



Doppler Cloud Radar calibration

Status of campaigns and reports

**J-F Ribaud (IPSL), J-C Dupont (IPSL),
F. Toledo (OVSQ)**

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A big thank you to all NFs for their warm welcome !

A two step DCR Calibration strategy

CCRES objective is to guarantee a network of **high-quality observations** (consistency, comparability, ...)

→ Needs of **standardized** and **repeatable** calibrations methods

1) **Absolute calibration : Toledo et al., 2020 → BASTA-CCRES**

- a) Very reliable method but is work intensive & hard to carry out
- b) Does not work with all DCRs : signal saturation with RPG & Metek

1) **Calibration transfer: Jorquera et al., 2023**

BASTA-CCRES goes to every NF to calibrate their instruments (focus on ice clouds)

- a) Much simpler method to implement than absolute calibration
- b) Works between any radar models and both 35-94GHz

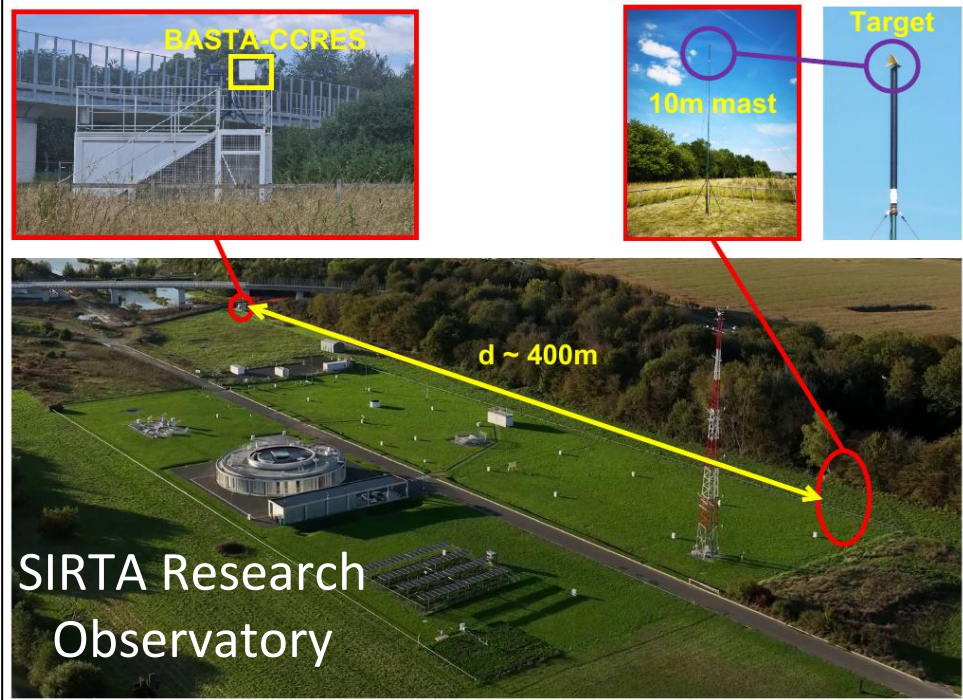
Main steps for a CCRES DCR calibration campaign

Step	Duration	Action
1	1 week	Absolute calibration of the BASTA-CCRES radar (reference) at SIRTa (Toledo et al., 2021)
2	1 week	Preparation of the two transport cases (radar + equipment) + discussion with the transport company + cases departure
3	0.5 week	CCRES team journeys for BASTA-CCRES set-up
4	8 weeks	Data collection + Real-time data transfer to Cloudnet + remote monitoring of the BASTA-CCRES to ensure everything is running smoothly
5	0.5 week	CCRES team journeys for BASTA-CCRES removal
6	1 week	Absolute calibration of the BASTA-CCRES radar (reference) at SIRTa
7	1-2 week-s	Data analysis and calibration report

- Total ~ 3.5 months for one calibration campaign
- Time consuming if properly planned, CCRES has the capacity to conduct 3 to 4 campaigns/year

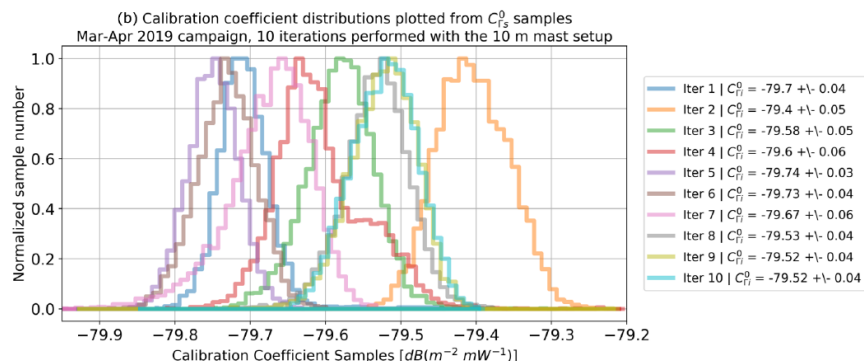
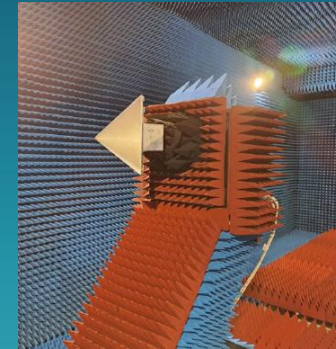
Step 1: BASTA-CCRES absolute calibration (Toledo et al., 2020)

Absolute calibration perform **before** and **after** each transfer calibration campaign to ensure good quality



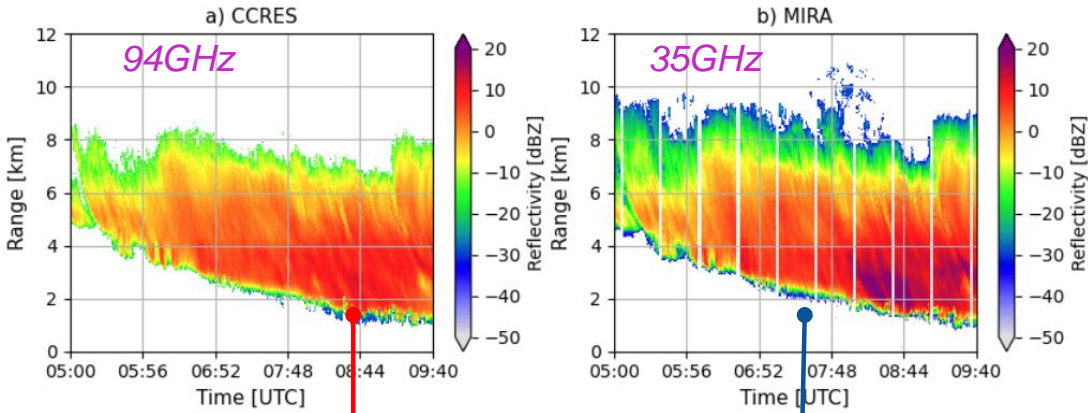
Reference radar mode	Eq. Reflectivity Calibration constant	Reference radar calibration uncertainty
25m	-181.5 dB	0.8 dB

- Monitoring of the **calibration** constant **several times per year**
- The **calibration target** is currently being re-characterized in an **anechoic chamber** to ensure calibration quality (*previous dec. 2022, next nov. 2025*)
- Preparation of an **official report** for each absolute calibration
- Make the **results** available on the **CCRES website**



Step 2: Transfer calibration campaigns (Jorquera et al., 2023)

BASTA-CCRES (calib.) & MIRA (uncalib.)
Zh measurements



2024 calibration
campaign at
Jülich

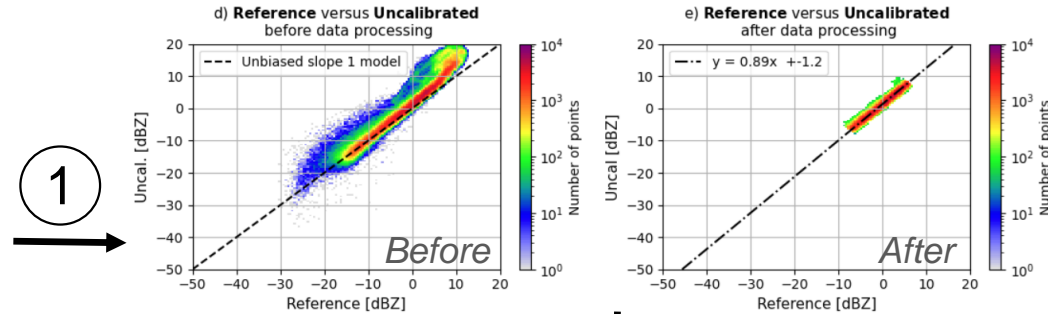
Joyce Obs. Radar
MIRA
Ka Band



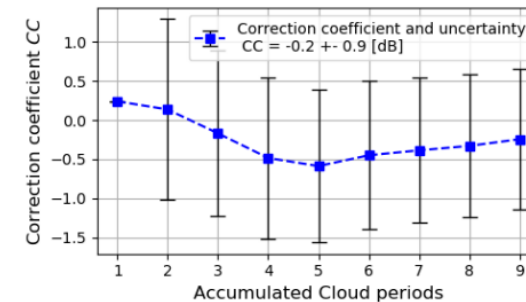
Reference Radar
BASTA-Mini CCRES
W Band



Zh measured by both DCR (calib. & uncalib.)
before/after data processing



2

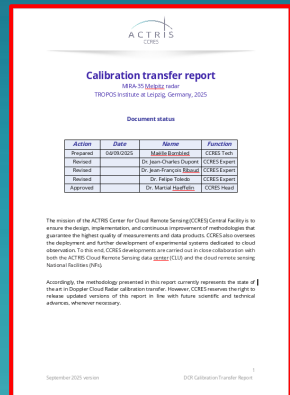


Final calibration result

3

Correction coefficient (Reference - MIRA)	Uncertainty
- 0.2 dB	0.9 dB

Calibration transfer
report &
CC transmitted to CLU
Data Center



4

DCR Calibration Transfer Campaign schedule

Previous campaigns

Current campaigns

Future campaigns

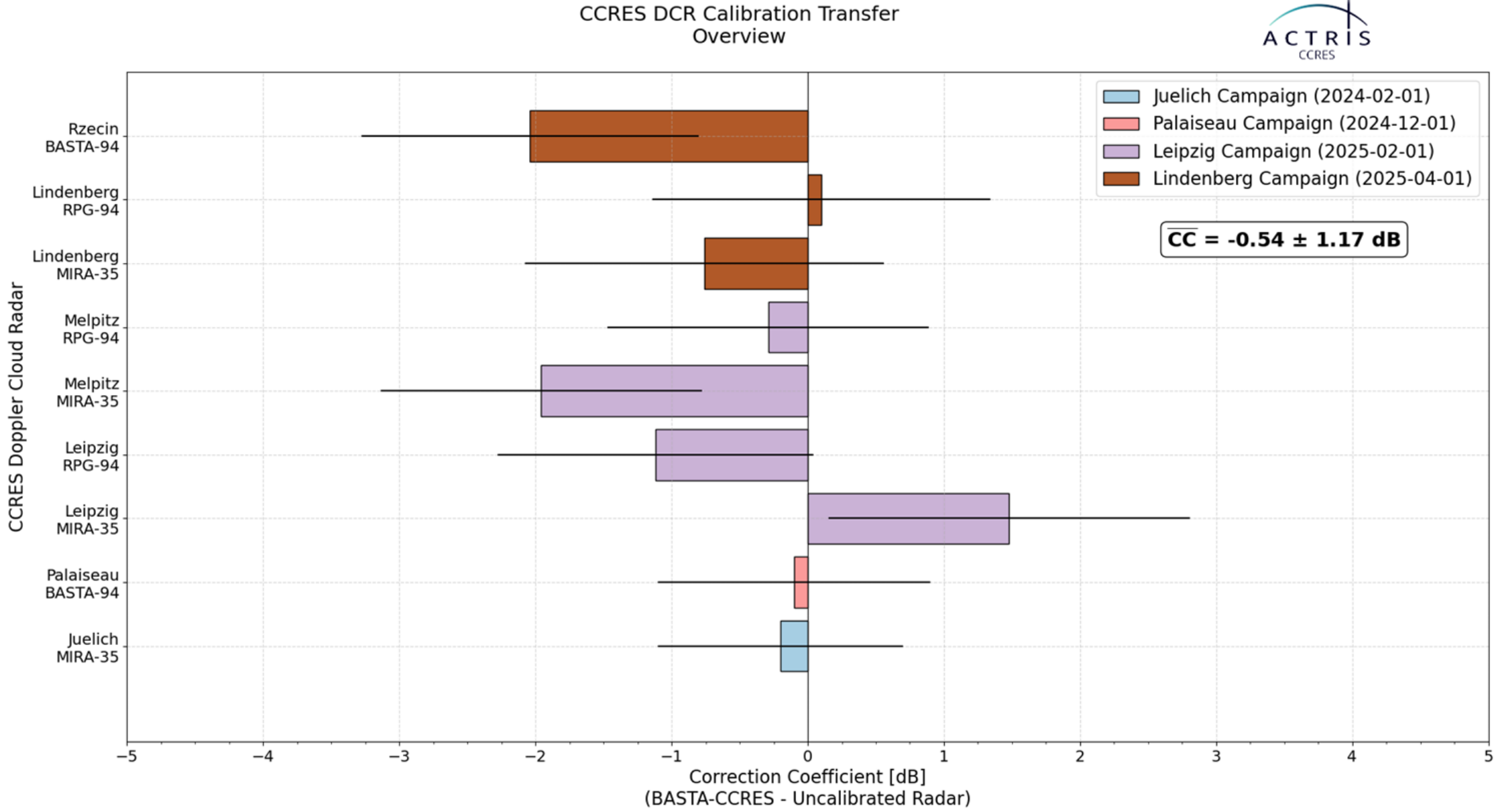


Site (NF)	Radar	Calibration period
Juelich (JOYCE)	MIRA 35 GHz	dec 2023 - feb 2024
Palaiseau (SIRTA)	BASTA 94 GHz	dec 2024
Leipzig (TROPOS) / Melptiz	2 RPG 94 GHz + 2 MIRA 35 GHz	jan-feb 2025
Lindenberg (MOL-RAO) / Rzecin	MIRA 35 GHz + RPG 94 GHz + BASTA 94 GHz	mar-may 2025
Granada (AGORA)	RPG 35-94 GHz	~ oct-dec 2025
Bucharest (RADO)	RPG 94 GHz + MIRA 35 GHz	~ jan-feb 2026
Cluj (RADO)	RPG 94 GHz	~ mar-may 2026
Galati (RADO)	RPG 94 GHz	~ may-jul 2026
???	???	Fall 2026
? Lampedusa ?	Metek 35 GHz	Spring 2027

9 radars
calibrated
so far

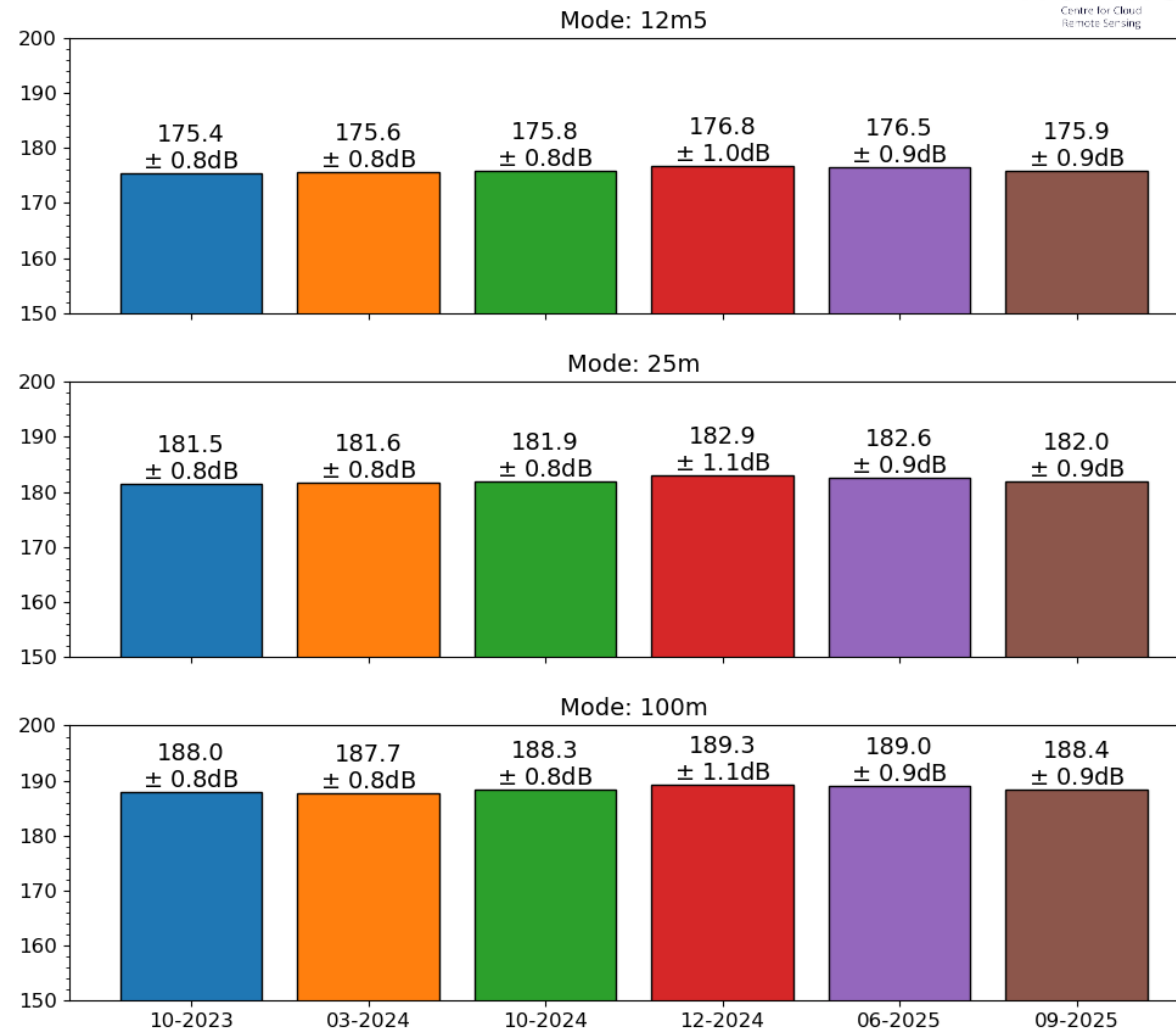
And 6 more
coming soon

Overview of the CCRES DCR Calibration campaigns results



Validation of the reference radar calibration

BASTA-CCRES calibration constante evolution (x-1)
Derived from absolute calibration operated at SIRTa Observatory
Palaiseau site (48.717N, 2.209E, 156 m)



Stability over
time


Calibration reports

Write a **calibration transfer report** for each campaign dedicated to calibrate the “uncalibrated DCR radar”

A **DOI is fixed** for each dataset

Each **calibration report** is sent for final review to the **relevant NFs** before the online availability on CCRES web page

Each **calibration report** and **Correction Coefficient** are transmitted to CLU Data Center <https://cloudnet.fmi.fi/>



Calibration transfer report

MIRA-35 Melpitz radar
TROPOS Institute at Leipzig, Germany, 2025

Document status

Action	Date	Name	Function
Prepared	04/09/2025	Maelle Bomblet	CCRES Tech
Revised		Dr. Jean-Charles Dupont	CCRES Expert
Revised		Dr. Jean-François <u>Ribaud</u>	CCRES Expert
Revised		Dr. Felipe Toledo	CCRES Expert
Approved		Dr. Martial <u>Haefelin</u>	CCRES Head

The mission of the ACTRIS Center for Cloud Remote Sensing (CCRES) Central Facility is to ensure the design, implementation, and continuous improvement of methodologies that guarantee the highest quality of measurements and data products. CCRES also oversees the deployment and further development of experimental systems dedicated to cloud observation. To this end, CCRES developments are carried out in close collaboration with both the ACTRIS Cloud Remote Sensing data center (CLU) and the cloud remote sensing National Facilities (NFs).

Accordingly, the methodology presented in this report currently represents the state of the art in Doppler Cloud Radar calibration transfer. However, CCRES reserves the right to release updated versions of this report in line with future scientific and technical advances, whenever necessary.

September 2025 version 1
DCR Calibration Transfer Report

Implementation

Correction Coefficient (CC)

- For each report :

$$CC \pm \sigma_{CC}$$

- Z Measurements are corrected by adding CC:

$$Z_{\text{corr}} = Z_{\text{uncal}} + CC$$

- + new Z calibration uncertainty = σ_{CC}

Example of a calibration result

Table 1 : Calibration transfer results.

Correction coefficient (Reference - MIRA-35)	Uncertainty
-2 dB	1 dB



Thank you !