

# **The Storm Peak Lab Cloud Property Validation Experiment (StormVEx)**

**An ARM Climate Research Facility  
AMF2 Maiden Deployment**



## **Project Team:**

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**What:** Deployment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARM Mobile Facility to Steamboat Springs Colorado to operate in close coordination with Storm Peak Lab

**When:** October 2010 – March-April 2011 (whenever the snow melts)


**Why:** Primary objective – Use SPL as in situ data collection platform for validation of cloud properties retrieved by ground-based remote sensors

# The Storm Peak Lab **Cloud Property Validation** Experiment



**Anticipate > 1000  
hours of correlative  
in situ and remote  
sensing data during  
StormVEx!!**



 Storm Peak Lab

RADAR Site 

Radar/MPL/MWR Site

Radiation/Radiosondes 

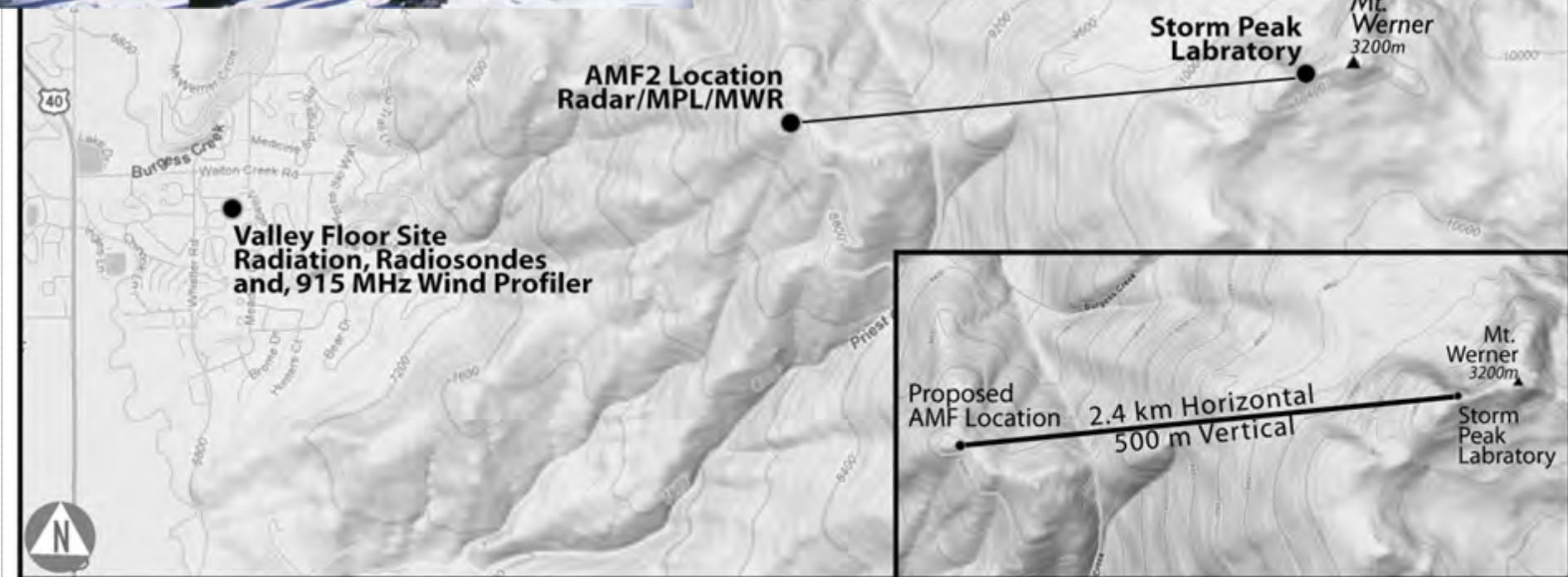
544 m  
40°27'24.04" N 106°47'27.70" W

Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
Image U.S. Geological Survey  
Image NMRGIS  
© 2008 Tele Atlas  
elev 2330 m

Oct 17, 2003

Eye alt 3.87 km

Google





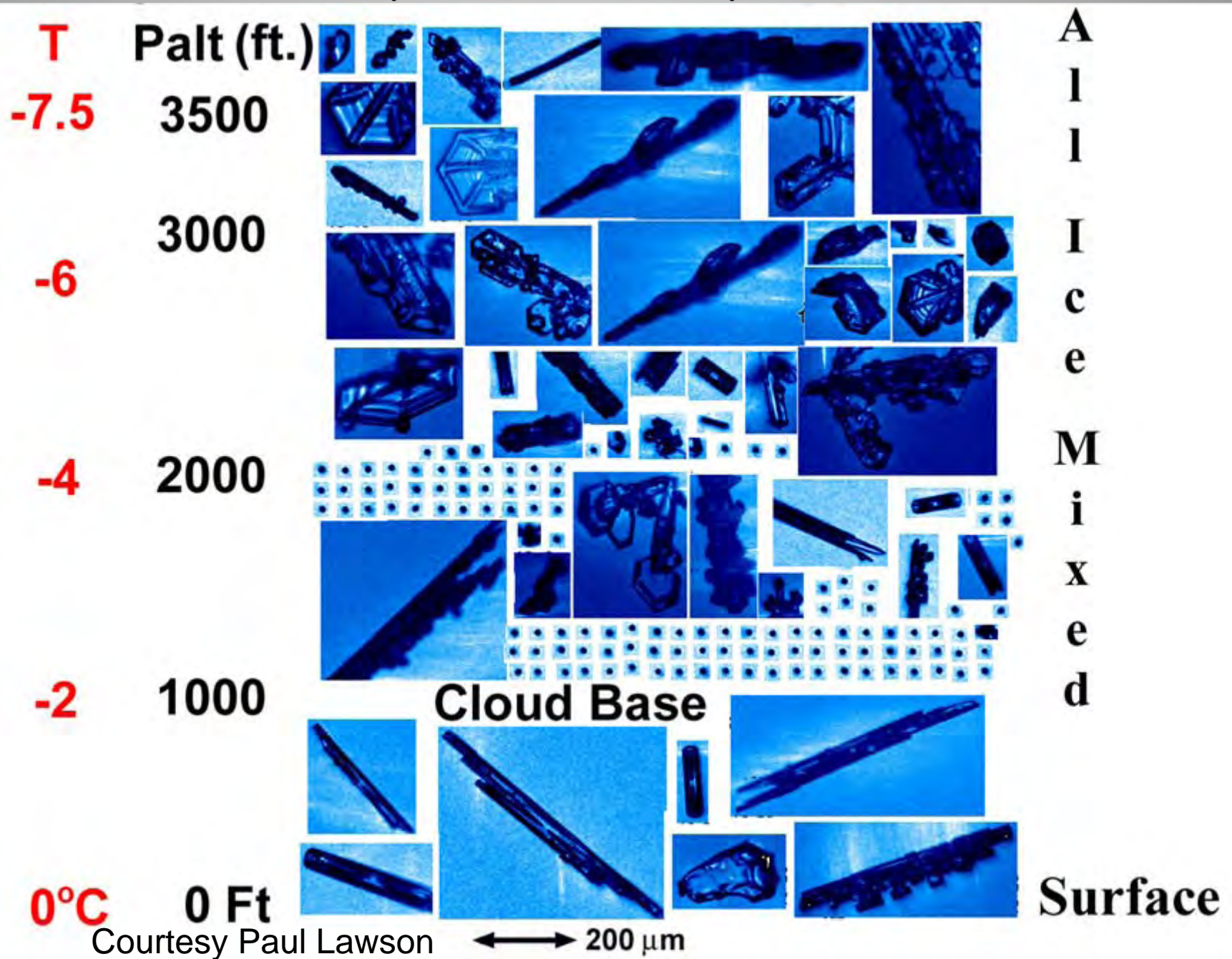
# The Storm Peak Lab **Cloud Property Validation** Experiment

Cloud Probes from SPEC will augment the SPL probe array





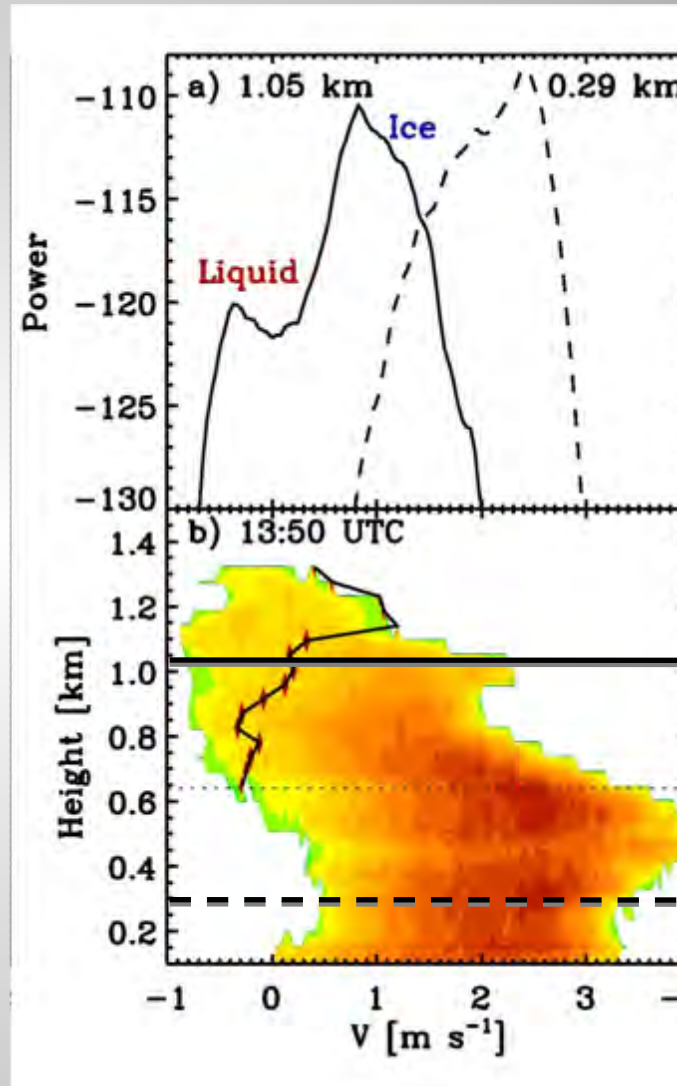
# May 7, 2008 in Ny-Ålesund





# Doppler Spectra Analyses in “Mixed-Phase” Clouds

- Graphic (bottom) shows returned power as a function of Doppler velocity (i.e. Spectra).
- Graphic on top extracts power spectra from two heights – 0.29 Km (dashed) and 1.05 km (solid)
- “Mixed-Phase” spectrum near cloud top has distinct contributions from both liquid and ice particles (bimodal).
- Spectrum near the surface (0.29 km) is characteristic of ice/snow (monomodal)
- In some cases the contributions from each phase can be distinguished and used for retrievals.

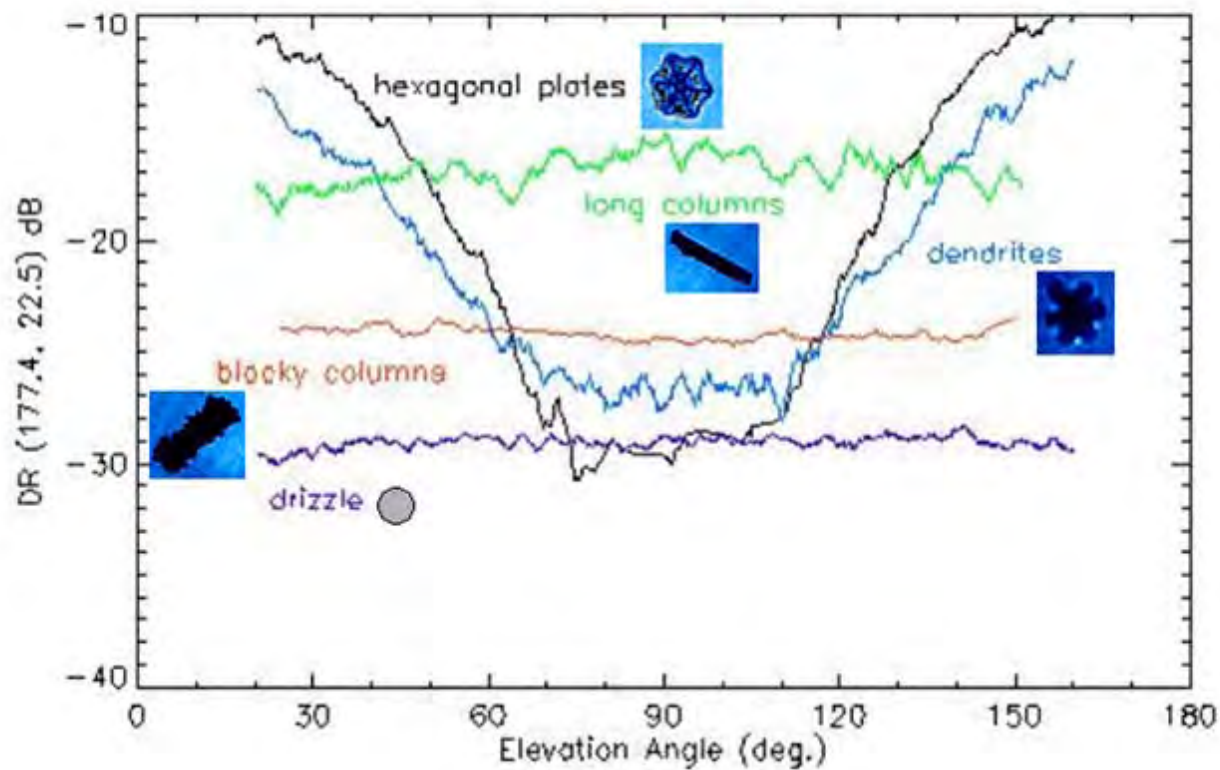


**StormVEx Question: Can these distinctions be made in orographic clouds with snow flakes, water droplets, and active dynamics?**



# $K_a$ -band depolarization versus elevation angle for different ice crystals

## 45 degree slant quasi-linear polarization



## Summary:

- Lots of time for planning and getting involved....
- Beyond the core science objectives, there will be many secondary objectives:
  - Aerosol dynamics, chemistry, and indirect effect
  - Modeling of the meteorology and precipitation in complex terrain
  - etc...
- Breakout session Thursday at 3 pm.





AMF2	Measurement	Location	Operation Plans	Calibration History/plans	Level 1 Data Availability	Level 2 Plans
SWACR Spectra	Z(Vd) ???point fft Co and cross polarization spectra (45 degrees) ??	Thunderhead	Scanning Strategy (Action item for Sergey) 24/7	Corner Reflector and Rain, Will disdrometers exist?, intercomparison	Possible download. Likely.	
SWACR Moments	Reflectvity Velocity Spectrum Width	Thunderhead	Scanning Strategy 24/7			
MPL Backscatter	Attenuated Backscatter (co and cross pol)	Thunderhead	Operate 24/7	Overlap will be done at SPL...	VAP MPLNOR	Optical depth/extinction retrievals –
AERI	IR Spectral Radiance	Thunderhead	24/7, Rapid Scan critical	Established	No issues/ spectra	
Microwave Radiometer	23, 31, 90 GHz	Thunderhead	Scanning strategy (Rich action)	Tip Calibration routine	Normally available	Retrievals- MWR Ret - VAP
MFRSR	Spectral Flux	Thunderhead	24/7	Langley Calibration (who?) Cal exercise	Normally available	VAP – Connor/Qilong
Long’s Radiometer	IR and solar flux					

AMF2	Measurement	Location	Operation Plans	Calibration History/plans	Level 1 Data Availability	Level 2 Plans
915 Profiler	Z(Vd), V, W	Valley Floor	Mode/beams operation. High vs low modes #fft Scanning strategy? Order?	Disdrometer at the valley floor for calibration.	Z(Vd)	winds
Vaisala Ceilometer	Profiles of backscatter	Valley Floor	24/7	n/a	backscatter	Cloud base, mixing height,
Skyrad, Groundrad	Solar and IR Fluxes	Valley Floor	24/7	ARM bore cal process		Best estimate VAP needs to be run
Total Sky Imager	Sky Images	Valley Floor	Daylight	n/a	Imagery?	movies? Cloud fraction – VAP??
BBSS	P, T, Rh, Wind Profiles	Valley Floor	2 per day always. 4 per day sometimes. Occasionally more?		Routine	None
ECOR		Valley Floor				



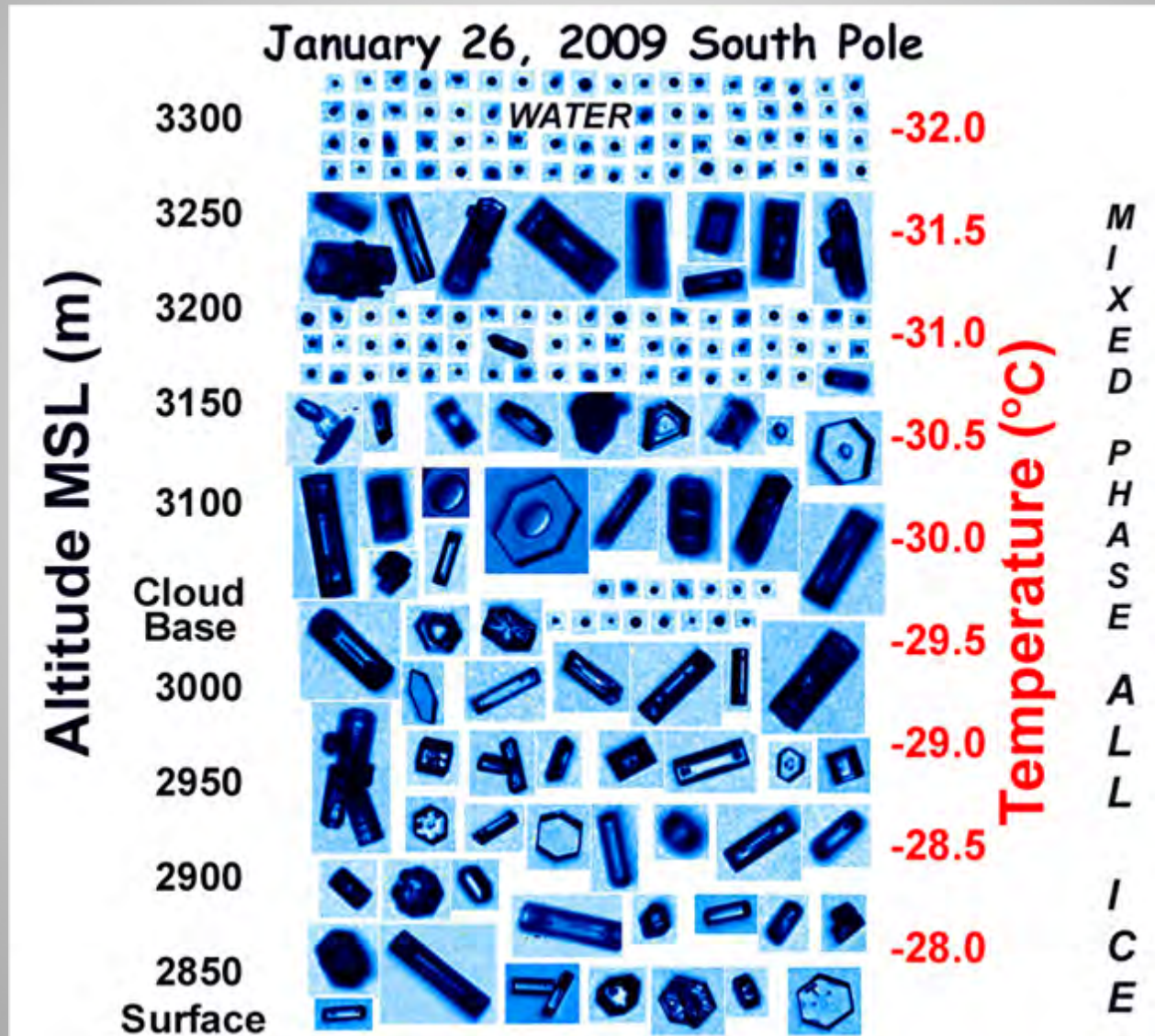
SPL Instruments	Measurement	Location	Operation Plans	Calibration History/plans	Level 1 Data Availability	Level 2 Plans
PIP	Raw data needed 100 microns to 6.5 mm.	SPL	Whenever particles are around	Cal by dmt prior.	Raw data will be provided	Processing in plans.
fssp	Psd 1-50 microns	SPL	Whenever particles are around	Calibrated by dmt	Raw data to be preserved	Size distributions
Ccn counter	Number per cm3 per ss%	SPL	24/7	DMT calibration	Available upon request	n/a
Smmps (scanning mobility particle sizer	8-500nm size distribution	SPL	24/7	TSI calibration annually; Not mission critical		
APS (aerodynamic particle sizer)	500nm to 20 microns	SPL	24/7	TSI calibartion annually; Not mission critical		
(U)Cpc (ultra)(condensati on particle counter)	Aerosol concentrtion 10 and 3 nm cutoffs	SPL	24/7	TSI calibration annually; Not mission critical		
Trace gasses (ozone and co2)		SPL	24/7	Not mission critical		

SPEC	Measurement	Location	Operation Plans	Calibration History/plans	Level 1 Data Availability	Level 2 Plans
CPI	Particle Imagery	SPL				
Fast FSSP	1-50 micron PSD	SPL				
2D-S	10-3000 micron PSD	SPL				
HVPS	0.2-5 cm PSD	SPL				
Extinctionmeter	Extinction	SPL				
Nevzorov	Total water mass	SPL				
Rosemont icing probe		SPL				



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Why all the uncertainty with clouds?



Courtesy: Paul Lawson