

# Continuous gravity in volcanic geothermal fields: contribution to gravity tidal models

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Vincent Droin, Freysteinn Sigmundsson  
Arthur Jolly and Richard Warburton



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



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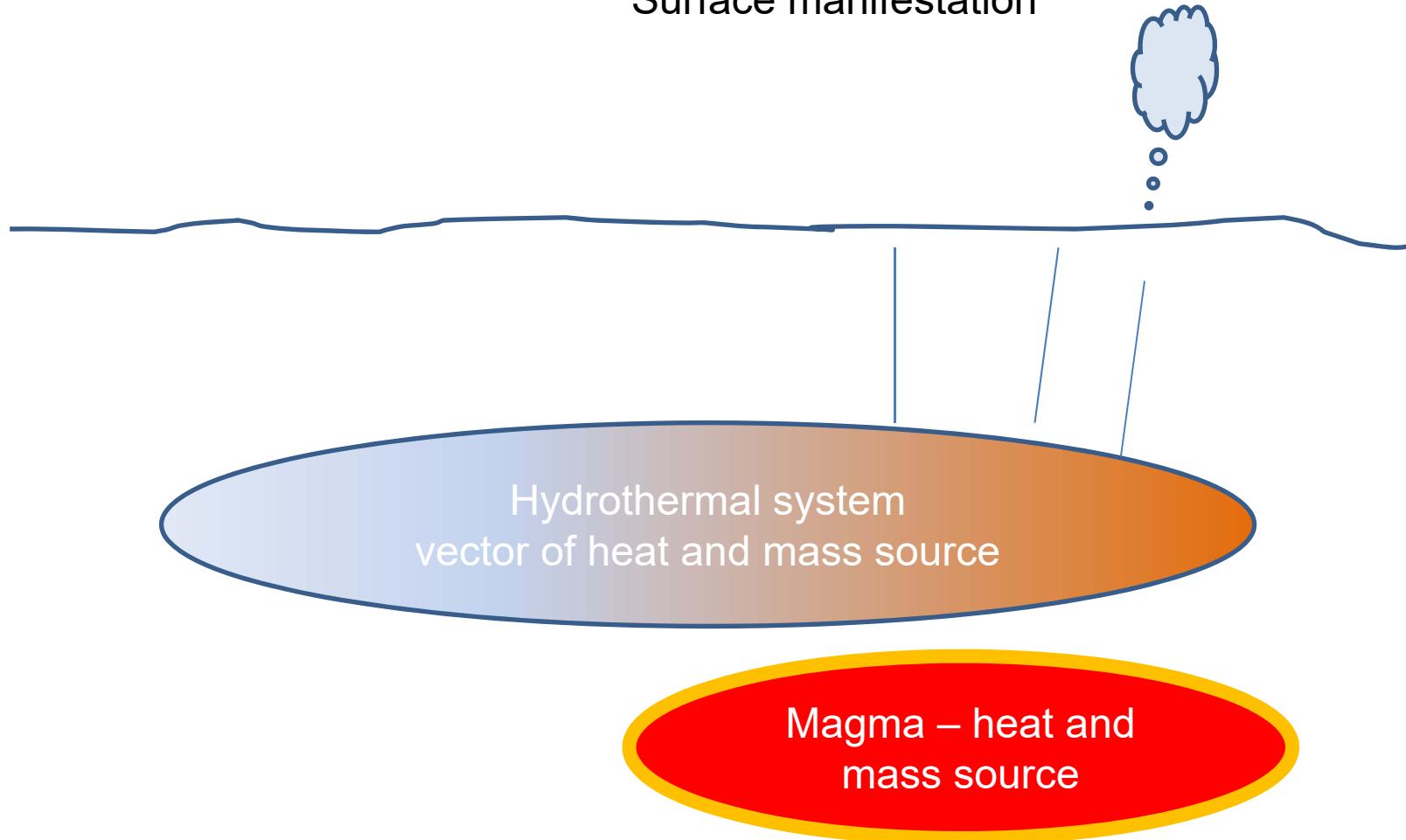
- Objectives and Methods
- Equipment deployment
- Preliminary results and perspectives

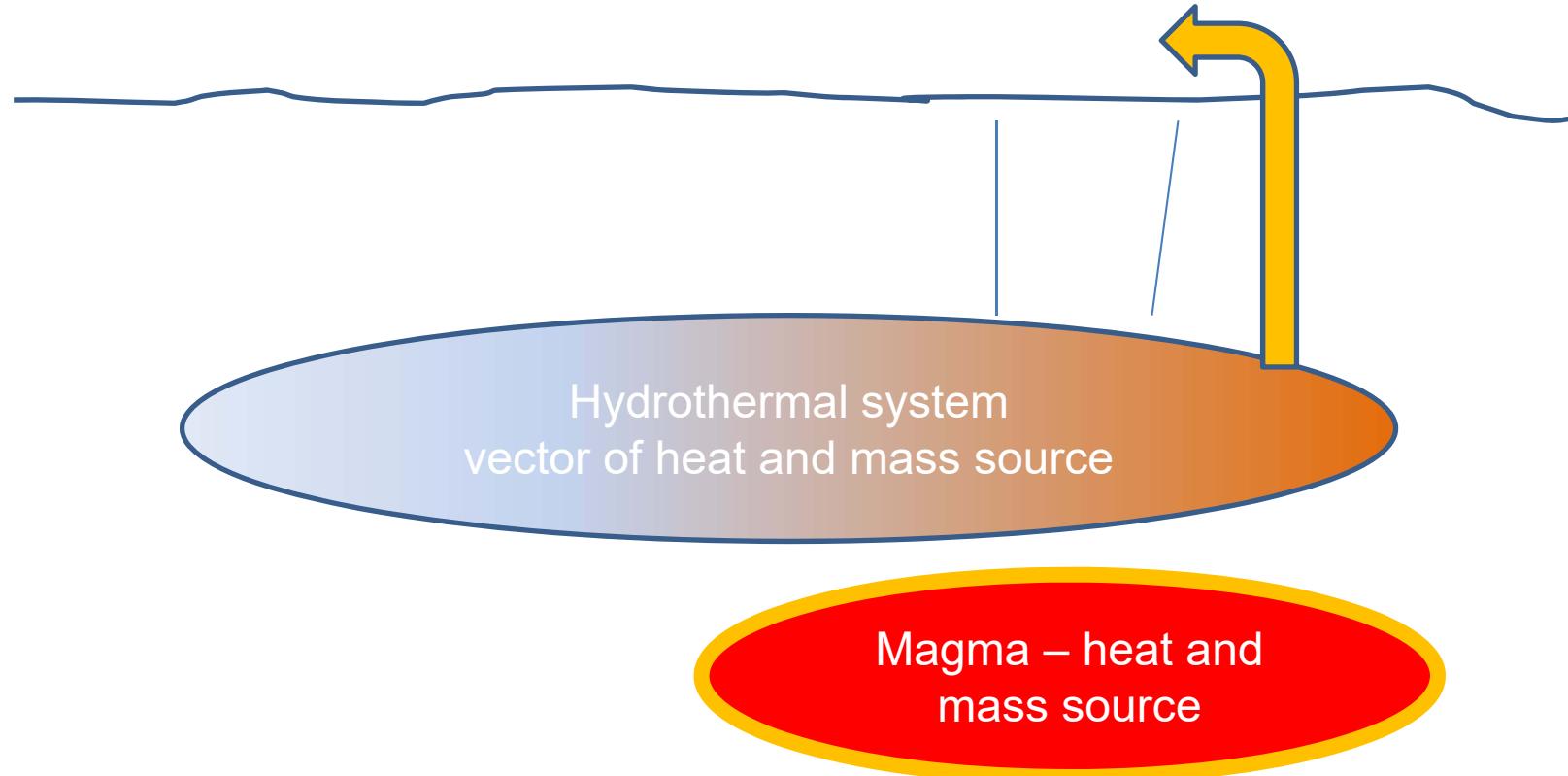


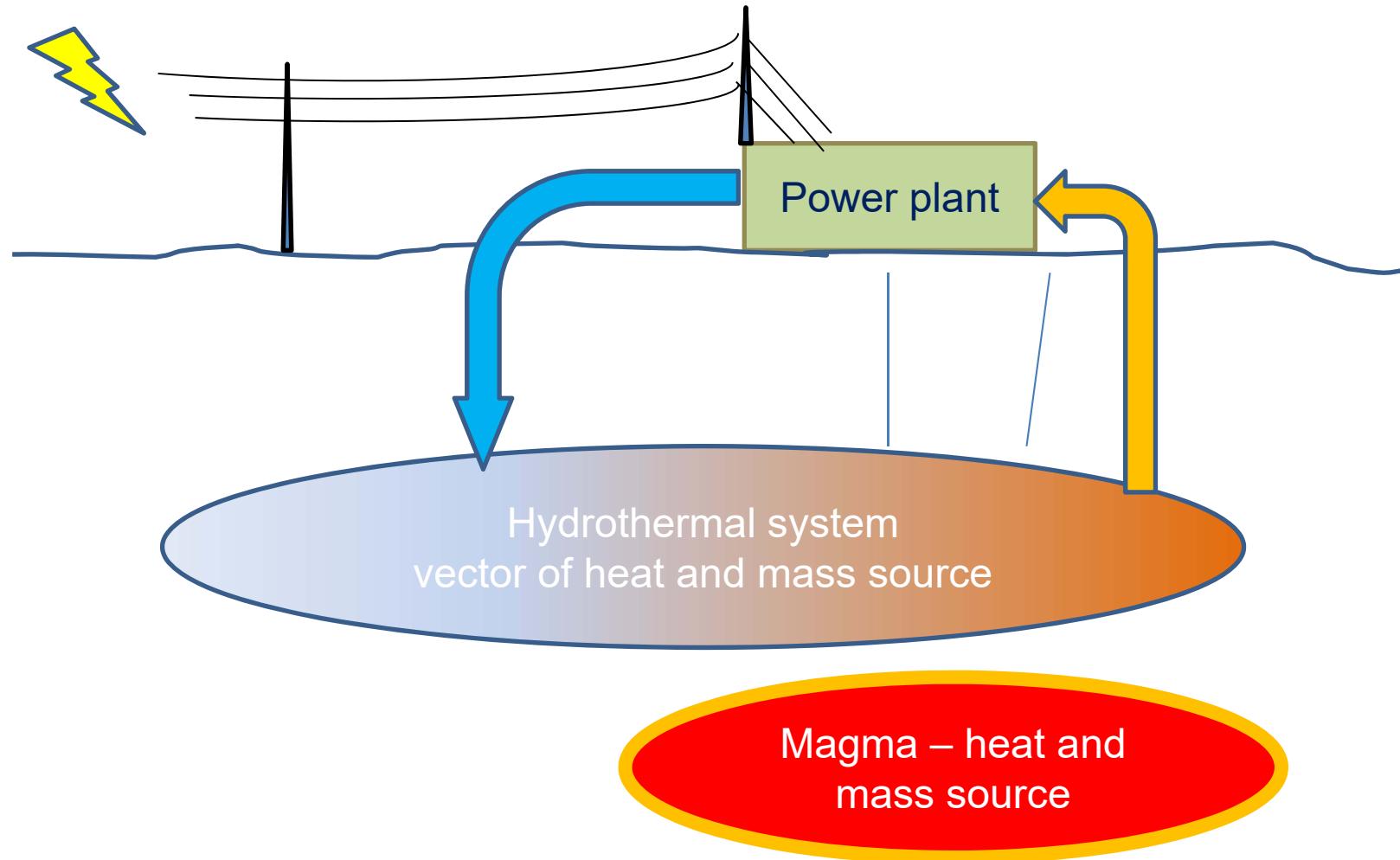
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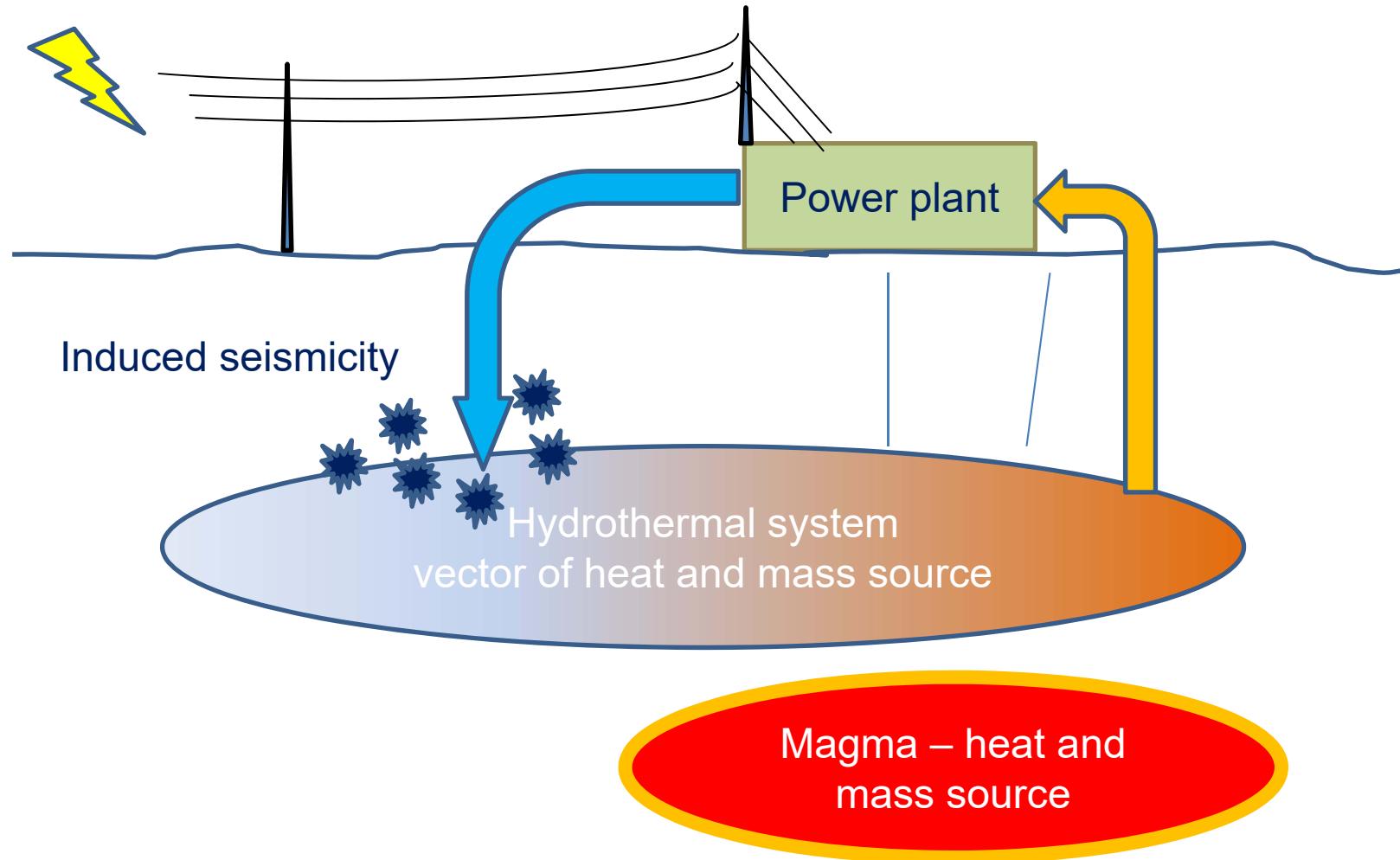


Surface manifestation









# Scientific and pragmatic objectives

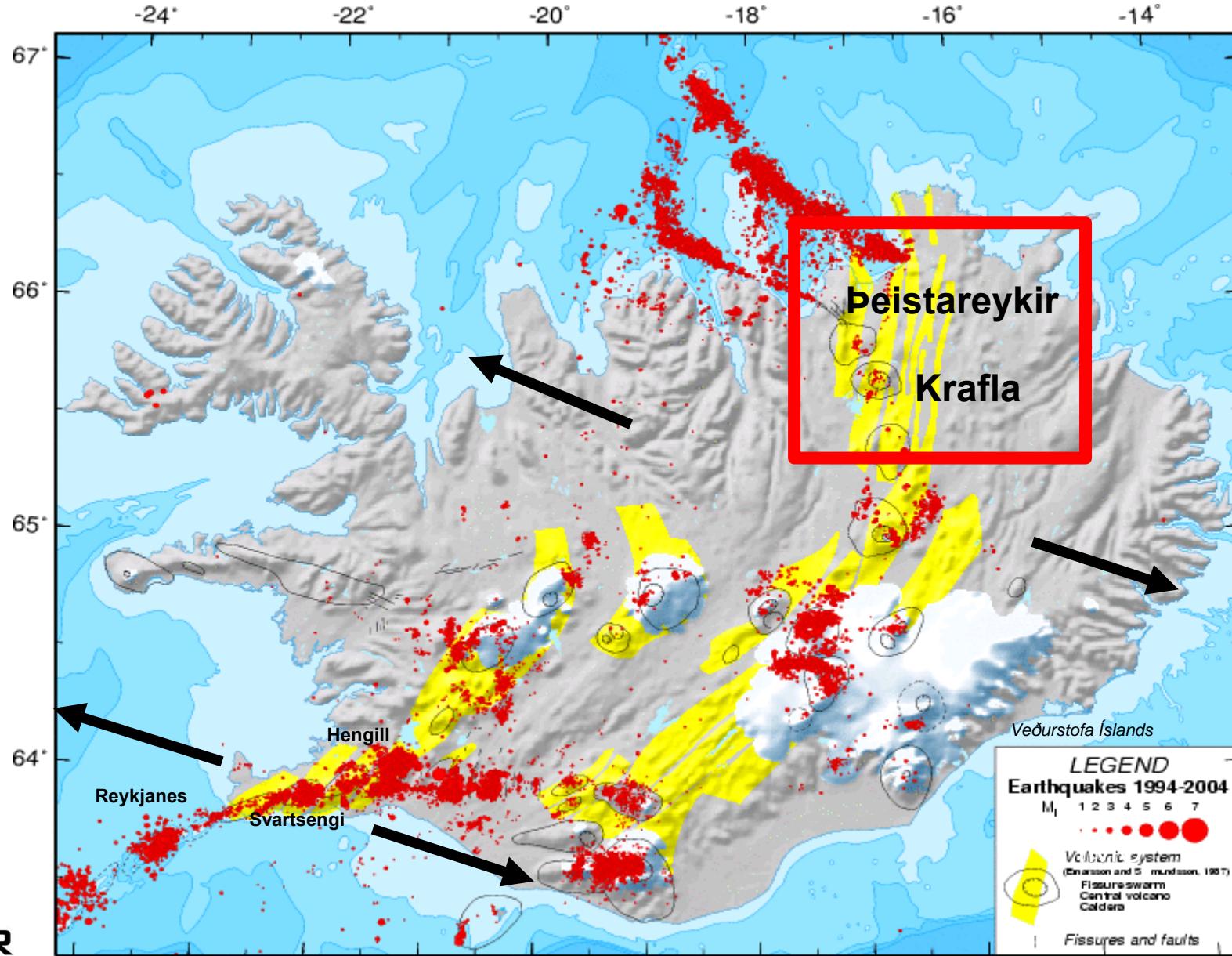
- **Geothermal systems**

- Quantify fluid transfer used for electricity production
- Find and quantify the recharge
- Link induced seismicity to rate and mass production
- Quantify underground permeability

This project aims at helping management of the geothermal resource by understanding mass and stress transfer

- **Volcanoes:** challenges to interpret signals with respect to other signals (**intruded mass unknown, structure unknown**)

This project helps constraining processes of mass and stress transfer for volcanic hazard assessment



# Geothermal Drilling in Þeistareykir

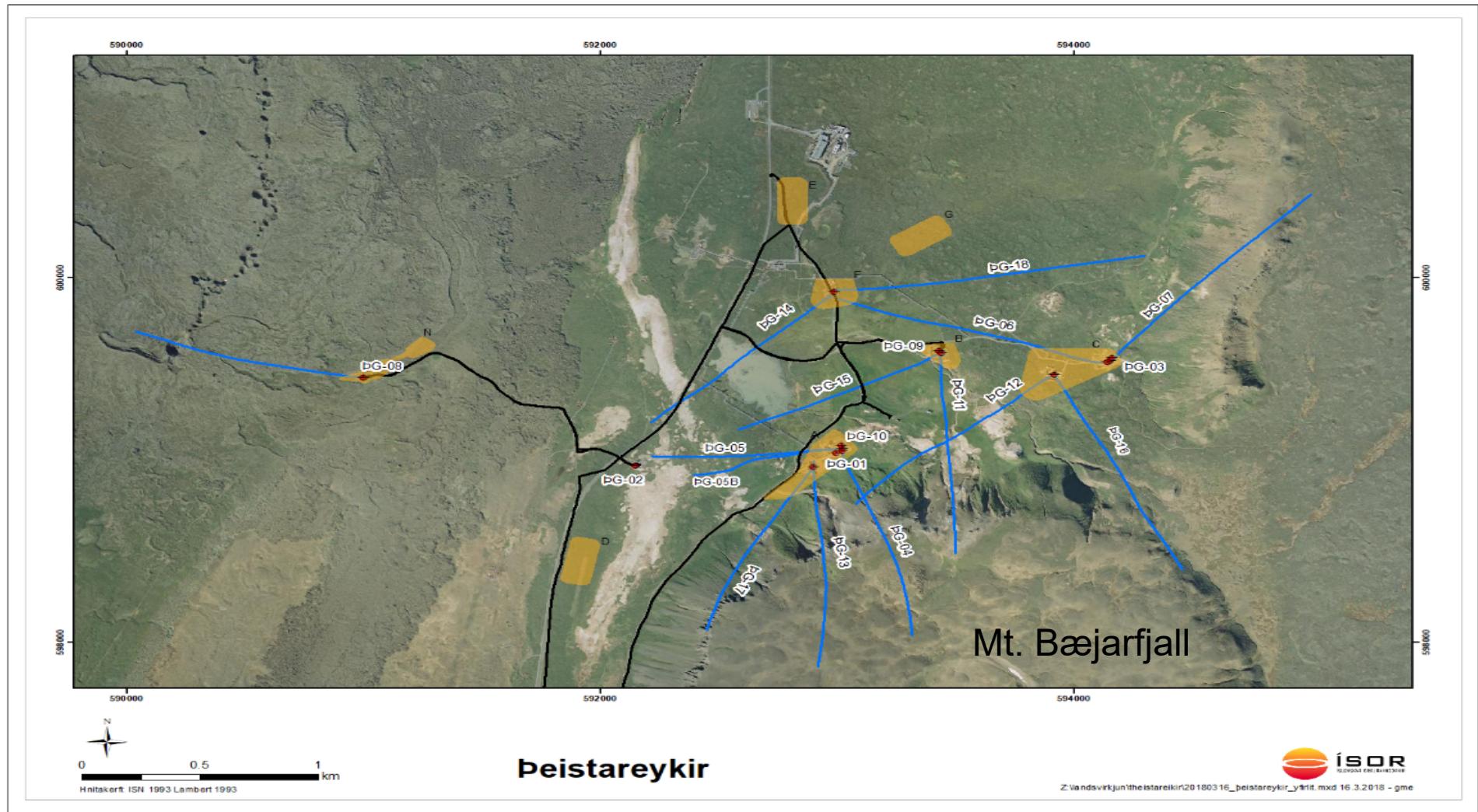
- **Exploration drilling** started in 2002 with drilling of wells PG-1 to PG-9
- **Geophysical exploration:** TEM resistivity measurements indicate size of 45 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Estimated power capacity of the area 270 MW. Based on resistivity and modelling.
- The plan is to utilize the area in two 45 MW steps
- In early 2016 directional drilling started, in order to fulfill the 90 MW
- In total 9 wells were drilled from early 2016 until late 2017 (PG-10 to PG-18)



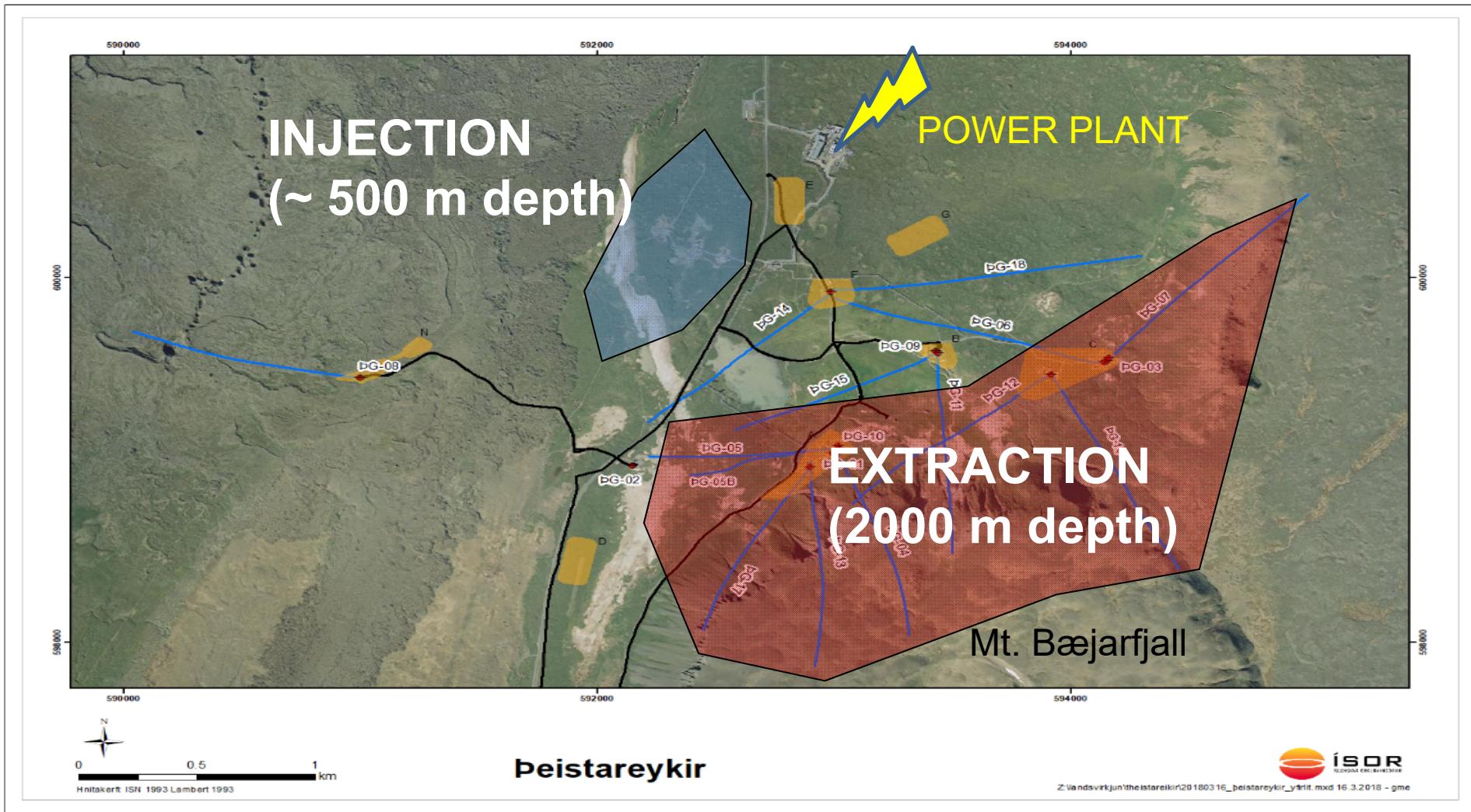
Curtesy: Sylvía Rakel Guðjónsdóttir



# Geothermal Drilling in Þeistareykir



# Geothermal Drilling in Þeistareykir



# Geophysical methods for tracking mass and stress in the reservoir

- Gravity methods (density, mass distribution)
  - Reservoir location
  - Sustainability of the reservoir (fluid extraction and recharge)
- Seismic methods (seismic velocities, attenuation, stress)
  - Fractures and reservoir location
  - Fluid content
  - Fluid dynamics
- Electromagnetic methods (resistivity)
  - Rock permeability, porosity, fractures and fissures
  - Temperature, Fluids
- Additional methods that may influence gravity:
  - Elevation, deformation (GNSS, tiltmeters, InSAR ...)
  - Hydrological parameters

## INSTRUMENTATION

### Gravity Meters

- 5 Gravity meters deployed since December 2017
  - 3 @ Þeistareykir, 1 @ Krafla
  - 1 Reference station near Husavik, far from production/injection
    - 3 iGrav (superconducting from GFZ and GWR: 006, 015, 032)
    - 2 gPhoneX (128-GFZ and 061-GNS)
- 1 CG5 (relative gravity meter - EOST)
- 1 FG5 (absolute gravity meter - EOST)



## **Ground motion/Seismic network**

- 5 GNSS receivers
- 5 Tiltmeters
- 14 Trillium Compact and 14 Cube (GFZ)

## **Magneto-telluric**

- 2 Magneto-telluric continuous stations

## **Environmental parameters**

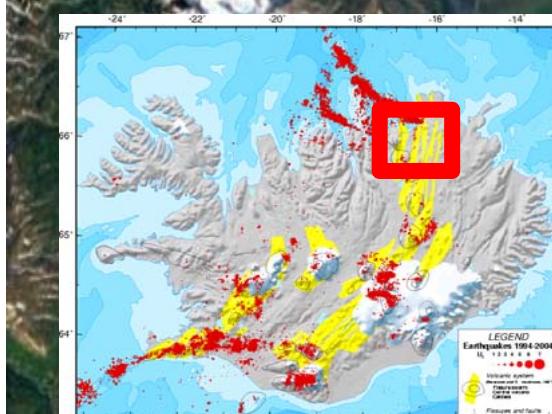
- 5 Meteorological sensors (P, T, Humidity, wind direction, snow height...)
- 150 Hydrological sensors

## Seismic and gravitymeter network

Theystareykir, North Iceland

### Legend

- Gravity station
- Seismometer
- TelecomKabel
- Track



Google Earth

Image IBCAO

Image Landsat / Copernicus

SCGR

Þeistareykir

SCGW

GPXC

SCGE

GPXK

N

20 km

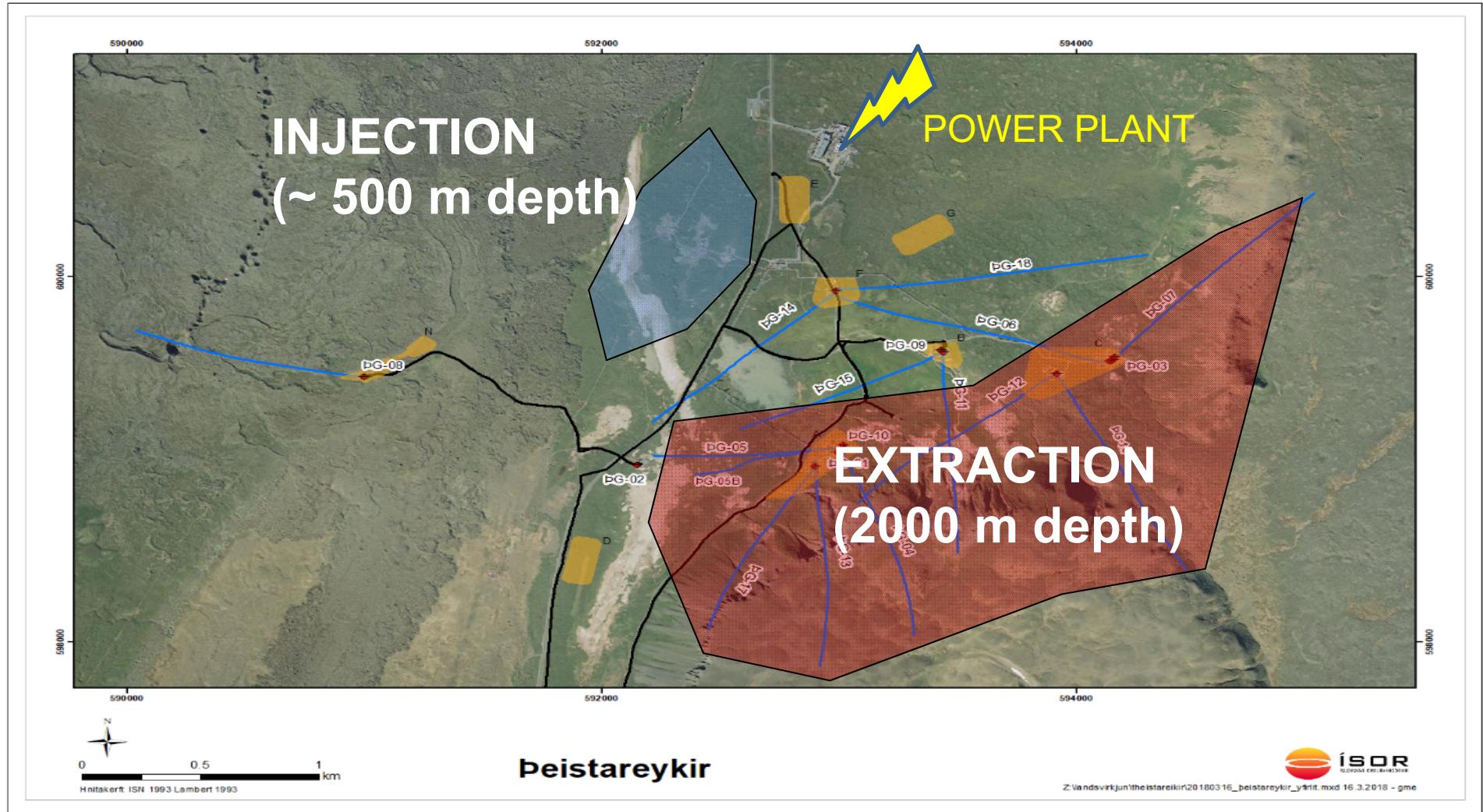
20 km

**GFZ**

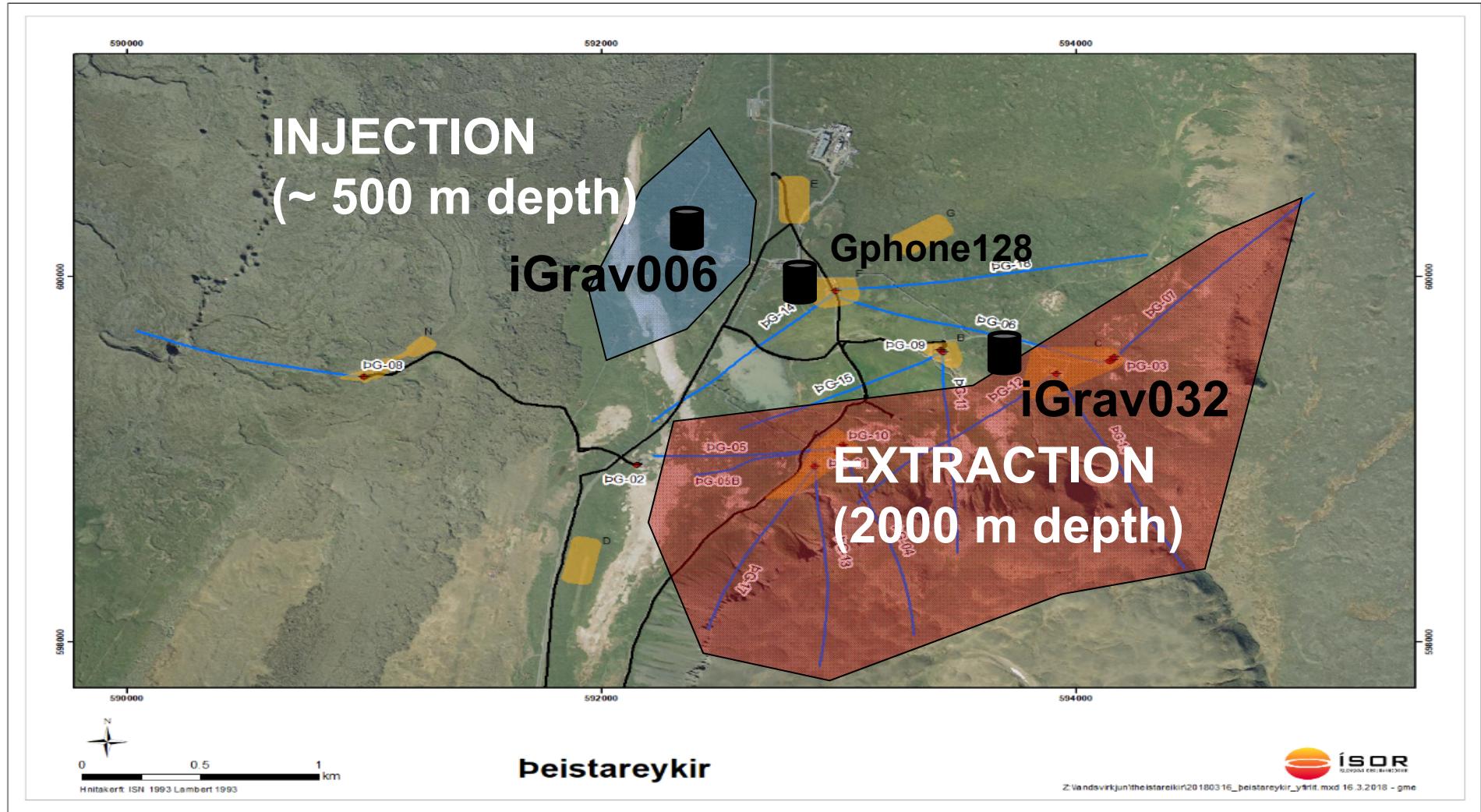
Helmholtz Centre  
POTS DAM

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ASSOCIATION

# Mass transfer and gravimeter network



# Mass transfer and gravimeter network





## June 2017 – Scouting – seismic and gravity stations



## July-August 2017 – pillar construction



## October 2017 – Containers transportation and deployment







## December 2017 – Gravimeters deployment







## December 2017 – Having fun with the Helium bottle!



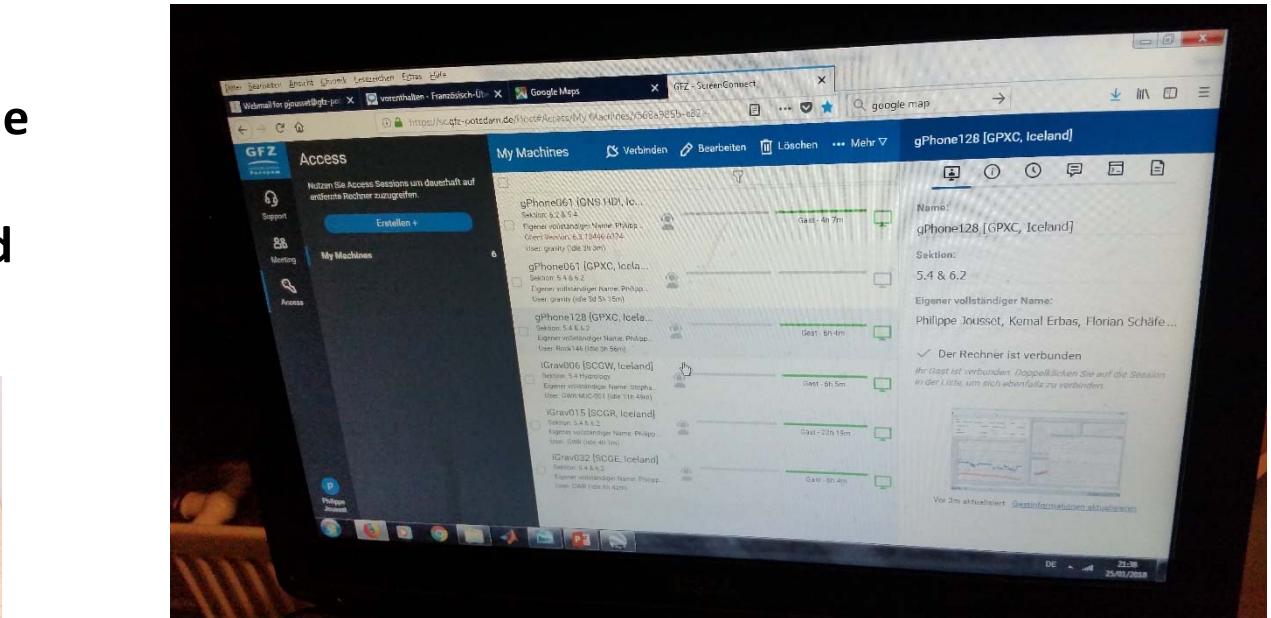
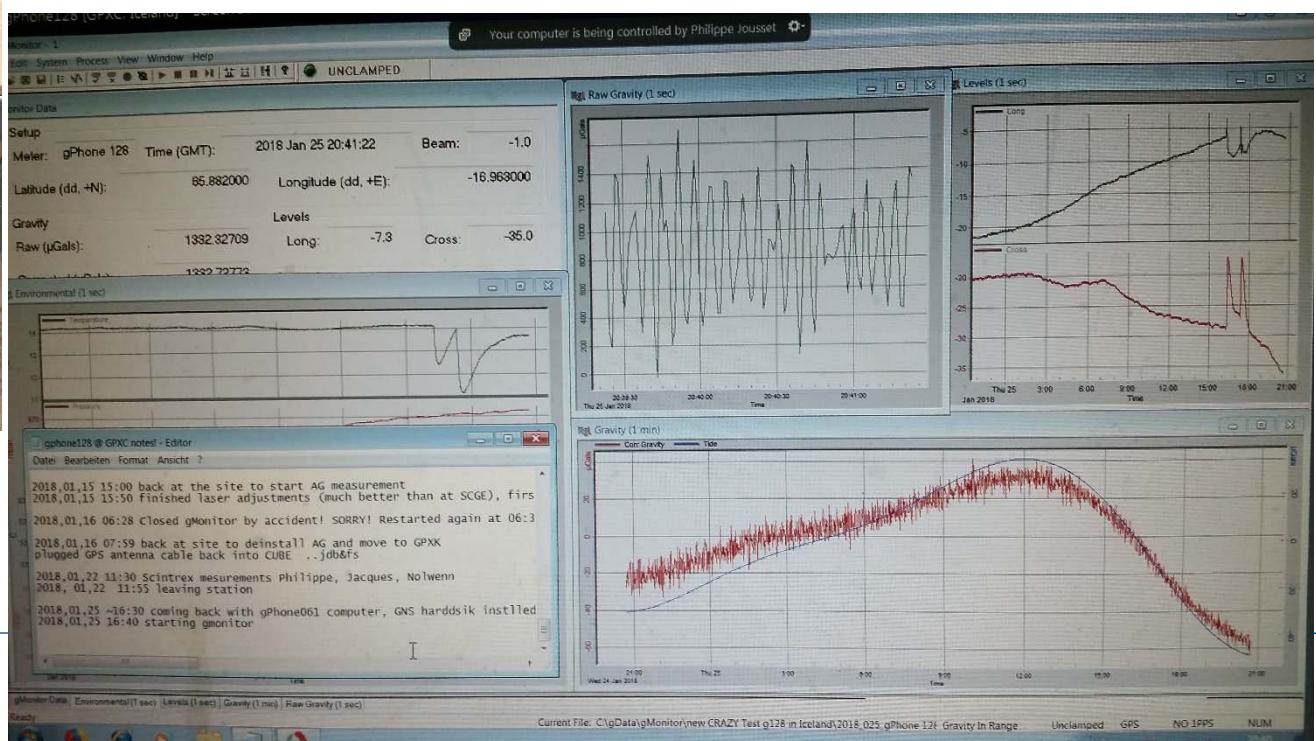
Poster EGU2018-7855

**Sensors,  
Compressor,  
Helium bottle  
Cooling system  
Communication (wifi),  
....**

**Ready to operate!**



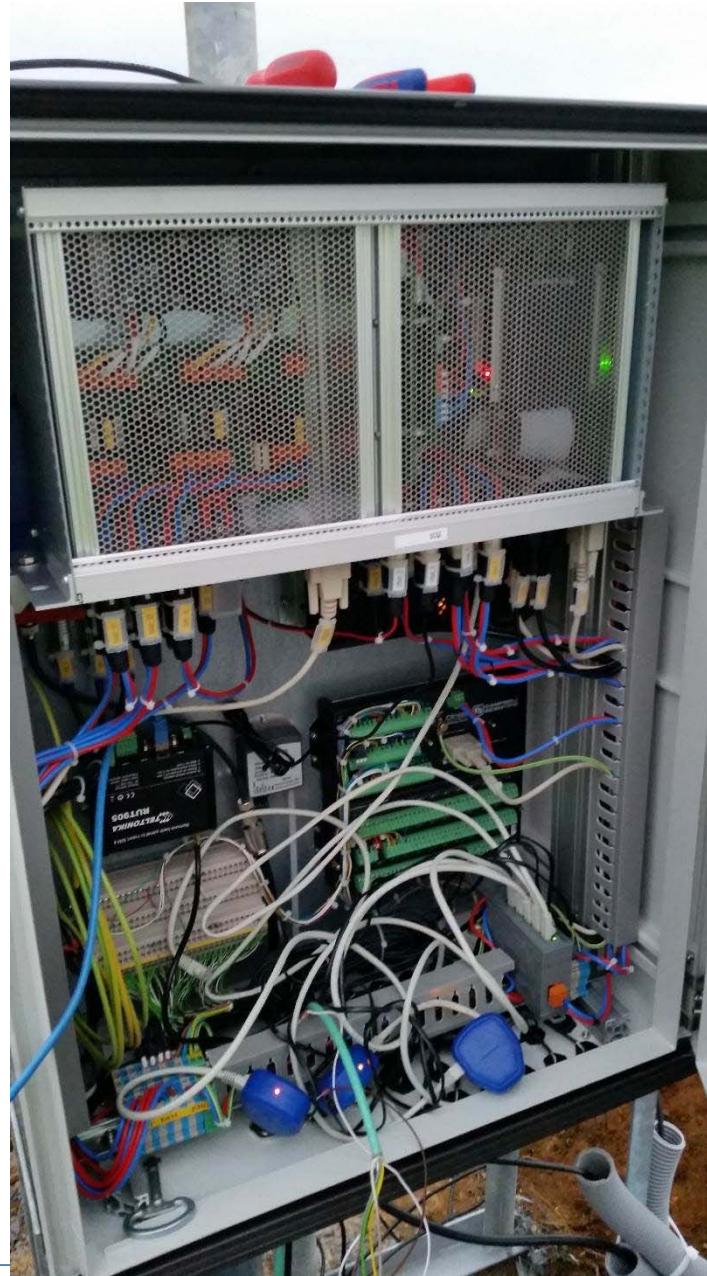
# Remote control of the stations via wifi and/or SIM card

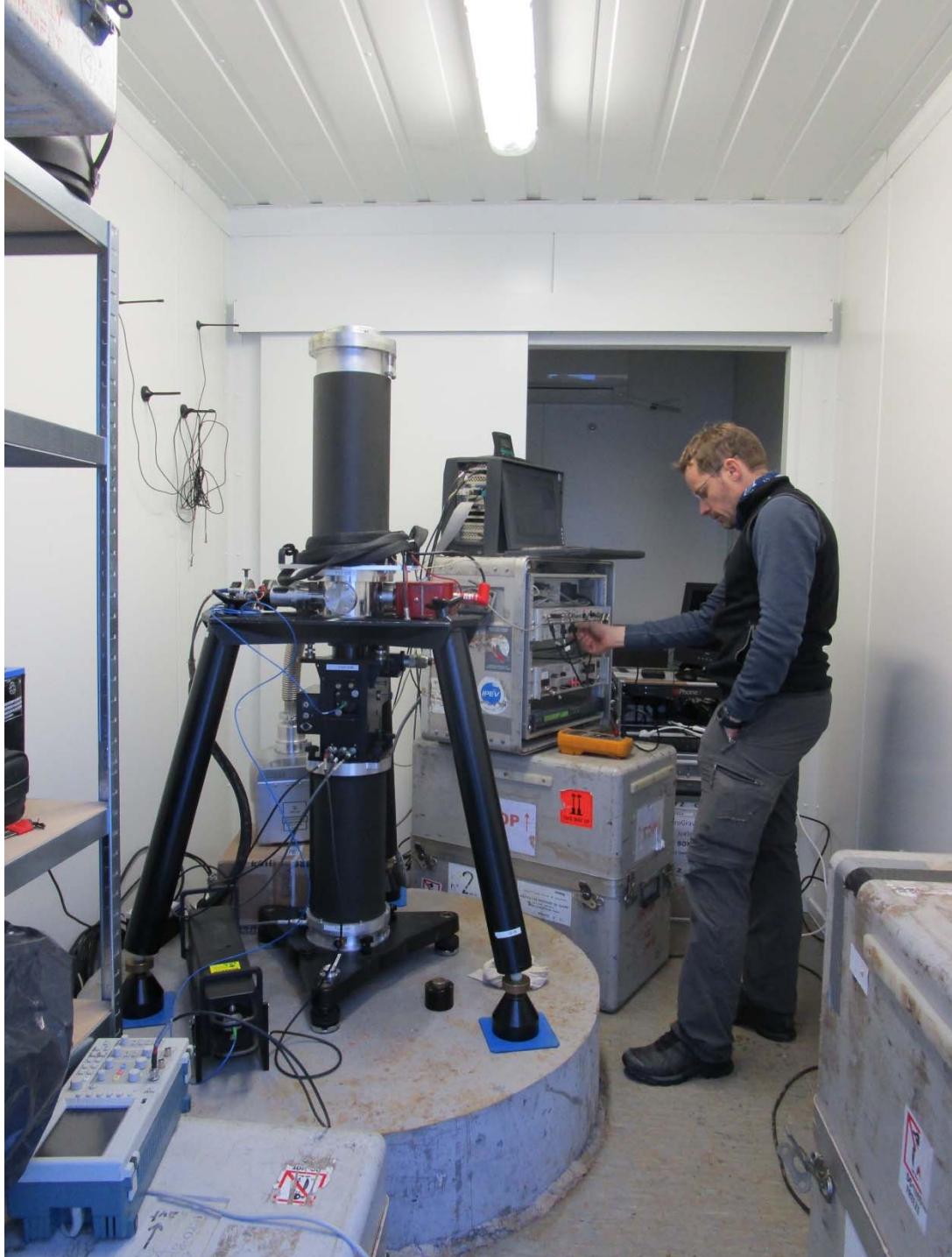


## October 2017 – Deploying ROMPS et other sensors



# Remote Operating Monitoring Permanent System





**August 2017/ December 2017  
Absolute gravity measurements  
On the second pillar of each  
container**

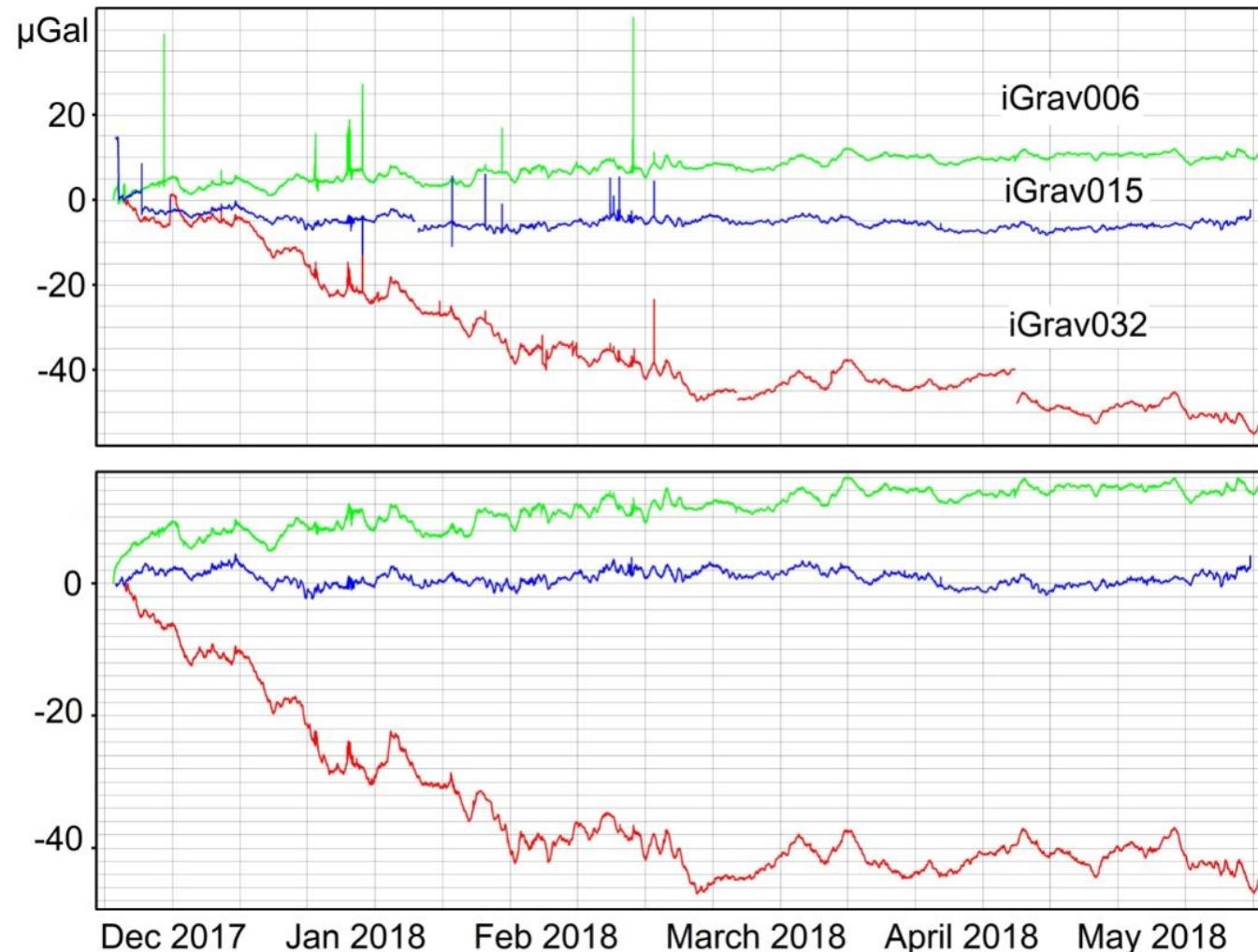
**Ney campaign summer 2018**

## Repeated gravity measurement on the second pillar



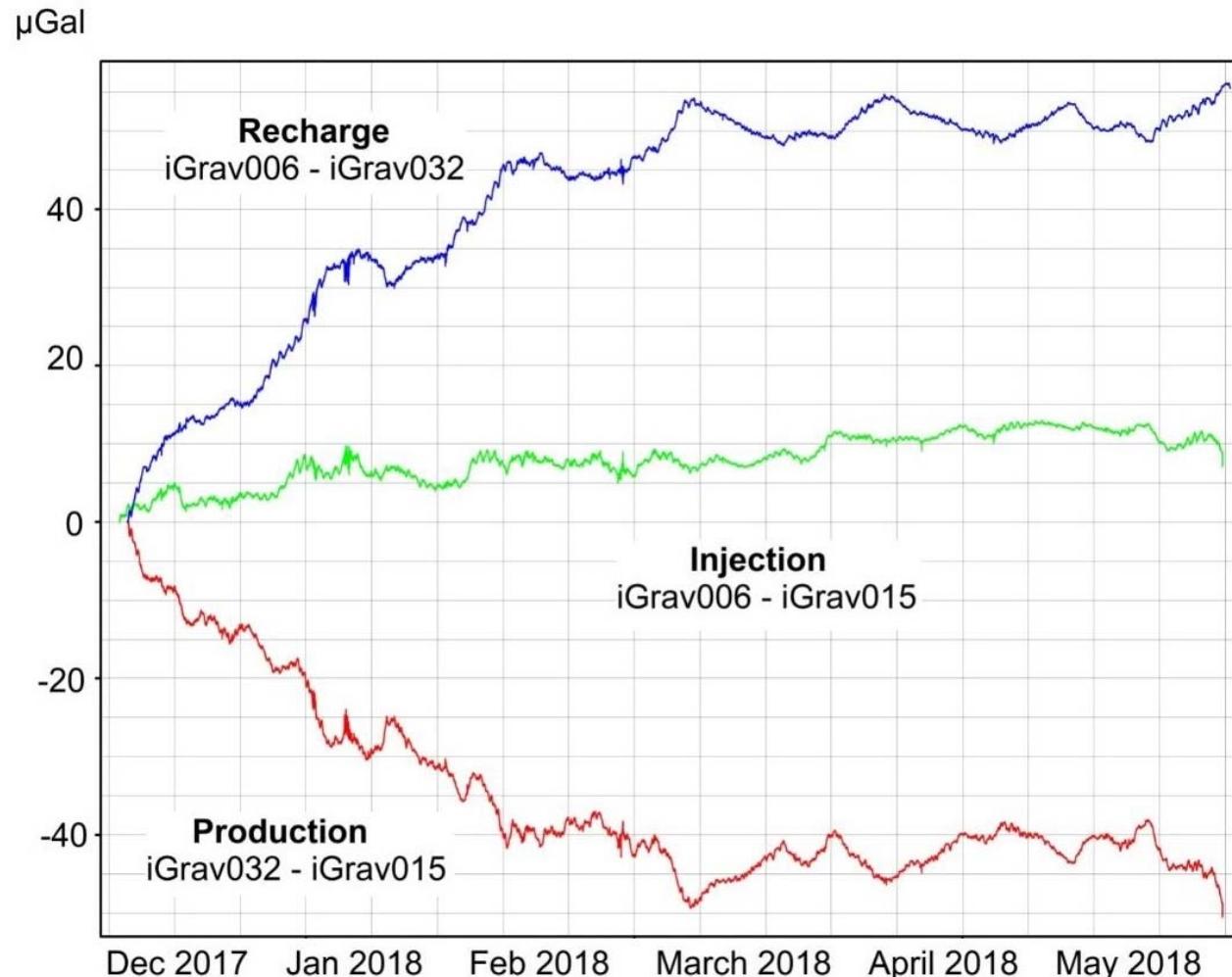
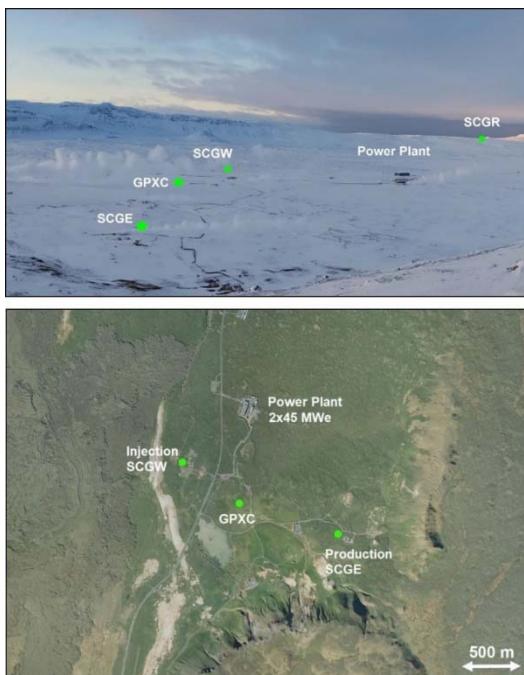
## Residuals of iGrav (top uncorrected, bottom corrected for spikes and steps)

- **Scale factors**  
from calibration  
measurements  
at Strasbourg  
(FG5 and iOSG23)
- **Tidal analysis**  
with ETERNA 3.4
- 6 months models  
for each station
- Incl. air pressure  
correction



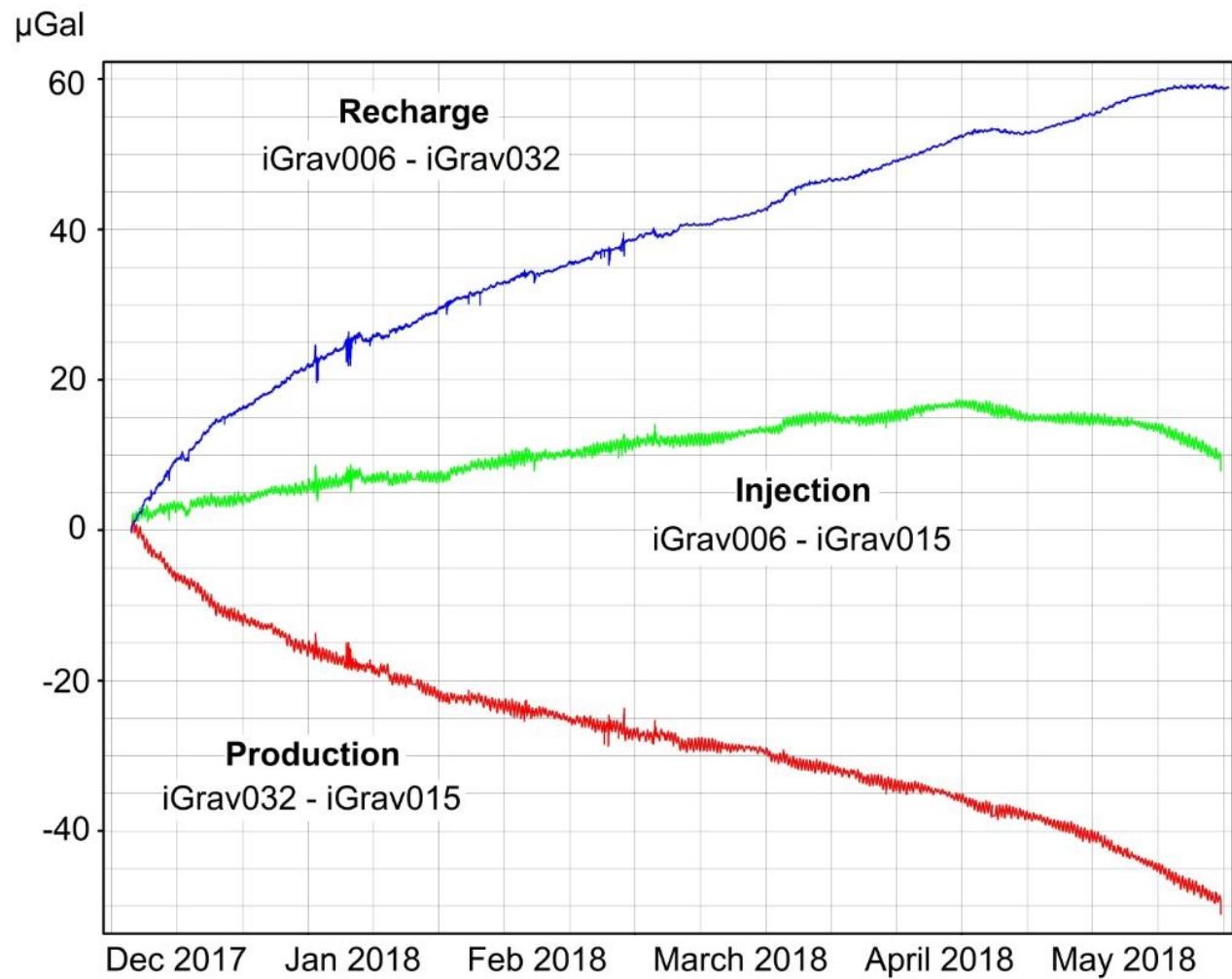
## Gravity differences – of residuals (tides and pressure corrected)

- iGrav006 = **SCGWest**  
(injection site)
- iGrav032 = **SCGEast**  
(production site)
- iGrav015 = **SCGReference**



## Gravity differences – of calibrated raw gravity (no tidal and pressure correction)

- iGrav006 = **SCGWest** (injection site)
- iGrav032 = **SCGEast** (production site)
- iGrav015 = **SCGReference**



# Final remarks

- **Sub-complete set of measurements**  
gravity, seismicity, deformation, EM, useful for geothermal research and monitoring
- **Complementary method** of gravity measurements:
  - Repeated (Scintrex) / Continuous (iGrav, gPhones)
  - Relative/absolute (FG5)
- **Small drift** of the iGravs – checked together in Strasbourg (France) with other superconducting gravity meters at a well characterized site.
- **First results** suggest what we expect, however **clear need for further investigations**, perform all corrections and compare with injection/production data

# Final remarks

- Sub-complete set of complementary observations , useful for mass and stress research and monitoring
  - gravity,
  - ground motion,
  - ground displacement,
  - EM
  - environmental observations
- Bring information about geothermal reservoir location and provides information for sustainability
- Provides constraints on processes of fluid transfer

# Perspectives

**Confirm signals - Check drifts with second set of absolute gravity measurements (this summer)**

**Computations of Earth tide models and admittances  
Comparison with seismic activity, EM, other signals**

**Introducing the new  
Absolute Quantum Gravimeter**

- absolute
- continuous record
- repeatability < 2 microgal
- low power



Takk fyrir !

