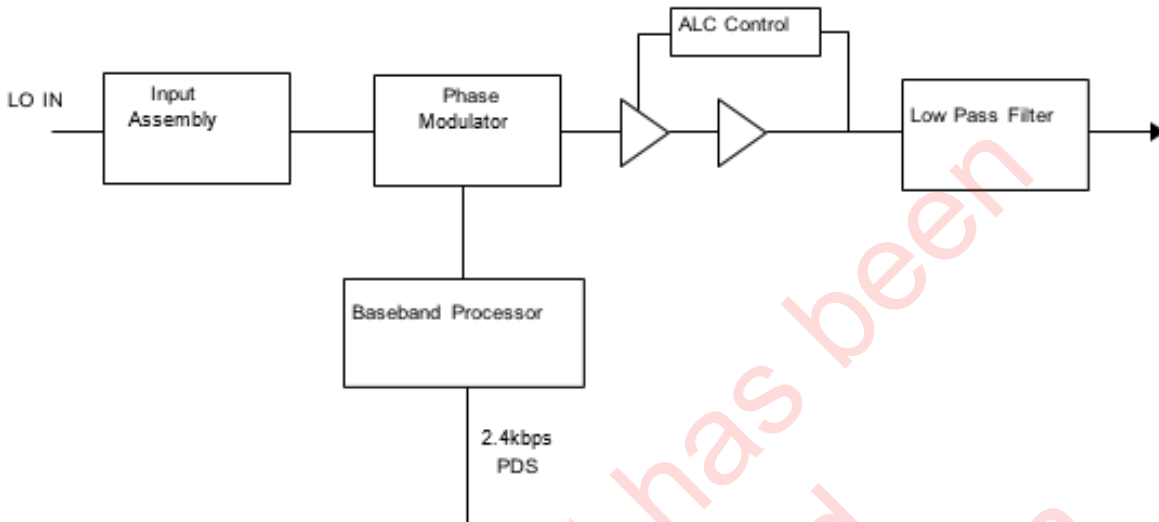
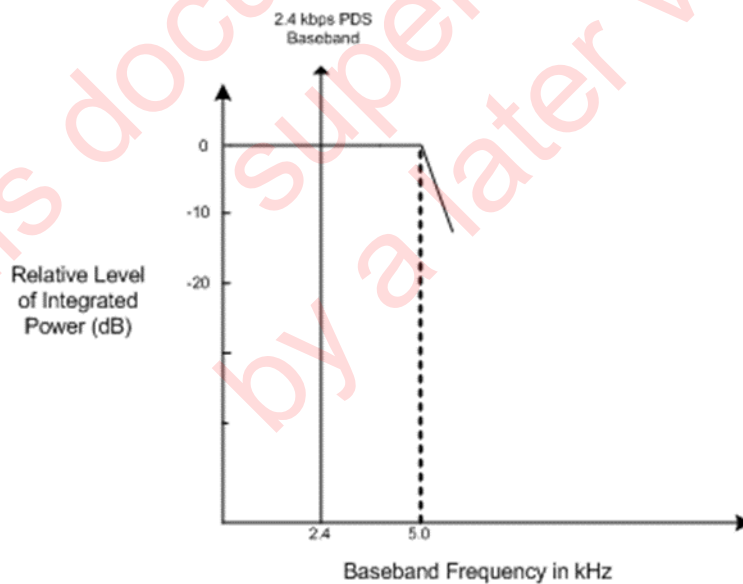
The Sarsat SARR-2 transmitter Functional Diagram is presented in Figure 3.12. The transmitter module has two inputs; one for the PDS channel and one for the L-Band LO input from the SAW filter.

Sarsat SARR-2 transmitter parameters given in Table 3.4 below are in addition to parameters given in section 2. The downlink baseband frequency spectrum and an example of the signal observed on the ground are given in Figures 3.13 and 3.14.

When the processed data stream is present, no single discrete sideband is produced which exceeds the limits shown in Figure 3.10. Noise-like emissions do not exceed the levels specified in Figure 3.10, excluding the near/in-band frequency range of  $1544.5 \pm 10$  kHz, and the range  $F_c \pm 10$  kHz to  $F_c \pm 100$  kHz. Noise-like emissions do not exceed -60dBW/Hz for the range  $F_c \pm 10$  kHz to  $F_c \pm 100$  kHz.

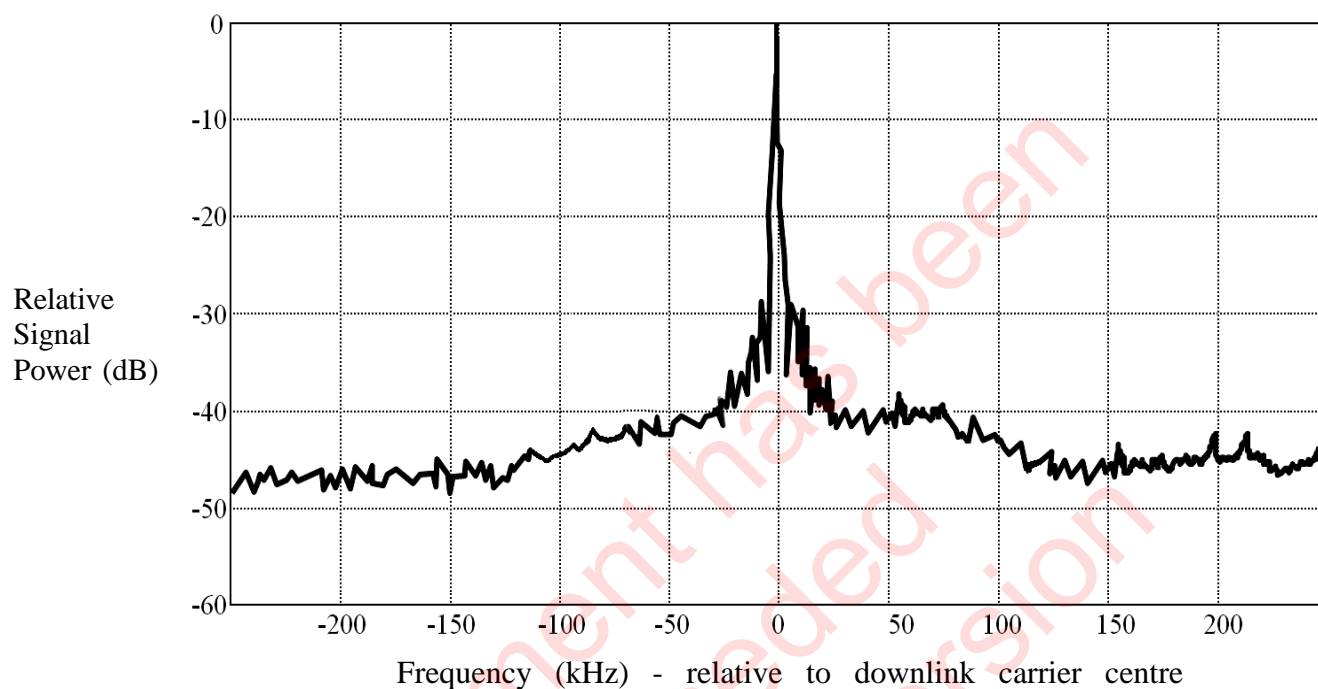
**Table 3.4: Sarsat SARR-2 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Parameters**

| Parameters  | Unit              | Values  |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Downlink Baseband Spectrum  | N/A               | Figures 3.13 and 3.14   |
| Incidental AM   | %                 | $\leq 5$  |
| Spurious Output Level   | dBW               | Figure 3.10 with exceptions for noise-like emissions stated above |
| Frequency Stability<br>Long term (7 yr.):<br>Medium term (15 min.):<br>Short term (1 sec.): | kHz<br>N/A<br>N/A | $\pm 3.2$<br>$\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}$<br>$\leq 1 \times 10^{-10}$ |
| Maximum Modulation Index Level:   | rad. (peak)       | 0.7 (hard limiter)  |
| Amplitude Ripple  | dB (peak to peak) | $\leq 2.5$  |

**Figure 3-12: Sarsat SARR-2 1544.5 MHz Transmitter Functional Diagram****Figure 3-13: Sarsat SARR-2 Baseband Frequency Spectrum**

Note: Drawing not to scale and bandwidths given are 1 dB bandwidths



**Figure 3-14: Typical Sarsat SARR-2 1544.5 MHz Observed Downlink Signal**

- END OF SECTION 3 -

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## **4. COSPAS-SARSAT SARPs**

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### **4.1 Cospas SARP**

The Cospas SARP is composed of a Receiver Processor, a Frame Formatter (FF) and a memory unit. Each Cospas SARP is redundantly configured.

The following satellites contain the indicated SARPs which are described in this document:

Cospas-13: SARP-2

Cospas-14: SARP-2

Cospas satellites C-1 to C-10 have been decommissioned from service. Cospas satellites C-11 and C-12 were not commissioned due to technical problems.

The SARP-2 has improved performance in system capacity, bandwidth and protection against interferers. Both long and short messages are supported by this processor.

Cospas SARP-2 parameters given in Table 4.1 are in addition to those given in section 2.

#### **4.1.1 Cospas SARP-2 Receiver Processor**

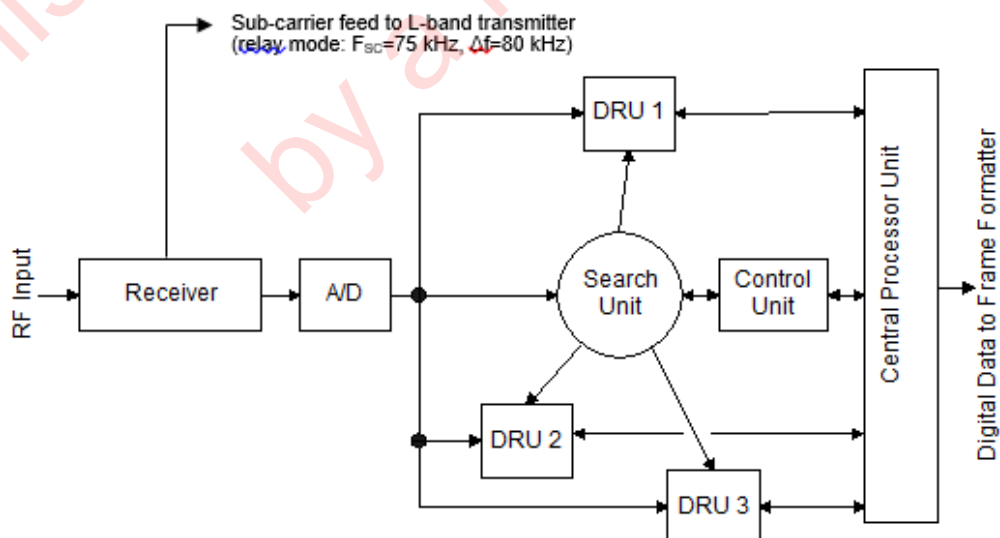
A functional diagram of the Receiver Processor is shown in Figure 4.1. The Receiver Processor unit is composed of the following:

- a) one dual-conversion receiver;
- b) one Analog to Digital (A/D) converter;
- c) one Search Unit;
- d) three Data Recovery Units (DRUs);
- e) one Control Unit;
- f) one Central Processor Unit; and
- g) Power, Telemetry and Command circuit

**Table 4.1: Cospas SARP-2 Parameters**

| Parameters  |                            | Unit             | Values                           |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Receiver Centre Frequency - (selectable)              | Mode 1<br>Mode 2<br>Mode 3 | MHz              | 406.0235<br>406.0300<br>406.0500 |
| Receiver Bandwidth (1 dB) - (selectable)              | Mode 1<br>Mode 2<br>Mode 3 | kHz              | 27<br>40<br>80                   |
| Receiver Dynamic Range                                |                            | dBW              | -161 to -138                     |
| Frequency Stability                                   |                            |                  |                                  |
| Long-term (5 yr.):                                    |                            | kHz              | $\pm 1.5$                        |
| Short-term (0.1 sec.):                                |                            | N/A              | $1 \times 10^{-10}$              |
| Frequency of sub-carrier (406 MHz signals relay mode) |                            | kHz              | 75.0                             |
| Bit Error Rate <sup>1</sup>                           |                            | N/A              | $< 1 \times 10^{-5}$             |
| Output Data Rate                                      |                            | bps              | 2,400                            |
| Time Measurement Increment                            |                            | ms               | 16                               |
| Ambiguity of Time Tagging                             |                            | Hrs              | 24                               |
| Number of DRUs  |                            | N/A              | 3                                |
| Memory Capacity                                       |                            | messages<br>bits | 2,000<br>460,800                 |
| Message Types Supported                               |                            | N/A              | Short and long                   |

Note 1: BER applies for signal level of -161 dBW and Receiver Noise Temperature of 600 K.

**Figure 4-1: Cospas SARP-2 Receiver Processor Functional Diagram**

The analog output of the receiver is converted into a digital form by the analog to digital converter. The search unit performs spectrum analysis to determine frequency

and amplitude. The spectrum analyser on commands from the ground, can analyze one of the three bands.

When a signal is detected, the central processor assigns that signal to a DRU. On commands from the central processor, the DRU performs signal acquisition and demodulation, and determines the Doppler frequency of the received signal.

In addition to controlling the functioning of the DRUs, the central processor also:

- assigns DRUs to beacon signals;
- checks the performance of the DRUs;
- performs self-testing; and
- sets the DRUs, on external command, to a special interference monitoring (pseudo-message) mode.

This SARP-2 uses a new algorithm to protect the instrument against interferers. It is designed to avoid a continuous assignment of DRUs to interferer signals, thus making them available to process beacon signals.

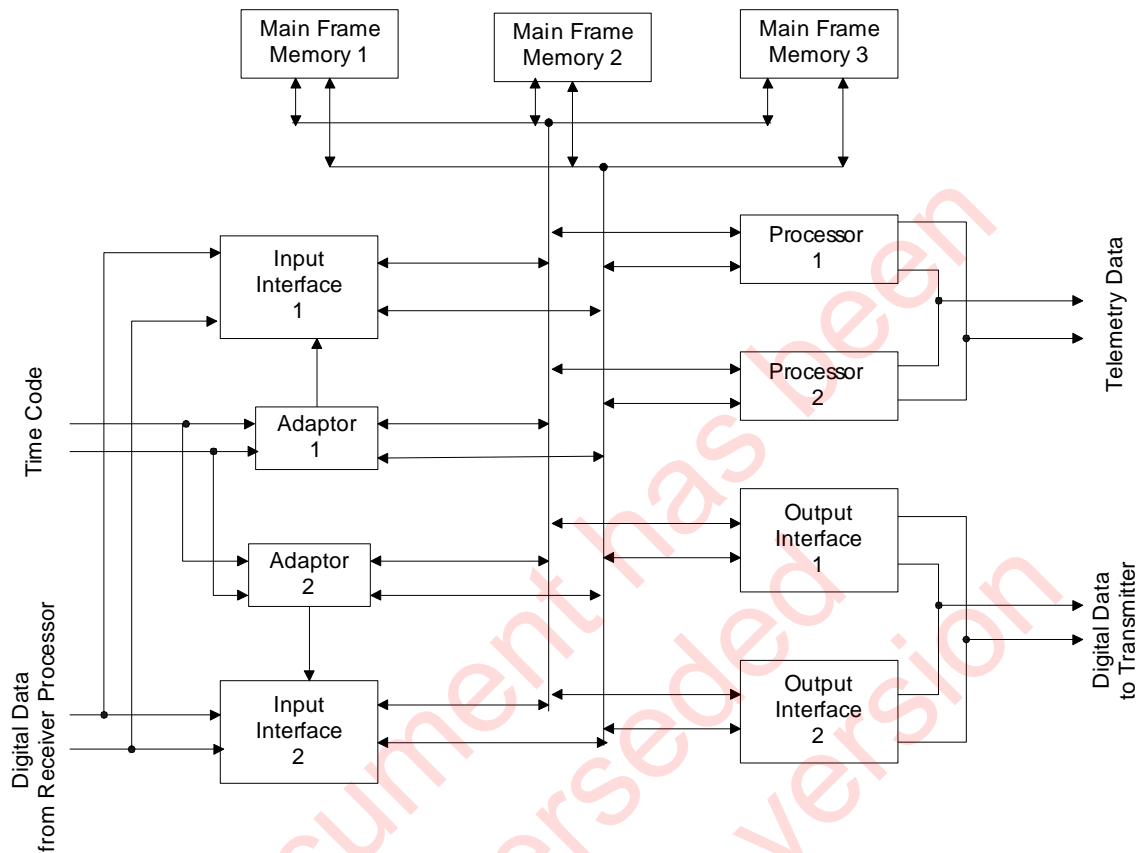
To locate an interferer which has a stable frequency, the Control Unit can enable, on command from the ground, all 3 DRUs to generate "pseudo-messages" (i.e. messages which do not have valid identification data, but do have valid time / frequency points), which can be specially processed by LUTs to locate interferers. Because all 3 DRUs are in this special mode at the same time, the reception of beacon signals is not guaranteed during this period."

The control unit performs the following functions:

- performance monitoring of the analogue receiver;
- check out of the analogue receiver performance as well as that of the spectrum analyser; and
- self checking.

#### **4.1.2 Cospas SARP-2 Frame Formatter**

A functional diagram of the Frame Formatter (FF) is shown in Figure 4.2. The FF accepts all messages received from the DRUs and recorded messages are passed continuously to the modulator of the transmitter.

**Figure 4-2: Cospas SARP-2 Frame Formatter Functional Diagram**

#### 4.1.3 Cospas SARP-2 Output Format

Beacon messages from the Cospas SARP-2 are transmitted in blocks of 25 words, as shown in the example of Figure 4.3.

Prime format rules are:

- Zero words '000001'(Hex) are inserted at the end of each short message as necessary;
- Word # 00 = always frame sync '42BB1F'(Hex);
- DRU words are sequential and not interleaved; and
- Long and short beacon messages can be mixed.

Bit formats for each type of message are shown in Figures 4.4 and 4.5. Words contain the following information:

Word 0: Sync word 'D60' (Hex) followed by 6 bits as described in the figures and then 6 bits of level and parity. The 5 bit received level is given by:

$$\text{Level (dBW)} = -161 + L$$

where L is the 5-bit level in decimal form.

Word 1: The Doppler count is followed by its parity bit. The Doppler frequency is given by:

$$F_d(\text{Hz}) = 62,500 \frac{N}{2^{22}} - 35,000$$

where N is the Doppler count in decimal form.

The frequency at the input of the satellite receiver,  $F_{in}$ , is given by:

$$F_{in}(\text{Hz}) = F_d + 406,010,000$$

Word 2: The time code followed by its parity bit. It is quantized in steps of 16 ms, synchronised with the beginning of the Doppler count and given as:

Hours (5 bits): Minutes (6 bits) : seconds(6 bits): 16 ms (6 bits)  
The time given is 2hr 59min and 59 sec ahead of UTC  
(i.e. UTC = Cospas time - 2:59:59)

Words 3 to 5: 72 bits of the beacon message.

Word 6a: Last 16 bits of beacon short message followed by 8 zeros.

Word 6b: 24 bits of beacon long message.

Word 7a: Zero word '000001' (Hex) for short message.

Word 7b: Last 24 bits of beacon long message.

**Figure 4-3: Example of a Cospas SARP-2 Output Message**

| Word | Word Content (Hex) |
|------|--------------------|
| 00   | 42BB1F             |
| 01   | D60...             |
| 02   | .....              |
| 03   | ..... Short        |
| 04   | ..... Message      |
| 05   | .....              |
| 06   | .....              |
| 07   | .....              |
| 08   | 000001             |
| 09   | D60...             |
| 10   | .....              |
| 11   | .....              |
| 12   | .....              |
| 13   | ..... Long         |
| 14   | ..... Message      |
| 15   | .....              |
| 16   | .....              |
| 17   | D60...             |
| 18   | .....              |
| 19   | .....              |
| 20   | .....              |
| 21   | ..... Long         |
| 22   | ..... Message      |
| 23   | .....              |
| 24   | .....              |
| 00   | 42BB1F             |

**Figure 4-4: Cospas SARP-2 Short Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB                 | Word Content(24 bits)   | LSB                     |
|--------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 0      | Sync word (12 bits) | pseudo (1b) DRU (2b) latest (1b) RT/PB (1b) Parity (1b) level (5b) Parity (1b)                  |                         |
|        | Notes:              | (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (5)   |                         |
| 1      |                     | Doppler count (23 bits)   | Parity (1 bit) (note 7) |
| 2      |                     | Time code (23 bits)<br>hours : minutes : seconds : 16 ms<br>(5 bits) (6 bits) (6 bits) (6 bits) | Parity (1 bit) (note 7) |
| 3      |                     | Format flag (1 bit)(note 6)   | Beacon data (23 bits)   |
| 4      |                     | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                         |
| 5      |                     | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                         |
| 6a     |                     | Beacon data (16 bits)   | 8 0's                   |
| 7a     |                     | 'zero word' (24 bits) = 000001 (hex)  |                         |

**Figure 4-5: Cospas SARP-2 Long Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB Word Content(24 bits) LSB   |                       |                    |                       |                       |                         |                      |                       |
|--------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 0      | Sync word<br>(12 bits)<br>Notes:  | pseudo<br>(1b)<br>(1) | DRU<br>(2b)<br>(2) | latest<br>(1b)<br>(3) | RT/PB<br>(1b)<br>(4)  | Parity<br>(1b)<br>(5)   | level<br>(5b)<br>(5) | Parity<br>(1b)<br>(5) |
| 1      | Doppler count (23 bits)   |                       |                    |                       |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 7) |                      |                       |
| 2      | Time code (23 bits)<br>hours : minutes : seconds : 16 ms<br>(5 bits) (6 bits) (6 bits) (6 bits) |                       |                    |                       |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 7) |                      |                       |
| 3      | Format flag (1 bit)(note 6)   |                       |                    |                       | Beacon data (23 bits) |                         |                      |                       |
| 4      | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                       |                    |                       |                       |                         |                      |                       |
| 5      | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                       |                    |                       |                       |                         |                      |                       |
| 6b     | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                       |                    |                       |                       |                         |                      |                       |
| 7b     | Beacon data (24 bits)   |                       |                    |                       |                       |                         |                      |                       |

Notes:

- (1) "0" = beacon message.
- (2) "01" = DRU1; "10" = DRU2; "11" = DRU3.
- (3) "1" = most recent message(playback); "0" = others.
- (4) "1" = real time message; "0" = playback message.
- (5) Parity bit on previous five bits: "1" = odd number of "1".
- (6) Format flag: "1" = long message; "0" = short message.
- (7) Parity bit in words 1 and 2: '1' with odd number of '1s' in the 23 bits of the Doppler count or the Time code.

## 4.2 Sarsat SARP

The following satellites contain the indicated SARPs which are described in this document:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sarsat-7: SARP-2  | Sarsat-8: SARP-2  |
| Sarsat-9: SARP-2  | Sarsat-10: SARP-2 |
| Sarsat-11: SARP-3 | Sarsat-12: SARP-3 |
| Sarsat-13: SARP-3 | Sarsat-14: SARP-3 |
| Sarsat-15: SARP-3 |                   |

The SARP instruments on Sarsat satellites Sarsat-1 to Sarsat-6 have been decommissioned from service.

### 4.2.1 Sarsat SARP-2

The functional diagram of the SARP-2 Processor is shown in Figure 4.6.

SARP-2 parameters given in Table 4.2 are in addition to those given in section 2.

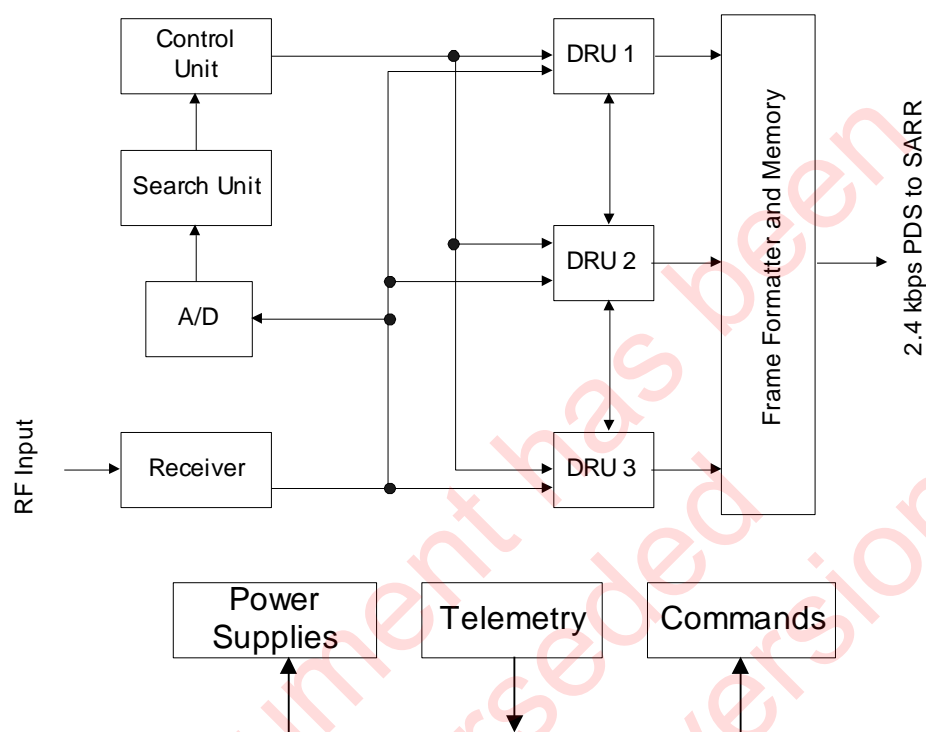


**Table 4.2: Sarsat SARP-2 Parameters**

| Parameters                                     |                            | Unit             | Values                           |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Receiver Centre Frequency - (selectable)       | Mode 1<br>Mode 2<br>Mode 3 | MHz              | 406.0235<br>406.0300<br>406.0500 |
| Receiver Bandwidth (1 dB) - (selectable)       | Mode 1<br>Mode 2<br>Mode 3 | kHz              | 27<br>40<br>80                   |
| Receiver Dynamic Range                         |                            | dBW              | -161 to -138                     |
| Bit Error Rate <sup>1</sup>                    |                            | N/A              | $< 1 \times 10^{-5}$             |
| Output Data Rate                               |                            | bps              | 2409                             |
| Time Measurement Increment                     |                            | ms               | 19.1 approx.                     |
| Ambiguity of Time Tagging                      |                            | Hrs              | 44.5 approx.                     |
| Signal Level Measurement Accuracy <sup>2</sup> |                            | dBm              | +/- 2.0                          |
| Signal Level Measurement Quantization          |                            | dBm              | 0.5                              |
| Number of DRUs                                 |                            | N/A              | 3                                |
| Memory Capacity (short or long messages)       |                            | messages<br>bits | 2048<br>400k approx.             |
| Message Types Supported                        |                            | N/A              | Short and long                   |

Note 1: BER applies for signal level of -161 dBW and Receiver Noise Temperature of 300 K.

Note 2: 1 to 2% of all signal level measurements provide erroneous information (i.e. the minimum allowable value is provided rather than the actual value).

**Figure 4-6: Sarsat SARP-2 Functional Diagram**

#### 4.2.1.1 Sarsat SARP-2 Receiver Processor

The SARP-2 instrument has improved performance in system capacity, bandwidth and protection against interferers.

Logic circuits using the Fast Fourier Transform algorithm perform signal searching by making a spectrum analysis of the receiver output (determination of frequency and level).

The receiver is a temperature-compensated, constant-gain receiver.

This processor uses a new algorithm to protect the instrument against interferers. It is designed to avoid a continuous assignment of DRUs to interferer signals, thus making them available to process beacon signals. To locate an interferer which has a stable frequency, the Control Unit can enable, on command from the ground, any one of the DRUs (but only at a time) to generate "pseudo-messages", (i.e. messages which do not have valid identification data, but do have valid time/frequency points), which can be specially processed by LUTs to locate interferers. The average time between pseudo- messages generated is at least 10 seconds. While the one DRU is in this special mode, the other two DRUs continue to process beacon signals as normal.

It has three DRUs to improve reliability and capacity of the system. Each DRU comprises a phaselock loop with new circuits that are mostly digital, a bit synchroniser using a new digital design and a formatter. The capacity of the memory has been

increased to approximately 400 kbits allowing the storage of up to 2048 messages (long or short or pseudo-messages) for global area coverage.

This instrument's mass memory operates similarly to the SARP-1 memory. The same five commands have the same effects.

The capacity of the memory has been increased to approximately 400 kbits to take into account the storage of pseudo-messages when the instrument is used to locate interferers. To simplify the hardware associated with the reading of the messages, all messages, short or long, are stored in the same number of addresses. A short message is followed by a zero word to occupy the same memory space as a long message.

#### 4.2.1.2 Sarsat SARP-2 Output Format

Beacon messages from the Sarsat SARP-2 are transmitted in blocks of 25 words as shown in the example of Figure 4.7.

Prime format rules are:

- a) Zero words '000001'(Hex) are inserted at the end of each short message as necessary;
- b) Word # 00 = always frame sync '42BB1F'(Hex); and
- c) If read continuous mode is active and if the oldest playback message has just been transmitted, a block of eight zero words will precede resumption of playback which will start with the first word of the most recently stored message.

The bit format for both length of message formats are shown in Figures 4.8 and 4.9, where the Most Significant Bit (MSB) of Word 0 is transmitted first. All words contain the following information:

Word 0: Sync word 'D60' (Hex) followed by 6 bits described in the figure and then the signal level. The received level is given by:

$$\text{Level (dBm)} = 0.564L - 140$$

where L is the 6-bit level converted to decimal form

Word 1: The time code is quantized in steps of 's' ms and synchronised with the beginning of the Doppler count. The last bit is a parity bit. The quantization is given by:

$$s = \frac{99\,360}{F_r} = \frac{99\,360}{5\,203\,205\text{ Hz}} \approx 19.096\text{ ms}$$

where  $F_r$  is frequency of oscillator (approx 5 203 205 Hz)

The UTC time  $T$  is given by:  $T = T_o + 2^{23}ks + s(M_d + 1)$

where  $s \approx 19.096\text{ ms}$  ( the resolution time of the counter);

$M_d$  = decimal value of the 23-bit on-board time code;

$T_o$  = UTC of an arbitrarily chosen reset to zero of the counter; and

$k$  = Number of resets to zero of the counter between time  $T_o$  and time  $T$ . The value of  $k$  is computed in ground processing, for each message, with a coarse estimate  $T_e$  of  $T$  as the integer part of:

$$\frac{(T_e - T_o)}{2^{23}s} \pm 1$$

The coarse estimate  $T_e$  can be obtained either by processing a time calibration beacon message from stored data or from the real time when processing local mode data. The time calibration beacon is described in C/S T.006.

Words 2 to 4: 72 bits of the beacon message.

Word 5a: Last 15 bits of beacon short message data followed by 9 zeros. Word 5b: 24 bits of beacon long message data.

Word 6a and 7b: 23-bit Doppler word with parity. The frequency at the input of the satellite receiver,  $F_{in}$ , is given by:

$$F_{in} = F_r ((aN) + b) \text{ Hz}$$

$$\text{where } a = \frac{1}{2^{19} \times 624} \approx 3.05664845002 \times 10^{-9};$$

$$b = 78 + \frac{1}{2^{26}} + \frac{16}{624} + \frac{15.5}{2^{24} \times 624} \approx 78.02564104137;$$

$F_r \approx 5\,203\,205\text{ Hz}$ ; and

$N$  = Doppler count in decimal form.

Word 6b: Last 23 bits of beacon long message data followed by one zero.

Word 7a: Zero word "000001 (Hex)".

For pseudo-messages, the 13<sup>th</sup> bit of Word 0 is set. Pseudo-messages are short messages, having the bit format shown in Figure 4.8, but the beacon data is replaced by:

Words 2, 3 and 4: 0000 1111 0000 1111 0000 1111

Word 5: 0000 1111 0000 1110 0000 0000

Note:  $F_r$  is the frequency of the SARP Ultra Stable Oscillator. LEOLUTs should use a recent estimate of the USO frequency, as provided in a recent SARP calibration message (SIT 415) or as calculated by the LEOLUT, for determining the time and frequency of the beacon burst.

$T_0$  is the UTC of an arbitrarily chosen time of reset to zero of the SARP time counter. For calculating the time of a beacon burst, LEOLUTs should use a recent  $T_0$  value as provided in a recent SIT 415 message or as calculated by the LEOLUT.

**Figure 4-7: Example of a Sarsat SARP-2 Output Message**

| Word | Word Content (Hex) |
|------|--------------------|
| 00   | 42BB1F             |
| 01   | D60...             |
| 02   | .....              |
| 03   | ..... Long         |
| 04   | ..... Message      |
| 05   | .....              |
| 06   | .....              |
| 07   | .....              |
| 08   | .....              |
| 09   | D60...             |
| 10   | .....              |
| 11   | .....              |
| 12   | .....              |
| 13   | ..... Short        |
| 14   | ..... Message      |
| 15   | .....              |
| 16   | 000001             |
| 17   | D60...             |
| 18   | .....              |
| 19   | .....              |
| 20   | .....              |
| 21   | ..... Long         |
| 22   | ..... Message      |
| 23   | .....              |
| 24   | .....              |
| 00   | 42BB1F             |
| 01   | D60...             |
| 02   | .....              |

**Figure 4-8: Sarsat SARP-2 Short Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB Word Content(24 bits) LSB        |                    |                 |                         |                         |                   |                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 0      | Sync word (12 bits)<br>Notes:        | pseudo (1b)<br>(1) | DRU (2b)<br>(2) | Format (1b)<br>(3)      | latest (1b)<br>(4)      | RT/PB (1b)<br>(5) | level (6b)<br>(6b) |
| 1      | Time code (23 bits)                  |                    |                 | Parity (1 bit) (note 6) |                         |                   |                    |
| 2      | Beacon data (24 bits)                |                    |                 |                         |                         |                   |                    |
| 3      | Beacon data (24 bits)                |                    |                 |                         |                         |                   |                    |
| 4      | Beacon data (24 bits)                |                    |                 |                         |                         |                   |                    |
| 5a     | Beacon data (15 bits)                |                    |                 |                         | 9 0's                   |                   |                    |
| 6a     | Doppler word (23 bits)               |                    |                 |                         | Parity (1 bit) (note 6) |                   |                    |
| 7a     | "zero word" (24 bits) = 000001 (hex) |                    |                 |                         |                         |                   |                    |

**Figure 4-9: Sarsat SARP-2 Long Message Bit Format**

| Word # | Word Content(24 bits)            |                       |                    |                         |                         |                      |                       | LSB |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 0      | Sync word<br>(12 bits)<br>Notes: | pseudo<br>(1b)<br>(1) | DRU<br>(2b)<br>(2) | Format<br>(1b)<br>(3)   | latest<br>(1b)<br>(4)   | RT/PB<br>(1b)<br>(5) | level<br>(6b)<br>(6b) |     |
| 1      | Time code (23 bits)              |                       |                    | Parity (1 bit) (note 6) |                         |                      |                       |     |
| 2      | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                    |                         |                         |                      |                       |     |
| 3      | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                    |                         |                         |                      |                       |     |
| 4      | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                    |                         |                         |                      |                       |     |
| 5b     | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                    |                         |                         |                      |                       |     |
| 6b     | Beacon data (23 bits)            |                       |                    |                         | zero bit (1 bit)        |                      |                       |     |
| 7b     | Doppler word (23 bits)           |                       |                    |                         | Parity (1 bit) (note 6) |                      |                       |     |

Notes :

- (1) "1" = pseudo-message; "0" = beacon message.
- (2) "01" = DRU1; "10" = DRU2; "11" = DRU3.
- (3) "1" = long message; "0" = short message.
- (4) "1" = most recent message(playback); "0" = others.
- (5) "1" = real time message; "0" = playback message.
- (6) Parity: "1" = odd number of "1s" in the 23-bit time code or the 23-bit Doppler code.

### 4.2.2 Sarsat SARP-3

The functional diagram of the SARP 3 Processor is shown in Figure 4.10.

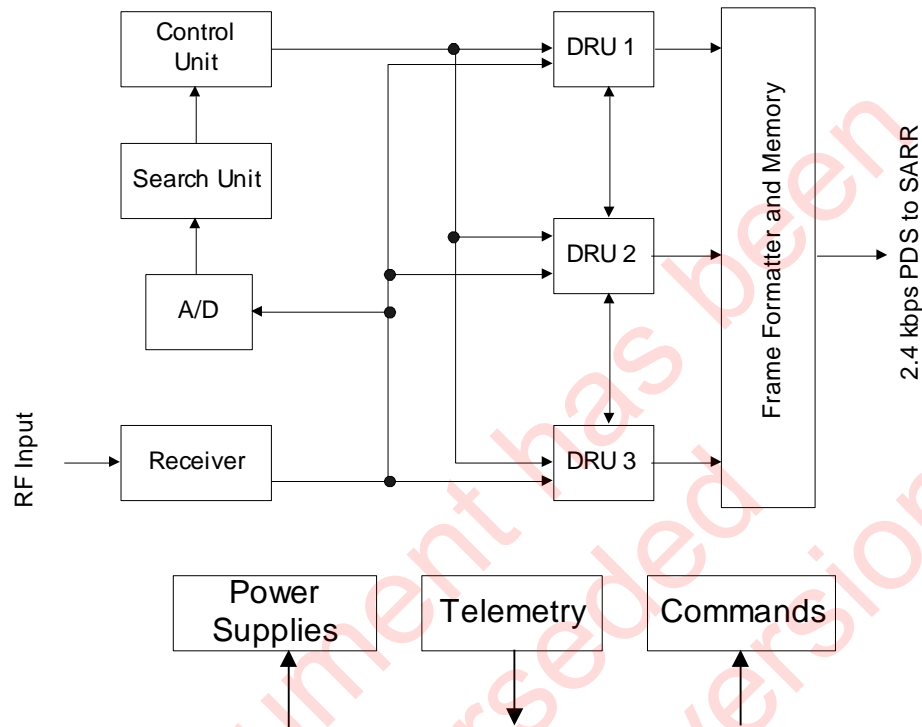
SARP-3 parameters given in Table 4.3 are in addition to those given in section 2.

**Table 4.3: Sarsat SARP-3 Parameters**

| Parameters                               | Unit             | Values                            |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Receiver Centre Frequency                | MHz              | 406.0500                          |
| Receiver Bandwidth (1 dB)                | kHz              | 80                                |
| Receiver Dynamic Range                   | dBW              | -164 to -138                      |
| Bit Error Rate (See Note 1)              | N/A              | $< 1 \times 10^{-5}$              |
| Output Data Rate                         | bps              | 2399.8                            |
| Time Measurement Increment               | ms               | 20 approx.                        |
| Ambiguity of Time Tagging                | Hrs              | 44.5 approx.                      |
| Signal Level Measurement Accuracy        | dBm              | TBD                               |
| Signal Level Measurement Quantization    | dBm              | TBD                               |
| Number of DRUs                           | N/A              | 3                                 |
| Memory Capacity (short or long messages) | messages<br>bits | 2048 (See Note 2)<br>400k approx. |
| Message Types Supported                  | N/A              | Short and long                    |

- Notes: 1. BER applies for signal level of -164 dBW and Receiver Noise Temperature of 300 K.  
2. The SARP-3 has a mode which increases the memory to 2,560 messages. This mode can only be activated on command by the payload provider.

SARP-3 processors will include a capability to process a new type of Cospas-Sarsat distress beacon that would enhance performance by providing a better link budget. Such beacons are not yet available for operational use, however, technical details on their modulation characteristics may be obtained from the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat.

**Figure 4-10: Sarsat SARP-3 Functional Diagram****4.2.2.1 Sarsat SARP-3 Receiver Processor**

The SARP-3 instrument has similar performance to the SARP-2 instrument. The basic structure of the format of the data it provides mimics the format provided by the SARP-2, however, there are a few minor changes in the position of some of the bits.

The digital processing employed by the SARP-3 enable it to provide the S/No of beacon messages that it processes. Also, on command from the satellite operator, the instrument can be commanded to transmit House-Keeping (HK) messages in the 2.4 kbps PDS data stream. These messages are transmitted for reception by the French ground segment and should be ignored by all other LEOLUTs. HK messages are identified by the following:

- a) Word 2 = 110 011 100 011 111 000 000 000; and
- b) the BCH code provided in words 4 and 5 is consistent with the data in words 2, 3, 4 and 5 that it protects.

The Sarsat SARP-3 HK message structure is provided at Figure 4.14.



#### 4.2.2.2 Sarsat SARP-3 Output Format

Beacon messages from the Sarsat SARP-3 are transmitted in blocks of 25 words as shown in the example of Figure 4.11.

Prime format rules are:

- a) Zero words 'H000001'(Hex) are inserted at the end of each short message as necessary;
- b) Word # 00 = always frame sync '42BB1F'(Hex);
- c) If read continuous mode is active and if the oldest playback message has just been transmitted, a block of eight zero words will precede resumption of playback which will start with the first word of the most recently stored message; and
- d) If no message must be transmitted (at the beginning when no message has been received or when the read continuous mode is inactive), blocks of eight zero words H000001 are transmitted.

Real time messages are transmitted approximately 15 seconds after their reception by the SARP.

The bit format for both length of message formats are shown in Figures 4.12 and 4.18, where the Most Significant Bit (MSB) of Word 0 is transmitted first. All words contains the following information:

Word 0: Sync word 'HD60' (Hex) followed by 6 bits described in the figure and then the signal level. The received level,  $P_e$ , is given by:

$$P_e \text{ (dBm)} = -140 + \text{LEVEL} * 0.55$$

where LEVEL is a value between 0 and 63 defined by final six bits in Word 0.

Word 1: The time code is quantized in steps of 's' ms and synchronised with the beginning of the Doppler count. The last bit is a parity bit. The quantization, which is assigned the variable value s in the equations below, is defined by:

$$s = \frac{200,000}{F_r} = \frac{200,000}{10^7 \text{ Hz}} \approx 20 \text{ ms}$$

where  $F_r$  is the exact frequency of oscillator (the nominal frequency of the oscillator is approx 10 MHz)

The UTC time T is given by:  $T = T_o + 223ks + s(M_d + 1)$

Where  $M_d$  = decimal value of the 23-bit on-board time code;

$T_o$  = UTC of an arbitrarily chosen reset to zero of the counter; and

$k$  = Number of resets to zero of the counter between time  $T_o$  and time  $T$ .

The value of  $k$  is computed in ground processing, for each message, with a coarse estimate  $T_e$  of  $T$  as the integer part of:

$$\frac{(T_e - T_o)}{2^{23} \text{ s}} \pm 1$$

The coarse estimate  $T_e$  can be obtained either by processing a time calibration beacon message from stored data or from the real time when processing local mode data. The time calibration beacon is described in C/S T.006.

Words 2 to 4: Message format followed by 71 bits of the beacon message.

Word 5a: Last 16 bits of beacon short message data followed by 8 zeros.

Word 5b: 24 bits of beacon long message data.

Words 6a and 7b: 23-bit Doppler word with parity. The frequency at the input of the satellite receiver,  $F_{in}$ , is given by:

$$F_{in} = \left( \frac{8121}{200} * F_o + \text{Doppler} * 0.015 \right) * \frac{F_r}{F_o}$$

where the nominal USO frequency,  $F_o = 10^7$  Hz

$F_r$  = exact frequency of the USO (if available)

Doppler = signed integer value between  $-2^{22}$  and  $+2^{22}-1$  defined by 23 bits with two's complement.

Word 6b: Last 24 bits of beacon long message data.

Word 7a: Zero word "H000001 (Hex)".

Note:  $F_r$  is the frequency of the SARP Ultra Stable Oscillator. LEOLUTs should use a recent estimate of the USO frequency, as provided in a recent SARP calibration message (SIT 415) or as calculated by the LEOLUT, for determining the time and frequency of the beacon burst.

$T_o$  is the UTC of an arbitrarily chosen time of reset to zero of the SARP time counter. For calculating the time of a beacon burst, LEOLUTs should

use a recent  $T_o$  value as provided in a recent SIT 415 message or as calculated by the LEOLUT.

**Figure 4-11: Example of a Sarsat SARP-3 Output Message**

| Word | Word Content (Hex) |
|------|--------------------|
| 00   | 42BB1F             |
| 01   | HD60...            |
| 02   | .....              |
| 03   | .....              |
| 04   | .....              |
| 05   | .....              |
| 06   | .....              |
| 07   | .....              |
| 08   | .....              |
| 09   | HD60...            |
| 10   | .....              |
| 11   | .....              |
| 12   | .....              |
| 13   | .....              |
| 14   | .....              |
| 15   | .....              |
| 16   | H000001            |
| 17   | HD60...            |
| 18   | .....              |
| 19   | .....              |
| 20   | .....              |
| 21   | .....              |
| 22   | .....              |
| 23   | .....              |
| 24   | .....              |
| 00   | H42BB1F            |
| 01   | HD60...            |
| 02   | .....              |

Long  
Message

Short  
Message

Long  
Message

**Figure 4-12: Sarsat SARP-3 Short Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB                                   | Word Content(24 bits) |                     |                       |                         |               | LSB |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 0      | Sync word<br>(12 bits)<br>Notes:      | S/No<br>(3b)<br>(1)   | Type<br>(1b)<br>(2) | latest<br>(1b)<br>(3) | RT/PB<br>(1b)<br>(4)    | level<br>(6b) |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1      | Time code (23 bits)                   |                       |                     |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 5) |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2      | Format<br>(1b)<br>(note 6)            | Beacon data (23 bits) |                     |                       |                         |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3      | Beacon data (24 bits)                 |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4      | Beacon data (24 bits)                 |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5a     | Beacon data (16 bits)                 |                       |                     |                       | 8 0's                   |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6a     | Doppler word (23 bits)                |                       |                     |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 5) |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7a     | "zero word" (24 bits) = H000001 (hex) |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |  |  |  |  |  |

**Figure 4-13: Sarsat SARP-3 Long Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB                              | Word Content(24 bits) |                     |                       |                         |               | LSB |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-----|
| 0      | Sync word<br>(12 bits)<br>Notes: | S/No<br>(3b)<br>(1)   | Type<br>(1b)<br>(2) | latest<br>(1b)<br>(3) | RT/PB<br>(1b)<br>(4)    | level<br>(6b) |     |
| 1      | Time code (23 bits)              |                       |                     |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 5) |               |     |
| 2      | Format<br>(1b)<br>(note 6)       | Beacon data (23 bits) |                     |                       |                         |               |     |
| 3      | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |
| 4      | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |
| 5b     | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |
| 6b     | Beacon data (24 bits)            |                       |                     |                       |                         |               |     |
| 7b     | Doppler word (23 bits)           |                       |                     |                       | Parity (1 bit) (note 5) |               |     |

Notes :

- (1) S/No in 8 steps as defined in the following table:

| code | S/No                             | code | S/No                             |
|------|----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 000  | 32.3 ( $31 \leq S/No < 33.7$ )   | 100  | 45.2 ( $43.0 \leq S/No < 47.4$ ) |
| 001  | 34.8 ( $33.7 \leq S/No < 35.9$ ) | 101  | 50.1 ( $47.4 \leq S/No < 52.8$ ) |
| 010  | 37.5 ( $35.9 \leq S/No < 39.2$ ) | 110  | 55.5 ( $52.8 \leq S/No < 58.3$ ) |
| 011  | 41.1 ( $39.2 \leq S/No < 43.0$ ) | 111  | 62.1 ( $58.3 \leq S/No < 66$ )   |

- (2) "1" = Cospas-Sarsat Beacon (document C/S T.001); "0" = new type beacon.  
 (3) "1" = most recent message(playback); "0" = others.  
 (4) "1" = real time message; "0" = playback message.  
 (5) Parity: "1" = odd number of "1s" in the 23-bit time code or the 23-bit Doppler word.  
 (6) "1" = long message; "0" = short message.

**Figure 4-14: Sarsat SARP-3 House-Keeping (HK) Message Bit Format**

| Word # | MSB                 | Word Content(24 bits)           | LSB                  |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 0      |                     | HK data (24 bits)               |                      |
| 1      |                     | HK data (24 bits)               |                      |
| 2      |                     | 110 011 100 011 111 000 000 000 |                      |
| 3      |                     | HK data (24 bits)               |                      |
| 4      | HK data (13 bits)   |                                 | First 11 bits of BCH |
| 5      | Last 10 bits of BCH |                                 | HK data (14 bits)    |
| 6      |                     | HK data (24 bits)               |                      |
| 7      |                     | HK data (24 bits)               |                      |

– END OF SECTION 4 –

## 5. COSPAS-SARSAT ANTENNAS

---

### 5.1 Cospas Antennas

As shown in Figure 5.1, two antennas (one receive and one transmit) have been provided on the spacecraft in support of the Cospas payload.

#### 5.1.1 Cospas Receive Antennas

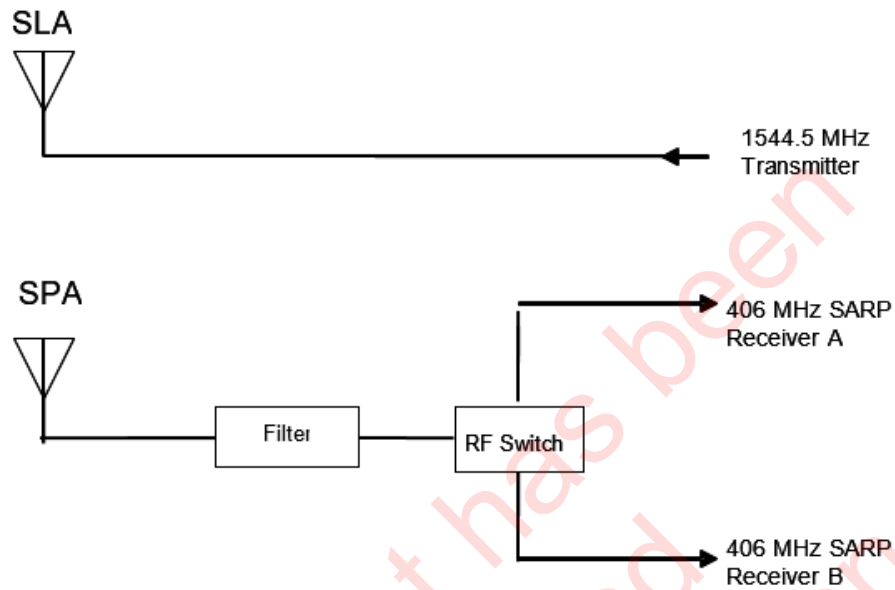
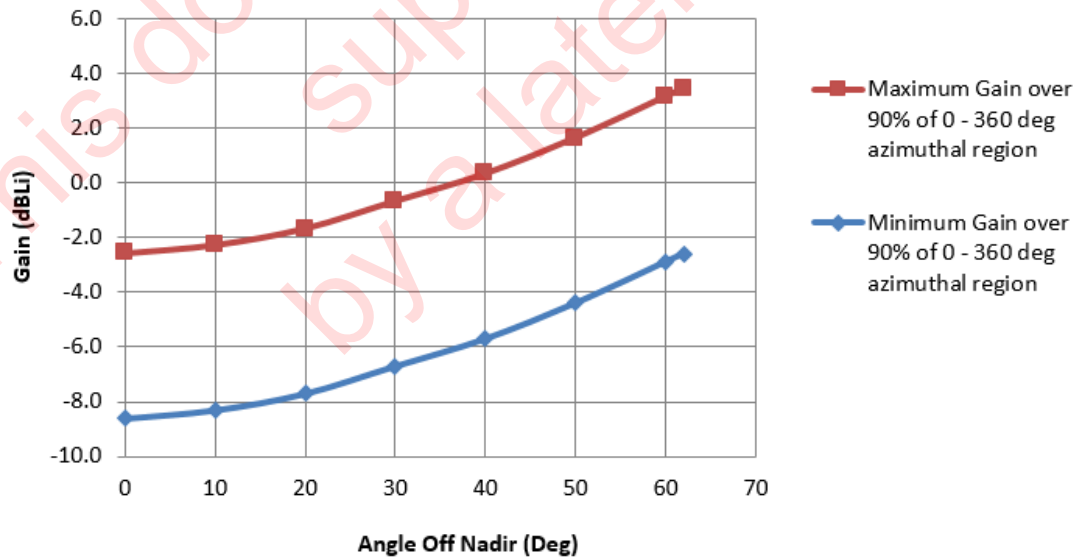
Cospas receive antennas (SPA for 406 MHz) have the following characteristics:

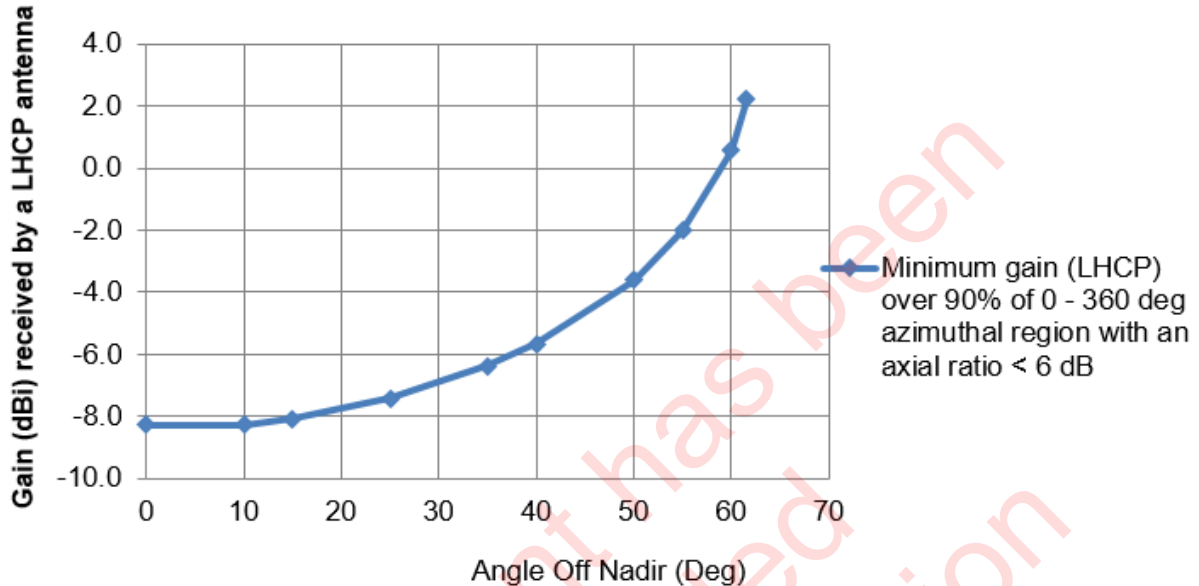
|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Polarisation: | LHCP for 406 MHz  |
| Gain:         | As shown in Figures 5.2<br>Maximum and minimum contours of antenna gain referred to the receiver input when illuminated with a rotating linear source |
| Axial ratio:  | As derived by the maximum and minimum contours on gain Figures  |
| Frequency:    | 406.05 MHz $\pm$ 50 kHz   |

#### 5.1.2 Cospas Transmit Antenna

Cospas transmit antenna (SLA) has the following characteristics:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Polarisation:                                   | LHCP  |
| Gain (referred to the transmitter output port): | As shown in Figures 5.3<br>Minimum antenna gain on LHCP with an axial ratio $\leq 6$ dB over 90% of region defined by $0^\circ \leq \text{azimuth} \leq 360^\circ$ and by $0^\circ \leq \text{nadir} \leq 60^\circ$ |
| Axial ratio:                                    | As stated in gain Figure  |
| Frequency:                                      | 1544.5 MHz $\pm$ 500 kHz  |

**Figure 5-1: Cospas Antenna System Functional Diagram****Figure 5-2: Cospas (SARP-2) 406 MHz Receive Antenna (SPA) Gain Pattern**

**Figure 5-3: Cospas (SARP-2) 1544.5 MHz Transmit Antenna (SLA) Gain Pattern**

## 5.2 Sarsat-TIROS Antennas

As shown in Figure 5.5, three antennas (two receive and one transmit) have been installed on the spacecraft with necessary duplexers and filters in support of the Sarsat payload.

### 5.2.1 Sarsat-TIROS Receive Antennas

The SARR Receive Antenna (SRA) is a coaxial quadrifilar antenna.

The SARP receive antenna signal comes from the quadrifilar UHF Data collection system Antenna (UDA).

Sarsat receive antennas have the following characteristics:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Polarisation: | RHCP   |
| Gain:         | Minimum gain (RHCP) over 90% As shown in Figures 5.5 to 5.6    |
| Axial ratio:  | As derived by the maximum and minimum contours on gain Figures |
| Frequency:    | SARR: 406.05 MHz $\pm$ 50 kHz                                  |
|               | SARP: 406.05 MHz $\pm$ 50 kHz                                  |

### 5.2.2 Sarsat-TIROS Transmit Antenna

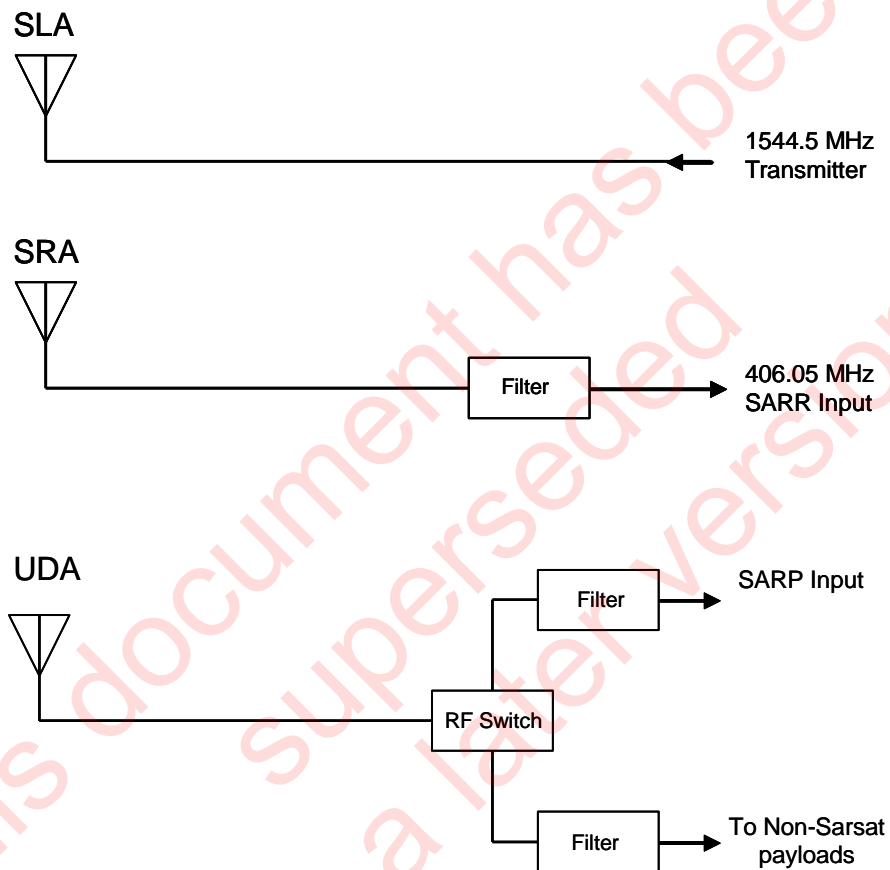
The SARR L-band transmit Antenna (SLA) is a quadrifilar antenna that has been optimised to produce a hemispherical pattern.



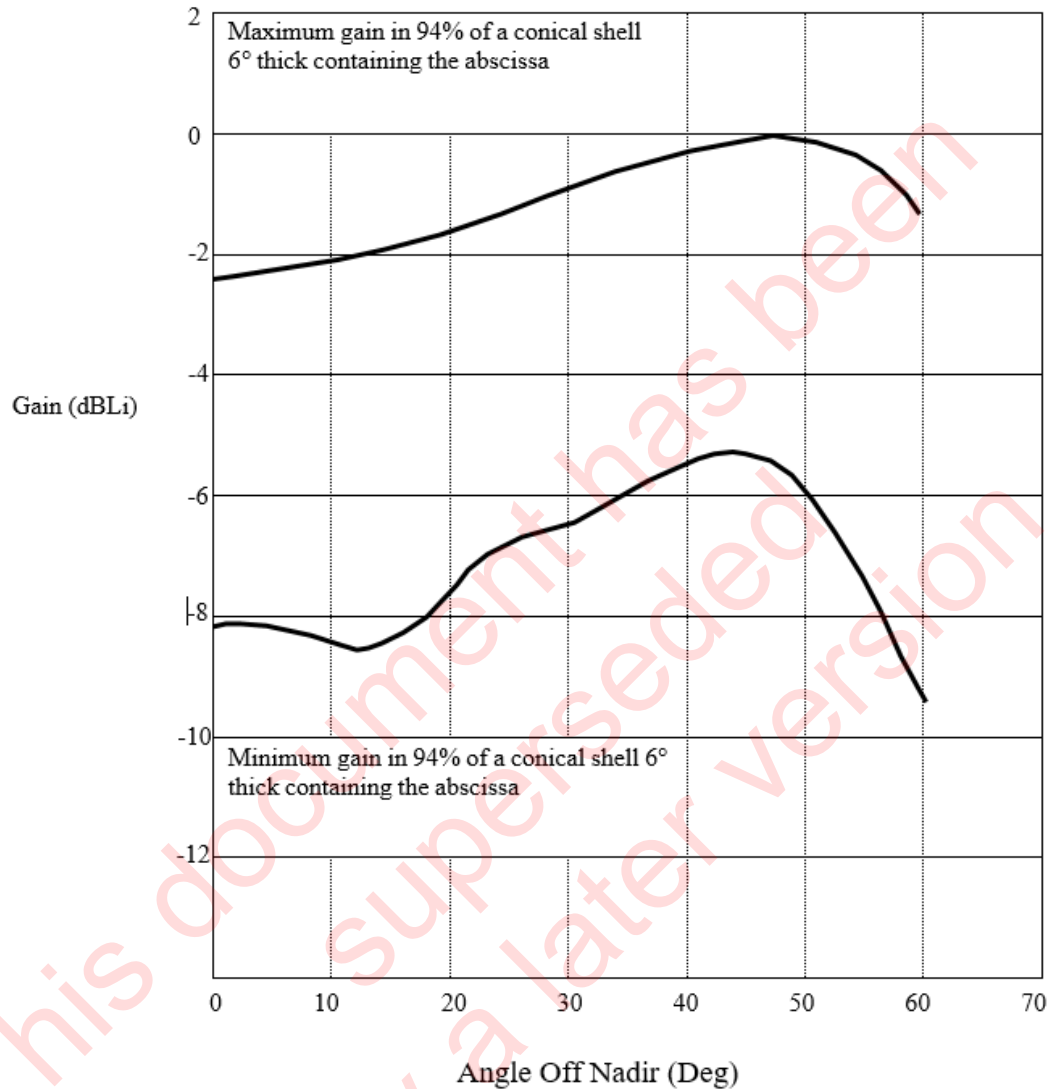
Sarsat transmit antenna has the following characteristics:

Polarisation: LHCP  
Gain (referred to the transmitter output port): As shown in Figures 5.7  
Axial ratio: As stated in gain Figure  
Frequency: 1544.5 MHz  $\pm$ 500 kHz

**Figure 5-4: Sarsat-TIROS Antenna System Functional Diagram**

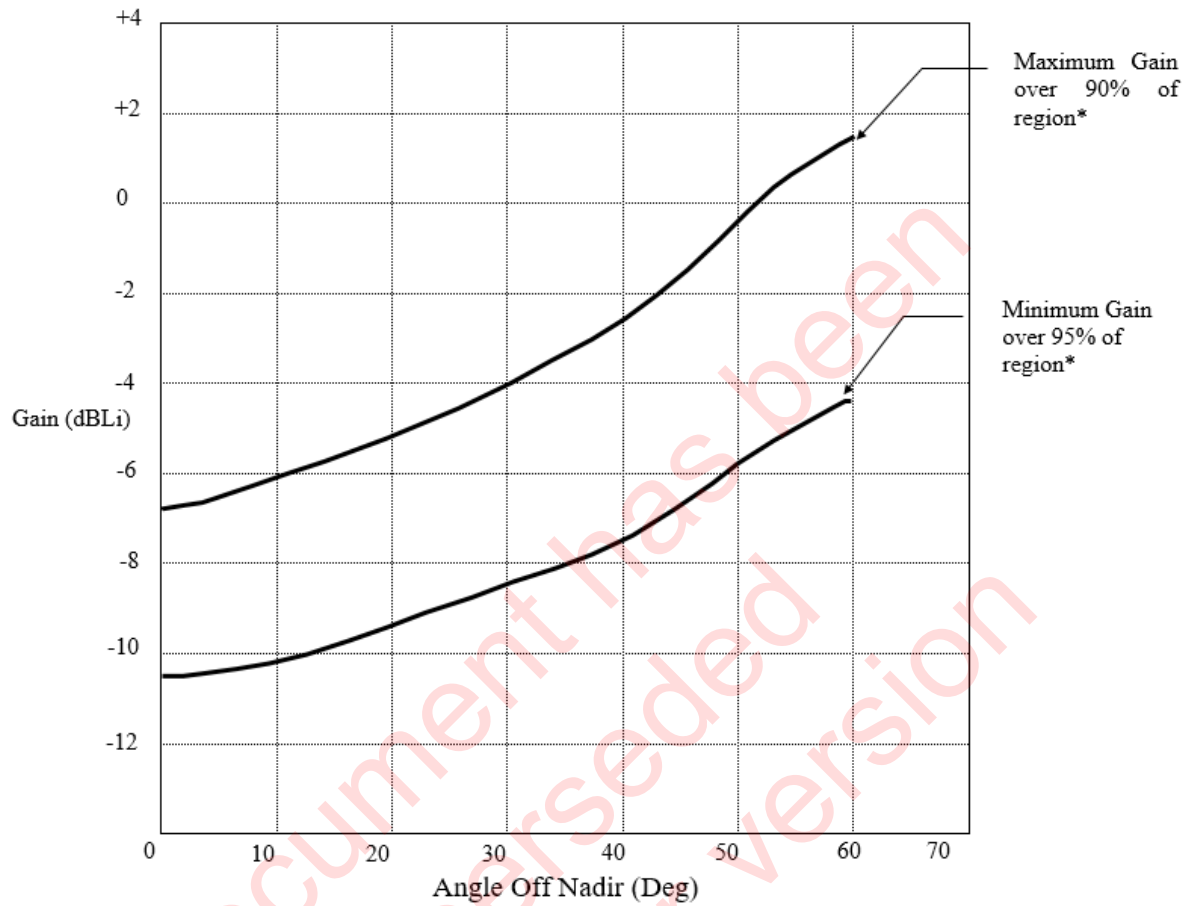


**Figure 5-5: Sarsat-TIROS 406.05 MHz Receive Antenna (SRA) Gain Pattern (at receiver input)**



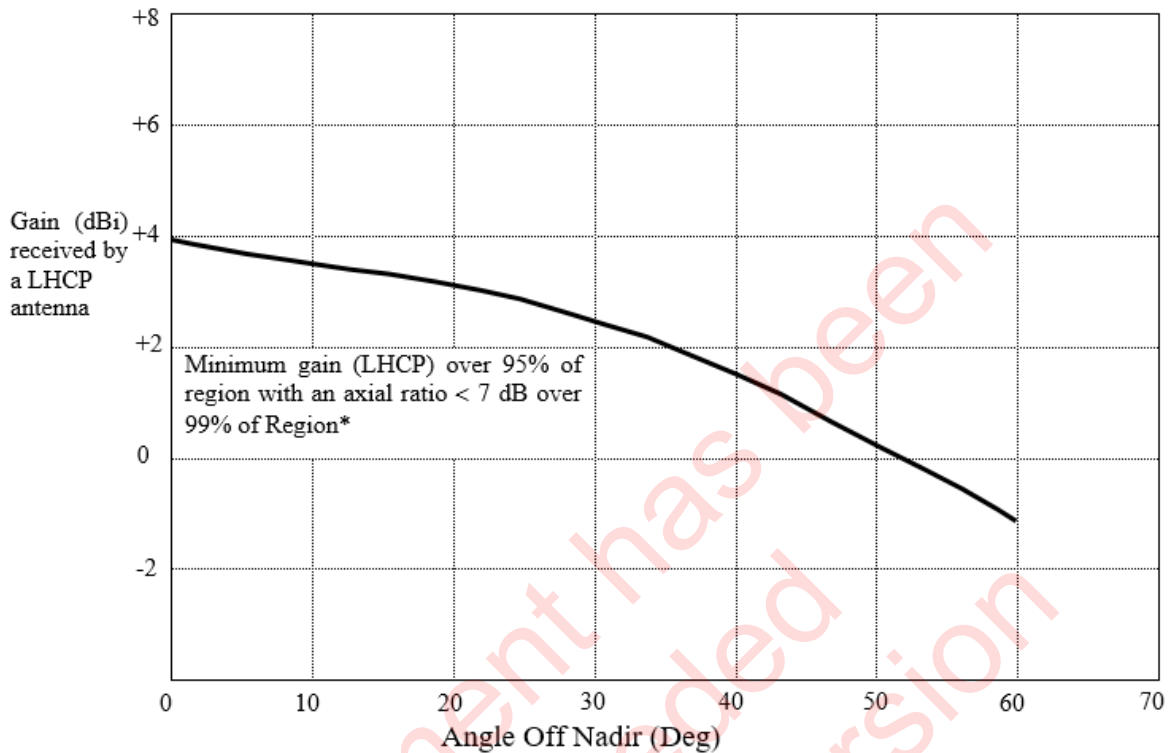
Antenna gain referenced to the receiver input, when illuminated with a rotating linear source.

**Figure 5-6: Sarsat-TIROS SARP Receive Antenna (UDA) Gain Pattern (at receiver input)**



Antenna gain referenced to the receiver input, when illuminated with a rotating linear source.

\* Region defined by  $0^\circ \leq \text{azimuth} \leq 360^\circ$  and  $0^\circ \leq \text{nadir} \leq 60^\circ$

**Figure 5-7: Sarsat-TIROS 1544.5 MHz Transmit Antenna (SLA) Gain Pattern**

\* Region defined by  $0^\circ \leq \text{azimuth} \leq 360^\circ$  and  $0^\circ \leq \text{nadir} \leq 60^\circ$

### 5.3 Sarsat-METOP Antennas

As shown in Figure 5.8, two antennas (one receive and one transmit) have been installed on the spacecraft with necessary duplexers and filters in support of the Sarsat-METOP payload.

#### 5.3.1 Sarsat-METOP Receive Antennas

The Combined Receive Antenna (CRA) combines the receive antenna for SARP and SARR into one helical antenna. It is operating at 406 MHz and is connected to both SARR and SARP instruments.

The CRA Antenna is deployable.

Sarsat-METOP receive antenna (CRA) has the following characteristics:

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Polarisation: | RHCP   |
| Gain:         | As shown in Figures 5.9  |
| Axial ratio:  | As derived by the maximum and minimum contours on gain Figures |
| Frequency:    | SARP/SARR: 406.05 MHz $\pm$ 50 kHz                             |

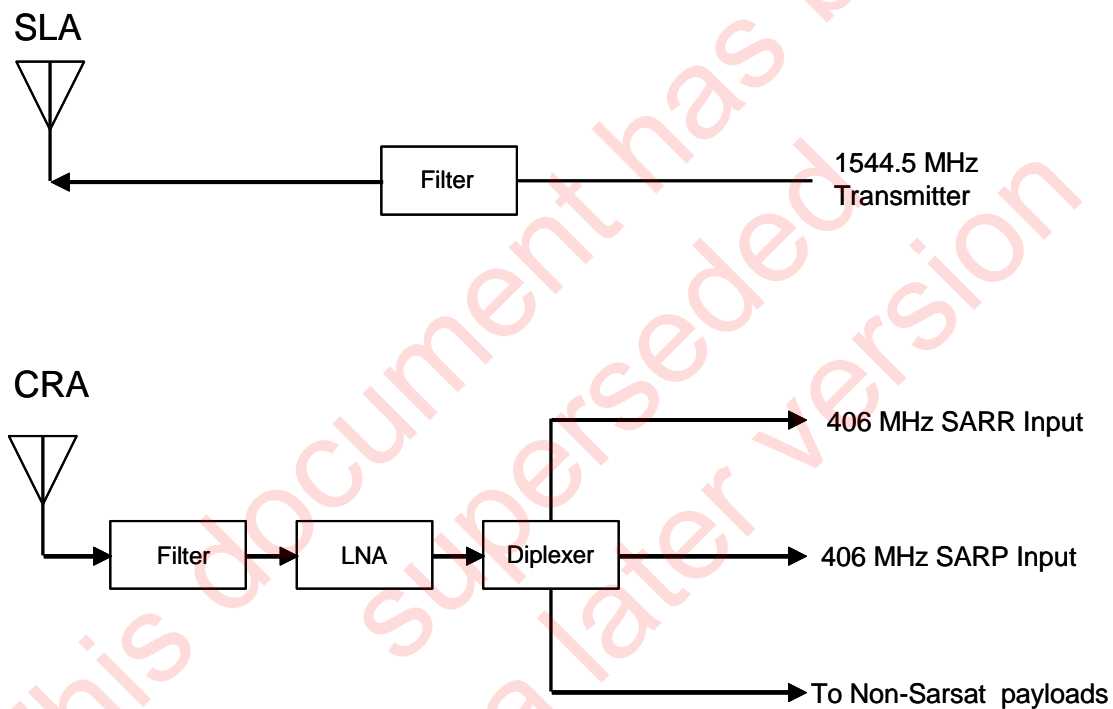
### 5.3.2 Sarsat-METOP Transmit Antenna

The SARR L-band transmit Antenna (SLA) is a conventional quadrifilar helix that has been optimised to produce a hemispherical pattern.

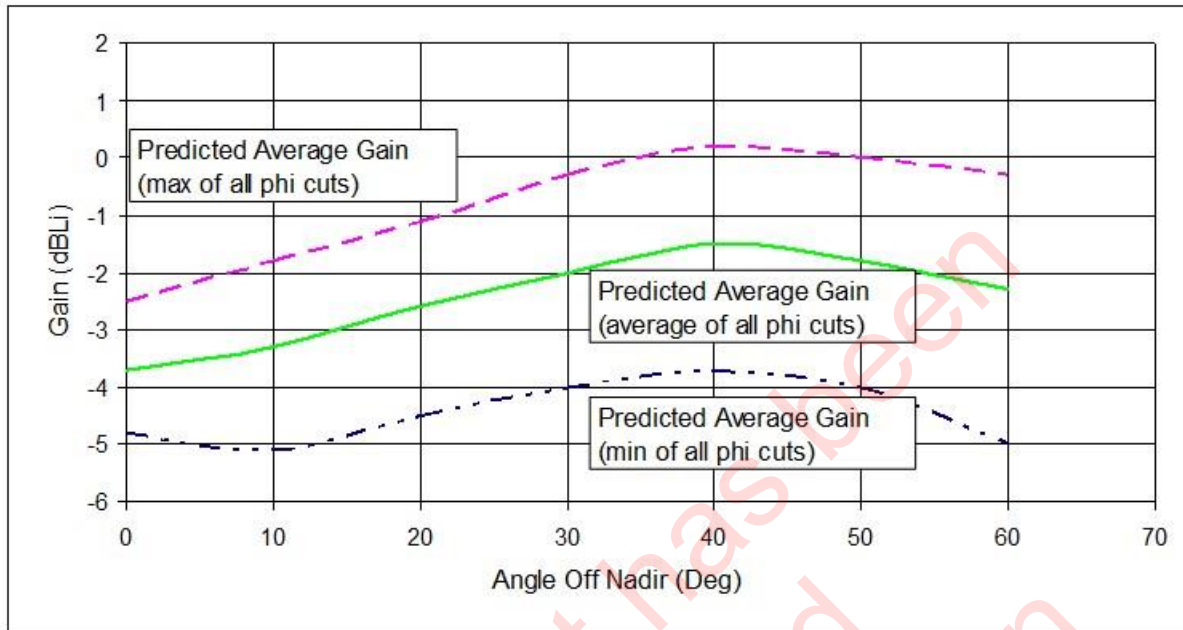
Sarsat-METOP transmit antenna has the following characteristics:

|   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Polarisation:                                   | LHCP                     |                          |
| Gain (referred to the transmitter output port): |                          | As shown in Figures 5.10 |
| Axial ratio:                                    | As stated in gain Figure |                          |
| Frequency:                                      | 1544.5 MHz $\pm$ 500 kHz |                          |

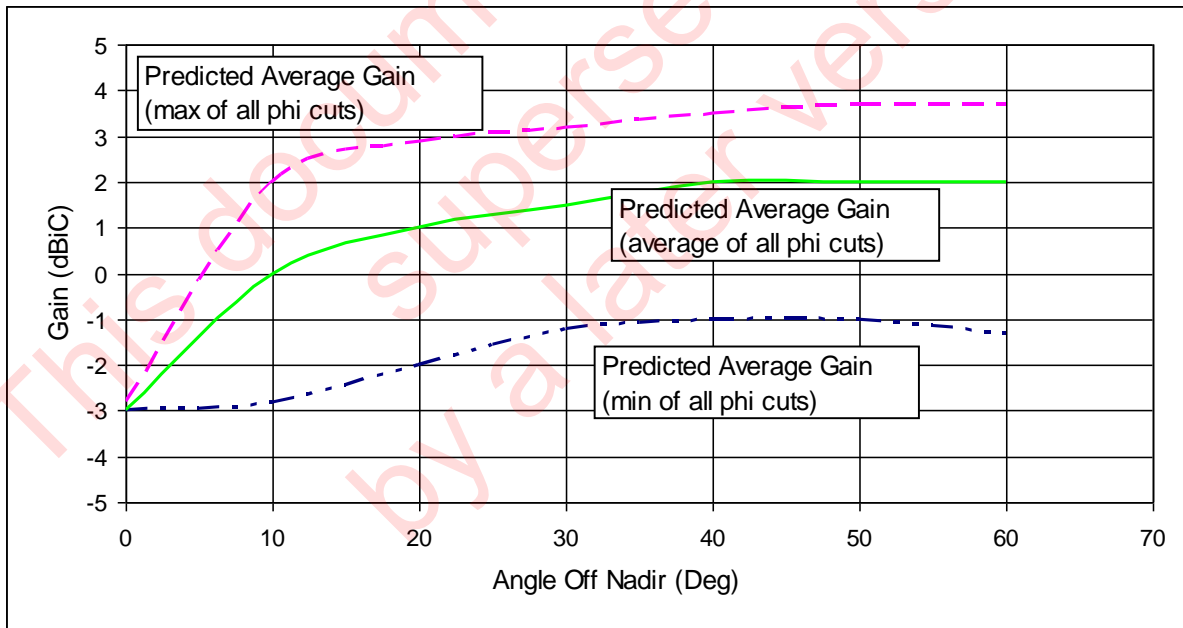
**Figure 5-8: Sarsat-METOP Antenna System Functional Diagram**



**Figure 5-9: Sarsat-METOP 406 MHz SARR and SARP Receive Antenna (CRA) Gain Pattern (at receiver input)**



**Figure 5-10: Sarsat-METOP 1544.5 MHz Transmit Antenna (SLA) Gain Pattern**



#### 5.4 Sarsat-NPOESS Antennas

As shown in Figure 5.11, two antennas (one receive and one transmit) have been installed on the spacecraft with necessary accommodation hardware in support of the Sarsat-NPOESS payload.

#### 5.4.5 Sarsat-NPOESS Receive Antenna

(description TBD by USA)

Sarsat-NPOESS receive antenna has the following characteristics:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Polarisation:     | RHCP  |
| Gain:             | As shown in Figure 5.12 for 95% of the azimuth angles and any nadir angle |
| Center Frequency: | 403 MHz $\pm$ 30 MHz (TBC by USA)   |

#### 5.4.6 Sarsat-NPOESS Transmit Antenna

(description TBD by USA)

Sarsat-NPOESS transmit antenna has the following characteristics:

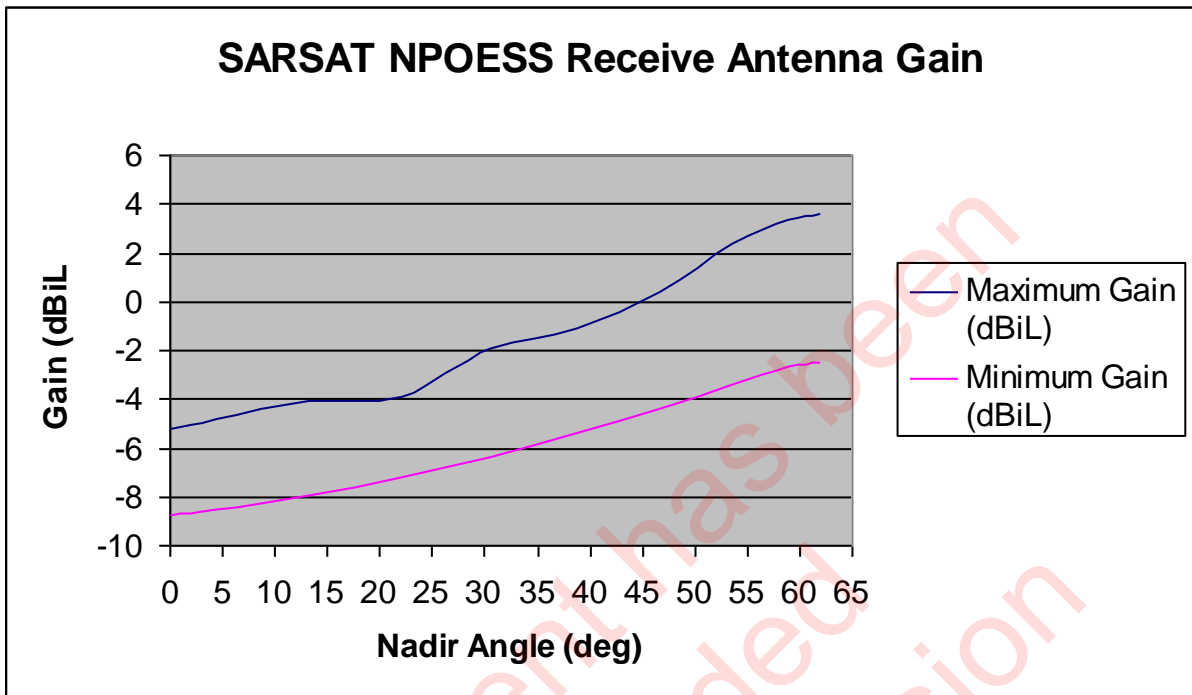
|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Polarisation: | LHCP  |
| Gain:         | As shown in Figure 5.13 for 95% of the azimuth angles and any nadir angle |
| Axial ratio:  | For 99% of the azimuth angle and any nadir angle between 0 and 61.97 deg. |
| Frequency:    | 1544.5 MHz $\pm$ 500 kHz  |

**Figure 5-11: Sarsat-NPOESS Antenna System Functional Diagram**

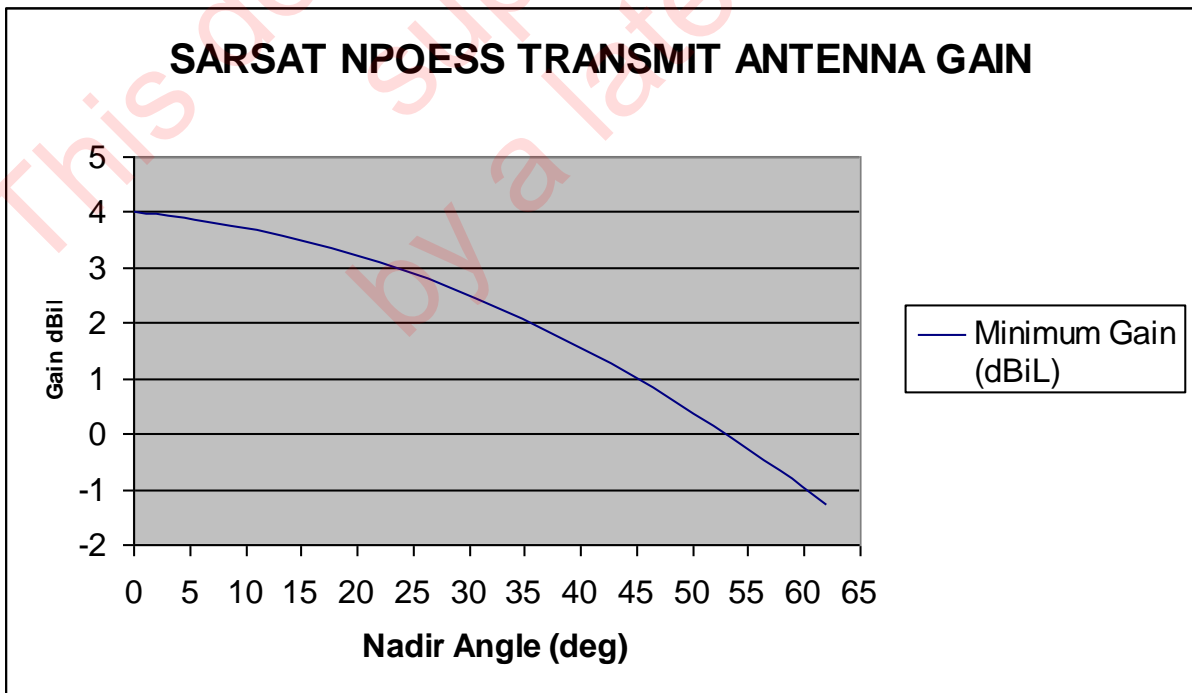
(TBD by USA)

**Figure 5-12: Sarsat-NPOESS Receive Antenna Gain Pattern**

(TBC by USA)

**Figure 5-13: Sarsat-NPOESS Transmit Antenna Gain Pattern**

(TBC by USA)





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**ANNEXES TO  
DESCRIPTION OF THE  
PAYLOADS USED IN THE  
COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR SYSTEM**

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**ANNEX A:****LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| AGC              | Automatic Gain Control  |
| BTA              | Beacon Transmit Antenna (NOAA satellite)                                    |
| COSPAS           | COsmicheskaya Sistema Poiska Avarinykh Sudov (Russian equivalent to SARSAT) |
| C/S              | Cospas-Sarsat   |
| dB               | decibel   |
| dB <sub>Li</sub> | gain in decibels relative to a linear isotropic antenna                     |
| dB <sub>m</sub>  | power in decibels relative to 1 milliwatt                                   |
| dBW              | power in decibels relative to 1 Watt  |
| DRU              | Data Recovery Unit  |
| EIRP             | Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power                                     |
| FF               | Frame Formatter   |
| hex              | hexadecimal   |
| IF               | Intermediate Frequency  |
| K                | Kelvin (degrees)  |
| kbps             | kilo bits per second  |
| LHCP             | Left Hand Circular Polarisation   |
| LSB              | Least Significant Bit   |
| LUT              | Local User Terminal   |
| METOP            | European Meteorological Operational satellite programme                     |
| MIRP             | Manipulated Information Rate Processor (on NOAA satellite)                  |
| MSB              | Most Significant Bit  |
| N/A              | not applicable  |
| NOAA             | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)                       |
| NPOESS           | National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System          |
| NRZ-L            | Non Return to Zero biphase-L data encoding                                  |

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS (Continued)

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| PB     | Playback  |
| PDS    | Processed Data Stream   |
| PM     | Phase Modulation  |
| PTC    | Power, Telemetry and Command  |
| rad    | radian(s)   |
| RF     | Radio Frequency   |
| RHCP   | Right Hand Circular Polarisation  |
| RMS    | Root Mean Square  |
| RT     | Real Time   |
| SAR    | Search And Rescue   |
| SARP   | Search And Rescue Processor   |
| SARP-1 | SARP with memory  |
| SARP-2 | Second generation SARP with memory  |
| SARP-3 | Third generation SARP with memory   |
| SARR   | Search And Rescue Repeater  |
| SARR-1 | First generation of SARR  |
| SARR-2 | Second generation of SARR (PDS channel only)  |
| SARSAT | Search And Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking  |
| SBA    | NOAA S-band transmit antenna  |
| SLA    | SARR L-band transmit antenna SPA SARP receive antenna   |
| SRA    | SARR receive antenna  |
| TC     | Telemetry command from spacecraft interface to SAR payload                                    |
| TIP    | TIROS Information Processor (NOAA satellite) TIROS Television Infrared Observation Satellites |
| TM     | Telemetry information from SAR payload to spacecraft interface                                |
| UDA    | UHF data collection system antenna (NOAA satellite) UTC Universal Time Co-ordinated           |
| VCO    | Voltage Controlled Oscillator   |

**ANNEX B:****COSPAS-SARSAT LEOSAR FREQUENCIES****B.1 Introduction**

The 1992 ITU World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC 92) addressed the worldwide use and allocation of the radio spectrum, including mobile satellite services.

Cospas-Sarsat, an international satellite system for search and rescue, provides a distress alerting and locating service using distress beacons operating on 406 MHz, a constellation of satellites, a number of ground receiving stations (called Local User Terminals, LUTs) and a network of Mission Control Centres which distribute the alert and location data to search and rescue authorities.

The 406 MHz Cospas-Sarsat System has been adopted by the International Maritime Organization as part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

**B.2 Frequency Matters****B.2.1 Frequency Requirements**

The Cospas-Sarsat Council considers it essential that the existing frequency allocations for Cospas-Sarsat remain in effect, because Cospas-Sarsat satellite payloads are already being built for use into the foreseeable future, with more than 30 ground receiving stations installed worldwide, any changes to operating frequencies would be very difficult to implement.

The frequencies used by the Cospas-Sarsat LEOSAR System are identified in the radio regulations (Table B.1 refers), and the Cospas-Sarsat instruments using these frequency bands have been registered with the ITU.

Prior to each open field test site transmission, the appropriate national authorities responsible for Cospas-Sarsat and radio emissions shall be notified.

In order to keep the potential disturbance to the Cospas-Sarsat System to a minimum, these antenna tests shall be conducted using a beacon operating at its nominal repetition rate and coded with the test protocol of the appropriate type and format. Transmission of any continuous wave (CW) signal from a signal generator in the 406.0 - 406.1 MHz band is strictly forbidden.

**B.2.2 Interference**

The international community has recognised the negative impact that interference could have on Cospas-Sarsat operations. To mitigate the risk, the ITU has approved a recommendation (ITU-R M.1478) which identifies the maximum interference levels which could be tolerated by Cospas and Sarsat SARP instruments.

**Table B-1: Cospas Sarsat LEOSAR Frequencies**

| Frequencies             |                  |                                      |                         |                  |                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Earth-to-space          |                  |                                      | Space-to-earth          |                  |                                      |
| <u>Centre frequency</u> | <u>Bandwidth</u> | <u>ITU Radio Regulation Footnote</u> | <u>Centre Frequency</u> | <u>Bandwidth</u> | <u>ITU Radio Regulation Footnote</u> |
| 406.05 MHz              | 100 kHz          | S5.266 & S5.267                      | 1544.5 MHz              | 1000 kHz         | S5.354 & S5.356                      |

- END OF ANNEX B –

- END OF DOCUMENT –

This document has been  
superseded  
by a later version

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