U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of NUCLEAR ENERGY

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Assessing the EMI/RFI Risks of Wireless Devices Using a Cognitive Radio System

Advanced Sensors and Instrumentation Annual Webinar

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Chad Kiger

AMS Corporation

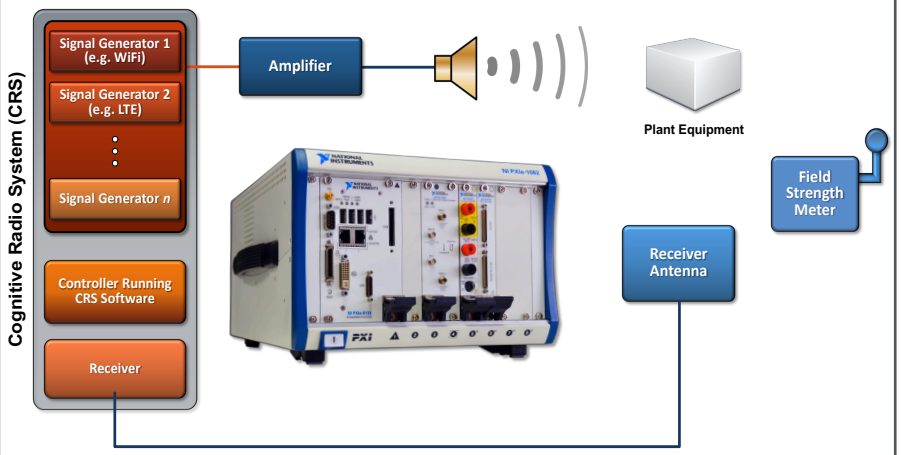
SBIR Phase I/II

Strategy for Implementation of Fixed and Mobile Wireless Technologies in Crowded and Confined EMI Environments of Nuclear Power Plants

Chad Kiger/ Analysis and Measurement Services Corporation

Technology Summary

The goal of the Phase II project was to develop a system that establishes objective exclusion distances for safe and widespread use of wireless devices in nuclear power plants. Referred to as a Cognitive Radio System (CRS), the product of this project is a light-weight portable unit that can be carried around a plant to test for radiated immunity and wireless co-existence. It can transmit and receive electromagnetic waves to establish distances at which existing plant equipment will not be affected by wireless signals and that multiple wireless devices in the same area will not interfere with each other.



Key Personnel

Chad Kiger, Chris Lowe, Zack Crane, Brad Headrick, Keith Ryan, Josh Cole, Jonathan Caughron, Mehrad Hashemian, Ryan O'Hagan

Program Summary

Period of Performance:

Start Date: 6/9/2014 End Date: 7/27/2018

Key Milestones & Deliverables	
Year 1 Phase I	• Evaluate equipment to wireless vulnerabilities • Develop test method to assess immunity of equipment
Year 2 Phase II	• Define the requirements of CRS • Design and build CRS
Years 3 & 4 Phase II	• Test and Validate CRS • Implement CRS in nuclear power plants

Technology Impact

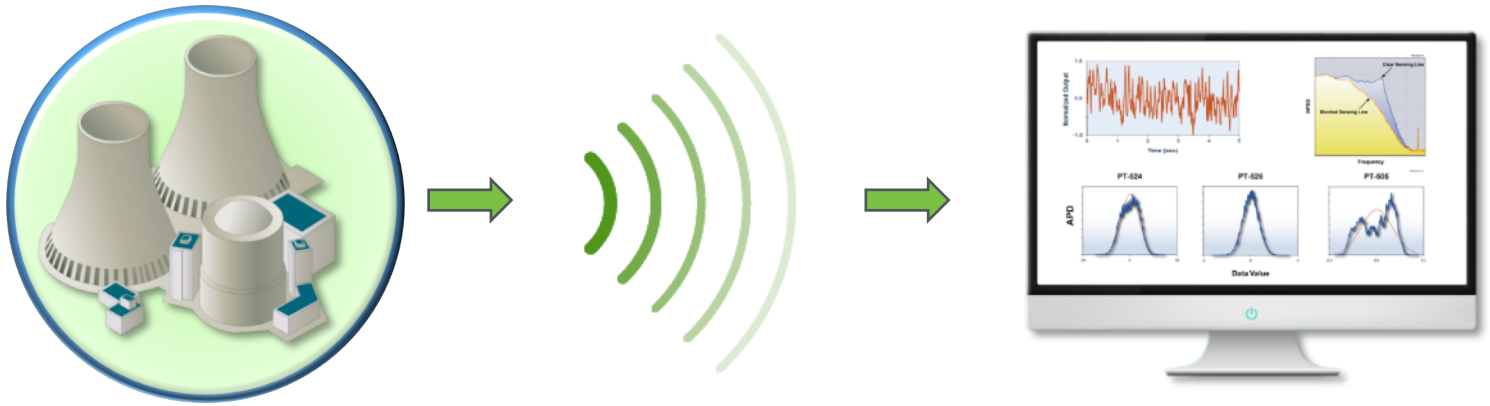
This technology offers to make the usage of wireless devices a possibility in that exclusion distances in almost all nuclear power plants are still overly conservative and thereby severely limit the use of wireless devices in most areas of the plant. Studies have shown that the usage of wireless devices in an nuclear power plant increases efficiency gains which leads to cost savings.

Support the Implementation of Wireless Technologies into Nuclear Power Plants

Desire to use Wireless in the Nuclear Industry

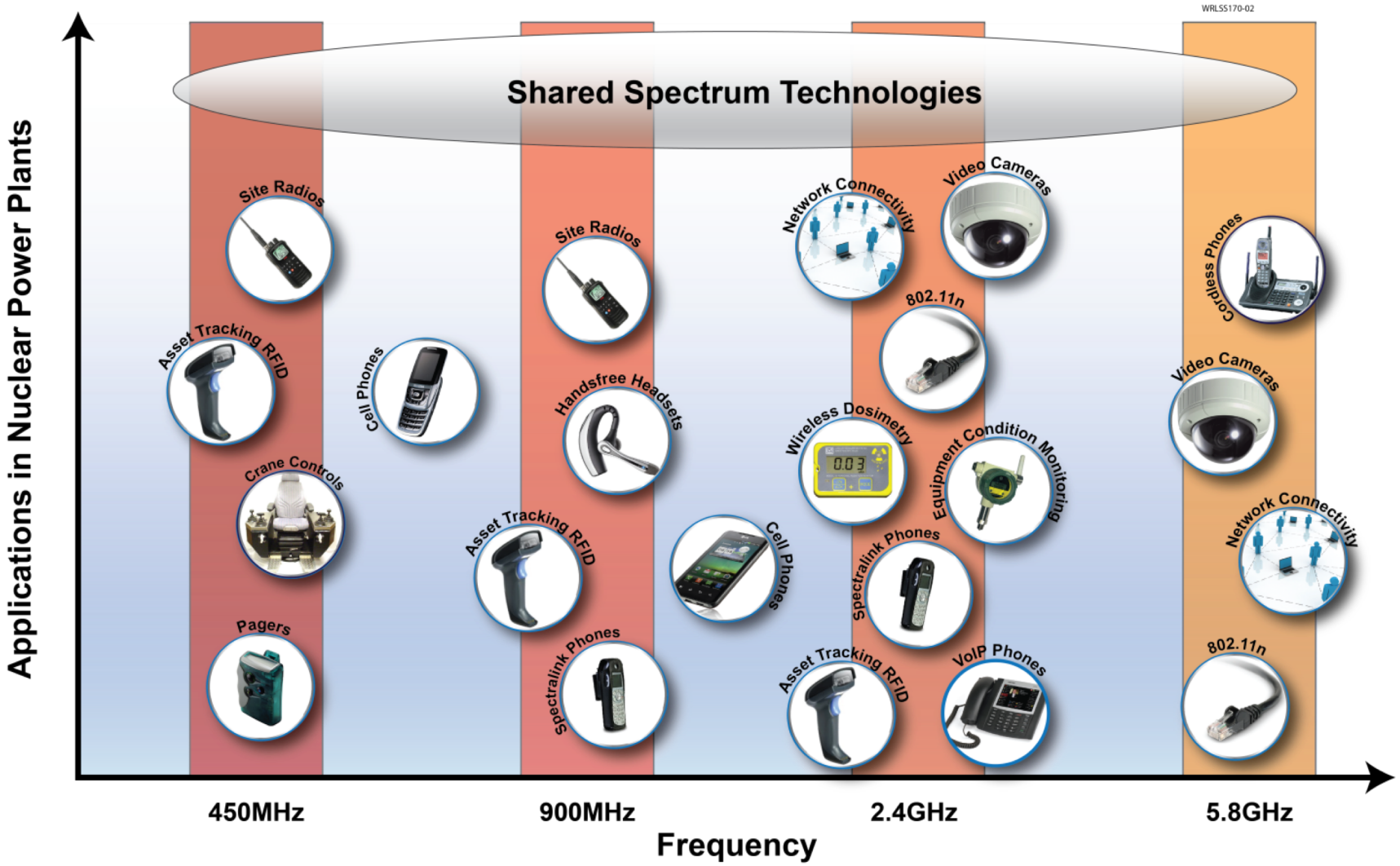
The Mobile, Digital Worker

Use of Wireless Devices in Power Plants



Data Accessibility, Communications, Equipment Condition Monitoring

Wireless Technology limited to Several Different Frequency Bands



Exclusion Zones were Developed to Prevent EMI/RFI

- Exclusion zone distances depend on transmitter power and antenna gain
- Can be overly conservative and restrictive
- **Does NOT account for Frequency**

$$d = \frac{\sqrt{30 P_t G_t}}{E} (meters)$$

Where:
d = *exclusion zone distance (in meters);*

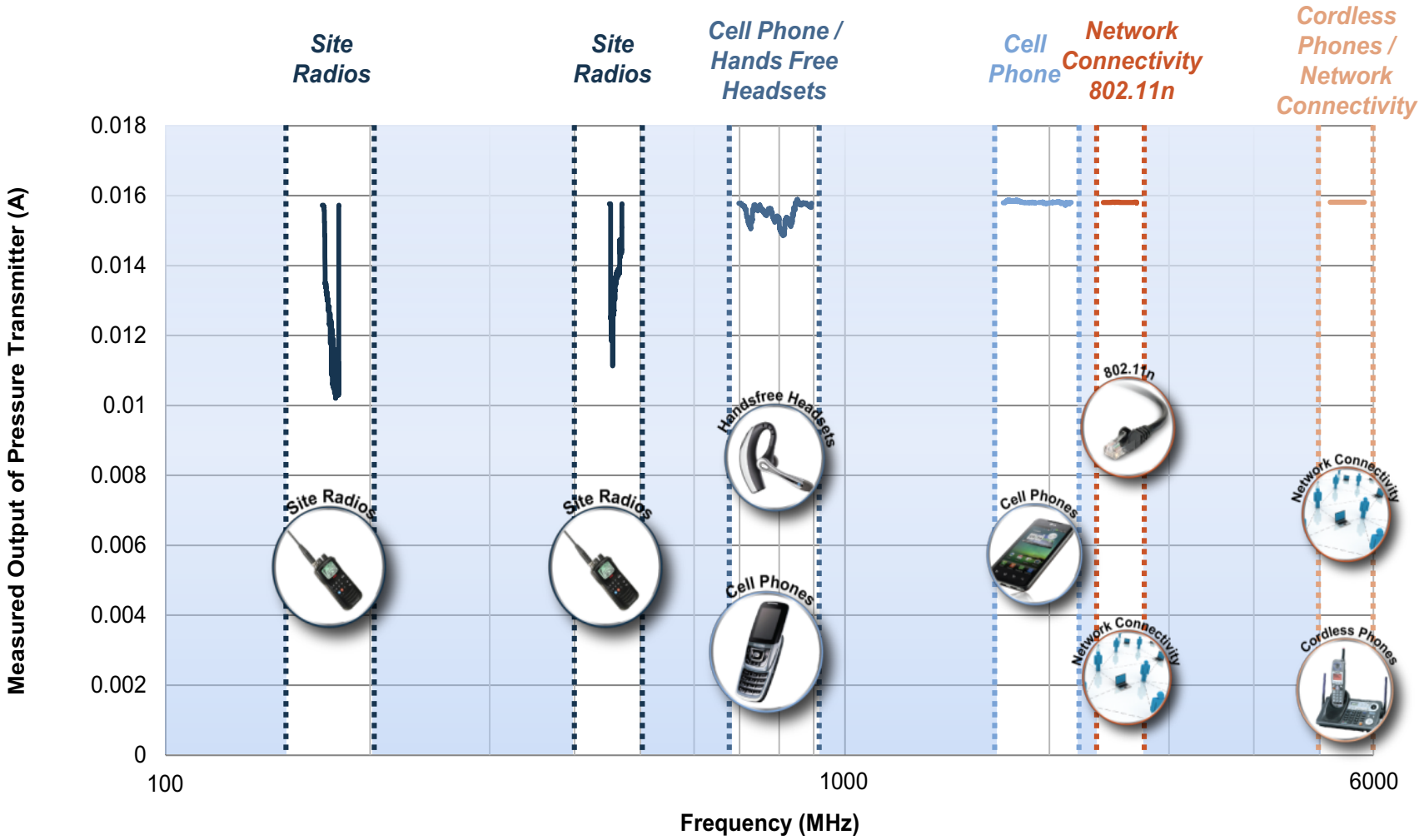
P_t = *the effective radiated power of the EMI/RFI emitter (in Watts);*

G_t = *the gain of the EMI/RFI emitter (dimensionless);and,*

E = *the allowable radiated electric field strength of the EMI/RFI emitter (in Volts/meter).*

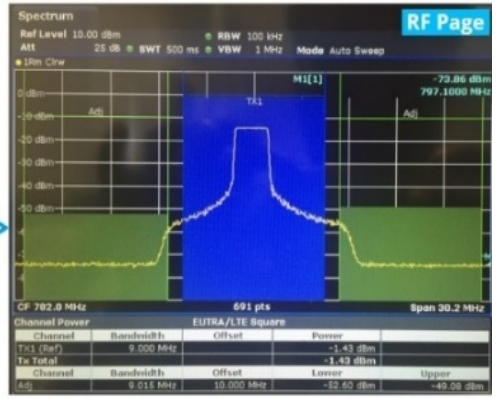
Wireless Device	Distance (Feet)
iPad 4	8
iPad Mini	6
Cell Phone	9
Laptop Computer	3
Dosimeter	1
Wireless Vibration Sensor	2
Walkie Talkie	13

Vulnerabilities Identified in a Pressure Transmitter are FREQUENCY Dependent

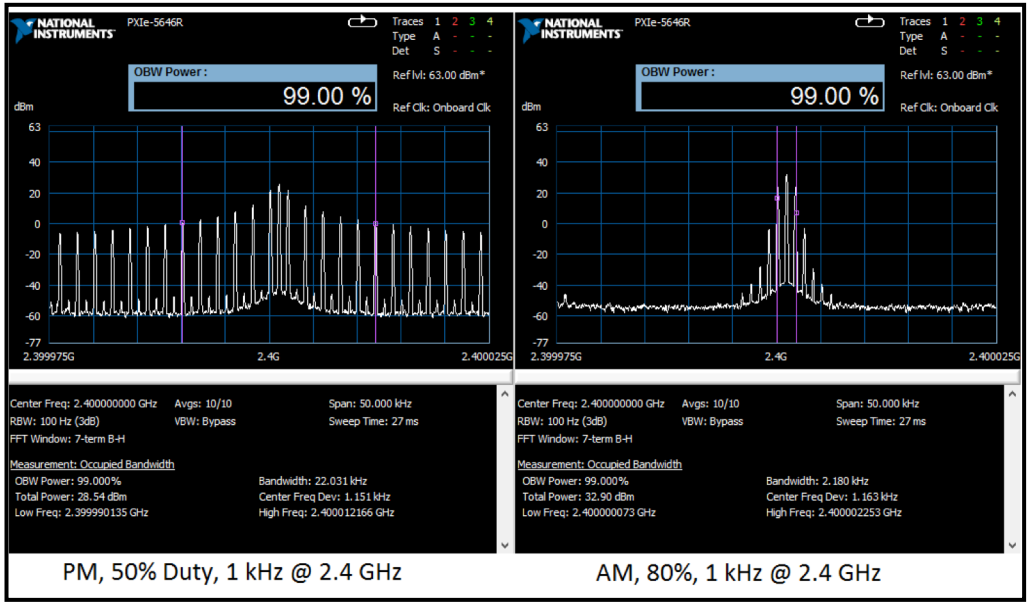


Wireless signals are not replicated during EMC Qualification Testing

Span of 300 MHz



Span of 50 kHz

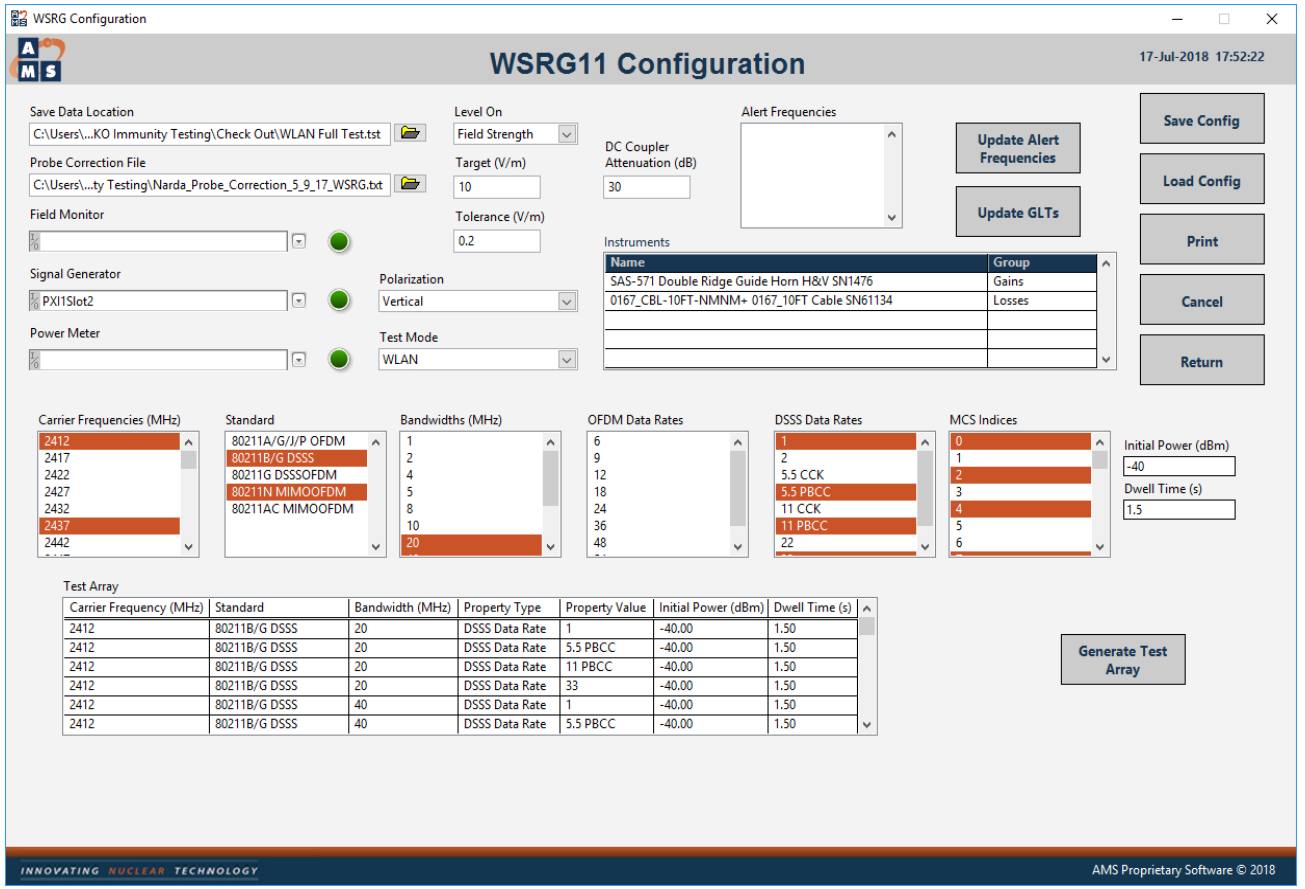


PM, 50% Duty, 1 kHz @ 2.4 GHz

AM, 80%, 1 kHz @ 2.4 GHz

Development of Cognitive Radio System (CRS)

Replicate LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, DECT, and GSM



Method for Reducing Exclusion Distances while Verifying Immunity of Plant Equipment

Address Installed Plant Equipment

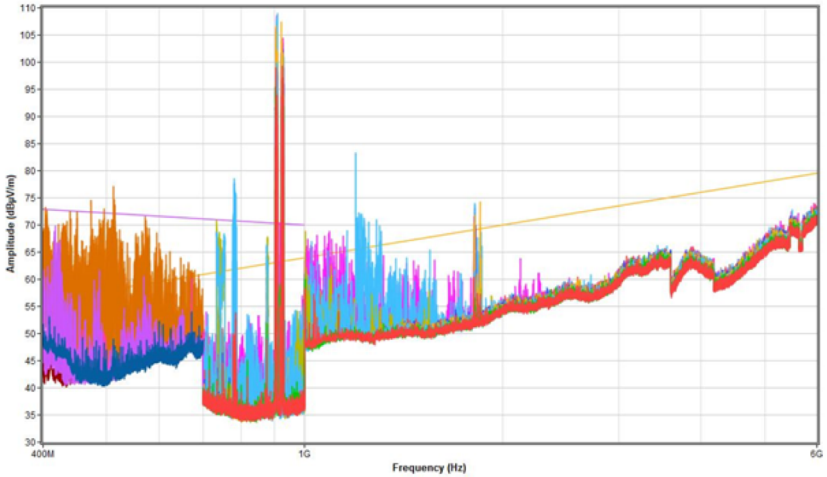
1. Site walkdowns to identify equipment that may be vulnerable to wireless signals
2. EMI/RFI mapping to characterize the plant environment
3. In-situ susceptibility testing of plant equipment using standard test methods and actual wireless signals

Other Considerations

1. Laboratory qualification testing of new plant equipment to higher RF levels and using representative wireless signals
2. Laboratory testing of wireless devices to measure their RF emissions and establish objective Exclusion Distances

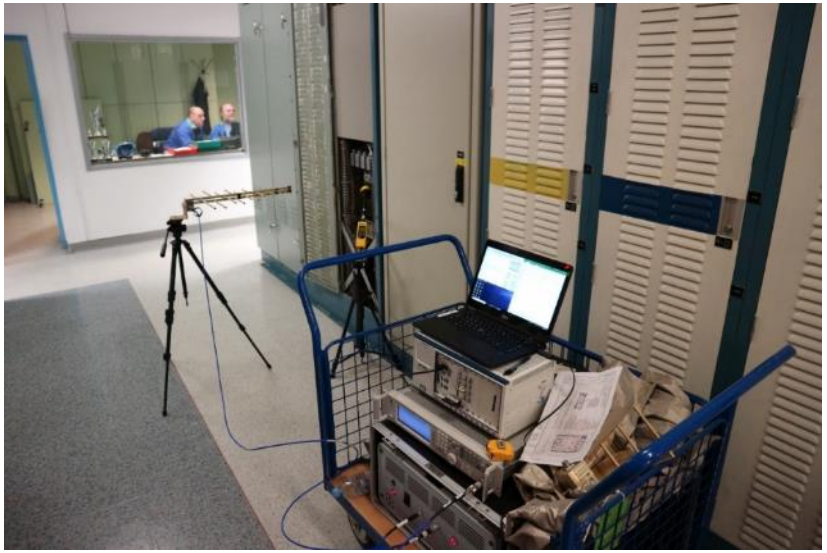
Mapping of Nuclear Power Plants to Characterize the EMI / RFI Environment

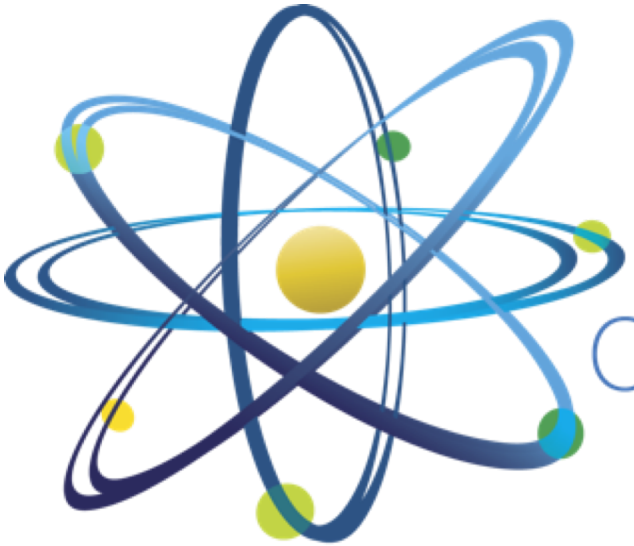
- Passive Mapping (RF spectrum monitoring) to characterize environment
- Based on MIL-STD 461 RE102 as recommended by EPRI TR-102323 and NRC Regulatory Guide 1.180
- Identify levels of existing wireless and high frequency signals
- Identify emissions from plant equipment in the frequency range of wireless devices



In-situ Immunity Testing can Identify EMI/RFI Vulnerabilities

- Based on MIL-STD 461 RS103 for frequencies of interest (typically 400 MHz to 6 GHz)
- Software Defined Radio capable of generating representative wireless signals
  - Wi-Fi
  - LTE
  - Bluetooth
  - Others
- Perform testing:
  - In-situ on installed equipment
  - Training center or simulator
  - EMC laboratory
- Mitigate vulnerabilities through additional shielding, filtering, or other means





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