



Leading the Quest for Quake Forecasting

NEWSLETTER

Second Quarter, 2012

Network Stability and Data Quality

Our network is growing (91 total sites now), and we are continuously challenged to keep it stable. Challenges are presented by many communication paths and unwanted "help" from Mother Nature (spiders and pollen). This quarter we have used Verizon cell modems to get our data from the new sites, which has increased data rates, simplified installation, and eliminated troublesome WiFi links to the old WildBlue satellite links. Clark updated the site control software to re-set the air conductivity sensors to prevent signal drift. Daniel, our summer intern, is adding very fine mesh stainless steel screens to keep spiders and pollen out of the air conductivity sensors. We've actually moved three sites due to unanticipated man-made noise in the area. John redesigned some noisy solar charge controllers and we have started replacing the old units. Finally, GeoTel has improved the manufacturing process for our magnetometers to prevent signal drift. Network stability and data quality are extremely important to our research.



Palomar site installed in June, 2012

Network Expansion: 20 new sites

This quarter Jon, Tom, Bob and Rey identified 20 new sites near faults, predominantly in southern California, and installed the latest version of our instruments there. Private homeowners have continued to respond positively when asked to place instruments on their property. We are on our way to installing a total of 62 sites in California, Peru, Greece, and Chile this year. It is a very ambitious plan, but worth the effort to get the geographical coverage we need, which is one site every 20 miles along the major faults.

Seeking and Obtaining Corporate Support

Stellar Solutions continues to be the primary sponsor for QuakeFinder. This year however, we have made a concerted effort to solicit corporate sponsors, like the Musk Foundation in 2011. We have had some success this quarter, namely that PG&E and Telefonica-Peru have provided support. We have built the first Telefonica-sponsored instrument and shipped it to Peru in July.

If our readers know of any corporations with a desire to "give back" to the community and



The above map shows the density of our instrument network is growing.

support our research, please call us at 650 473-9870 or [Contact us](#).

Finally, the multi-year NASA Cooperative Agreement, announced in January, is set to start in August.



International Exposure

- In April we had a visit from a Chinese news agency doing a CCTV news report on QuakeFinder.



- We received an inquiry about collaborating with Austrian researchers to instrument areas like Sumatra to complement an animal-based earthquake sensing project there.

The world needs warning. Reliable earthquake forecasts will someday save lives. Help accelerate our work toward that goal with a monetary donation. No donation is too large or too small. Please call or [email Tom Bleier](#), QuakeFinder Vice President Humanitarian Research & Development, at 650-473-9870 to contribute or to connect us with corporate or individual sponsors.

QuakeFinder is a humanitarian R&D project supported primarily by [Stellar Solutions](#). Our work, based on sound scientific theory and practice, aims to create a system for short-term (days to weeks) forecasting of major earthquakes.

