



**FIGURE 7.** A group photo from AGR3S 2018.

to set up common national projects with socioeconomic impacts

- ▶ establishing collaborations with other GRSS Chapters, especially those in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa regions
- ▶ extending the Executive Committee to include regional and student Chapter coordinators
- ▶ encouraging young researchers to become GRSS members
- ▶ creating an international GRS online master's program.

The Algerian GRS community is very fruitful and will offer many opportunities in these fields over the coming years. The main goal of this community is maintaining a motivated and professional GRSS Chapter by connecting researchers,

academics, students, industry representatives, and members working in GRS and related areas. We can succeed in this challenge with the help and support of the GRSS.

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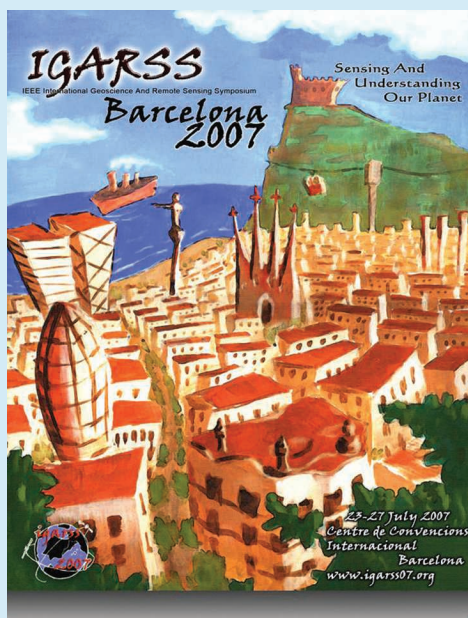
**JAVIER MARCELLO, MARIA PILES, GUSTAU CAMPS-VALLS, CARLOS LOPEZ-MARTINEZ, JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ-PEREZ, AND ANTONIO PLAZA**

## Activities of the IEEE GRSS Spain Chapter

**T**he IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS) Spain Chapter was formally established on 9 November 2000. The Chapter's early chairs were Adriano Camps (2000–2005), Juan Manuel López (2006–2012), and Antonio Plaza (2012–2016). From November 2016 to the present, the executive committee of the Chapter has had the following members:

- ▶ María Piles (Universitat de València), chair
- ▶ Javier Marcello (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), vice chair
- ▶ Carlos López-Martínez (Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology), secretary/treasurer
- ▶ Gustau Camps-Valls (Universitat de València)
- ▶ José Luis Álvarez-Pérez (Universidad de Alcalá)
- ▶ Antonio Plaza (Universidad de Extremadura).

The Chapter was created to bring together the increasing number of Spanish researchers from academia and industry



(a)



(b)

**FIGURE 1.** The posters from the two IGARSS meetings held in Spain: (a) IGARSS 2007 in Barcelona and (b) IGARSS 2018 in Valencia.



(a)



(b)

**FIGURE 2.** IGARSS 2018 in Valencia: (a) the Organizing Committee and volunteers and (b) the welcome from Adriano Camps, president of the GRSS.

in the remote sensing area. The most important event in its early history was the organization and hosting of the 2007 GRSS flagship conference, the International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2007) in Barcelona, which set an attendance record [Figure 1(a)]. In 2018, IGARSS was hosted in Valencia [Figure 1(b)]. The organization of these two events in Spain highlights the contribution of the Spanish remote-sensing community to the IEEE and GRSS.

The GRSS Spain Chapter is composed of three IEEE Fellows, 16 Senior Members, 52 Members, and 13 Student Members.

## ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

One of the central activities of the Chapter is organizing the GRSS/Spain Best Master's and Ph.D. Thesis Awards. 2018 was the second year in a row that the awards were organized, with the aim of involving students, young researchers, and their advisors. This recognition of outstanding research in GRS in Spain has been very well received by the national GRS community, as indicated by the growing number of applications and visits to the Chapter website. The two best Ph.D. and master's theses are awarded a monetary





(a)



(b)

**FIGURE 3.** The 2018 IEEE Young Professionals Remote Sensing Conference: (a) a group photo of participants and (b) one of the oral sessions.



**FIGURE 4.** Attendees, professionals, and organizers from the 2018 Young Professionals in Space Conference in Barcelona.

prize, a GRSS membership subscription for the following year, and a diploma. The 2017 Ph.D. thesis awards went to Hugo Carreño and Alberto Alonso (both from the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña), and the best master's thesis awards went to Francisco Manuel Jiménez (Universidad de Córdoba) and Irati Lekuona (Universidad de Zaragoza). The 2018 Ph.D. thesis awards went to Manuel Campos (Universitat de València) and Raúl Guerra (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), and the master's thesis awards went to María Arias (Universidad Pública de Navarra) and Javier Rosado (Universidad de Alcalá).

Undoubtedly, 2018 was very special for us, as IGARSS 2018 was held in Valencia, 22–27 July [1]. The chair was Prof. José Moreno, and the theme of the conference was “Observing, Understanding, and Forecasting the Dynamics of our Planet.” All Chapter officers attended the conference, and some chaired several sessions and strongly supported the organization of the event. Specifically, Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls was one of the Technical Program chairs, and Dr. Maria



**FIGURE 5.** A panoramic view of the Maspalomas Tracking Station, managed by the Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial. (Source: Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial.)

Piles co-organized a special session titled "Multisensor Data Integration for Enhanced Retrievals of Earth System Parameters." A total of 2,406 papers were accepted, and 2,356 attendees were registered, including 689 students. Figure 2 shows some photographs from the conference.

Another important event organized during 2018 was the Young Professionals Remote Sensing Conference (Figure 3), which was held 7–8 June 2018 in Aachen, Germany [2]. This

conference aimed to be a meeting point for young researchers who, after receiving their first degree, have started to work in the field of remote sensing. This event was jointly organized by the GRSS and by the Germany, Switzerland, South Italy, and Spain GRSS Chapters. More than 80 abstracts were received, and a total of 35 participants were able to attend the workshop. A significant

number of participants came from Spain (16 attendees).

The Chapter also supported the Young Professionals in Space 2018 event, held at the Universidad Polit cnica de Catalu a, in Barcelona, 17–21 July 2018. The conference attracted more than 100 young professionals and students and more than 20 professionals and scientists (Figure 4). This annual event featured lectures, expert talks, workshops, and rocket launches.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Activities for 2019 are planned to promote the visibility of Chapter work, attract new young professionals and members from industry, and encourage networking and collaborations. The Chapter will continue sponsoring outstanding research in remote sensing with a new edition of the GRSS/Spain Best Master's and Ph.D. Thesis Awards. The idea is to keep attracting the attention of students and young researchers and, more generally, of the whole GRS community in Spain.

A technical workshop will be organized during 2019 at the University of Las Palmas (Canary Islands, Spain). The workshop will include various activities, featuring a course by a GRSS Distinguished Lecturer, a series of talks organized by Chapter members and experts, and an organized visit to a satellite ground station. Specifically, the course "Machine Learning for Remote Sensing Data Analysis" by Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls has been selected because of its interest to the remote sensing community in Spain. In addition, conferences

and workshops dealing with applications and technologies will be held.

Finally, a visit to the Maspalomas Tracking Station (Figure 5) is also planned, with the goal of getting to know a Spanish center in space activities. The station is managed by the Instituto Nacional de T cnica Aeroespacial, and, apart from spacecraft control and search-and-rescue activities at the station, the visit will focus on activities related to the acquisition and processing of satellite remote sensing data. In summary, the technical workshop will be an opportunity to foster collaborations among Chapter members as well as to engage researchers, students, and people from industry and administration. In the long term, the aim of the Chapter is to organize a series of thematic workshops hosted by different members and institutions.

The Chapter website was created in 2017 as a tool to gather key information and activities from the Chapter members and announce upcoming news and events to the community. It was created using the IEEE's web hosting service and tools and is located at <http://sites.ieee.org/spain-grss/>. The website also includes links to other organizations and resources involving GRS research and education in Spain, and it is our aim to keep it dynamic and updated with the most relevant information for the community.

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**ANOTHER IMPORTANT  
EVENT ORGANIZED DURING  
2018 WAS THE YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS REMOTE  
SENSING CONFERENCE,  
WHICH WAS HELD 7–8 JUNE  
2018 IN AACHEN, GERMANY.**