RFID tags and reader to measure physical parameters in glacial environment

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RFID tags and reader to measure physical parameters in glacial environment

C. Lucianaz, G. Greco, S. Bertoldo, M. Allegretti, G. Perona
claudio.lucianaz@polito.it

TAG DESIGN

20 cm x 3.5 cm

Transmission apparatus
Printed Circuit Board (PCB):
- Control unit
- Sensors interfaces
- Power stages
Batteries

Capsule
SYSTEM DESCRIPTION
Accelerometer
Magnetometer
Temperature sensor
Pressure sensor

Microcontroller
Printed Circuit Board (PCB)
Flash memory
Tag
Antenna

EXAMPLE OF APPLICATION

x Sensore

t0

t0 + Δt

REF N. 1: O. Rorato et. al., An ad-hoc RFID tag for glaciers monitoring, IEEE APWC 2014, Palm Beach, Aruba, 3 – 9 August 2014, pp. 864-867

REF N. 2: C. Lucianaz et. al., RFID technology applied to glacial environment: MALATRA electronic system design and experimental data, International Symposium on Contribution of Glaciers and Ice Sheets to Sea Level Change, Chamonix (FRA), 26-30 May 2014

CHARACTERIZATION TESTS

1. Test of capsule impermeability, mechanical strength, transparency to electromagnetic waves
2. Signal straight measurement in free space
3. Radio frequency measurements through the detection of the RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator) in air, snow, ice
4. Power link estimation over free air
5. Characterization of temperature sensor in environmental chamber

FIELD TEST

Installation: capsule with tag+sensors at ground surface
Measured parameters
- temperature (bottom of snowpack), pressure - hourly; RSSI - daily.
- Control measures (manually executed): temperature (air, bottom of snowpack) - daily; snow depth - daily; snow density - weekly

graphic interface that allows communication between reader and tag

Temperature at the base of snowpack has a trend similar to air temperature until the thickness of snowpack is lower than 60 cm. When the cover increase, the temperature is stable and equal to about 0,6°C, according to manual measurements.