



SAFECAST

Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Environmental Mapping:  
Mobilising Trust in Measurements and Engaging Scientific Citizenry  
ICTP, Trieste - Italy    March 6-24, 2017



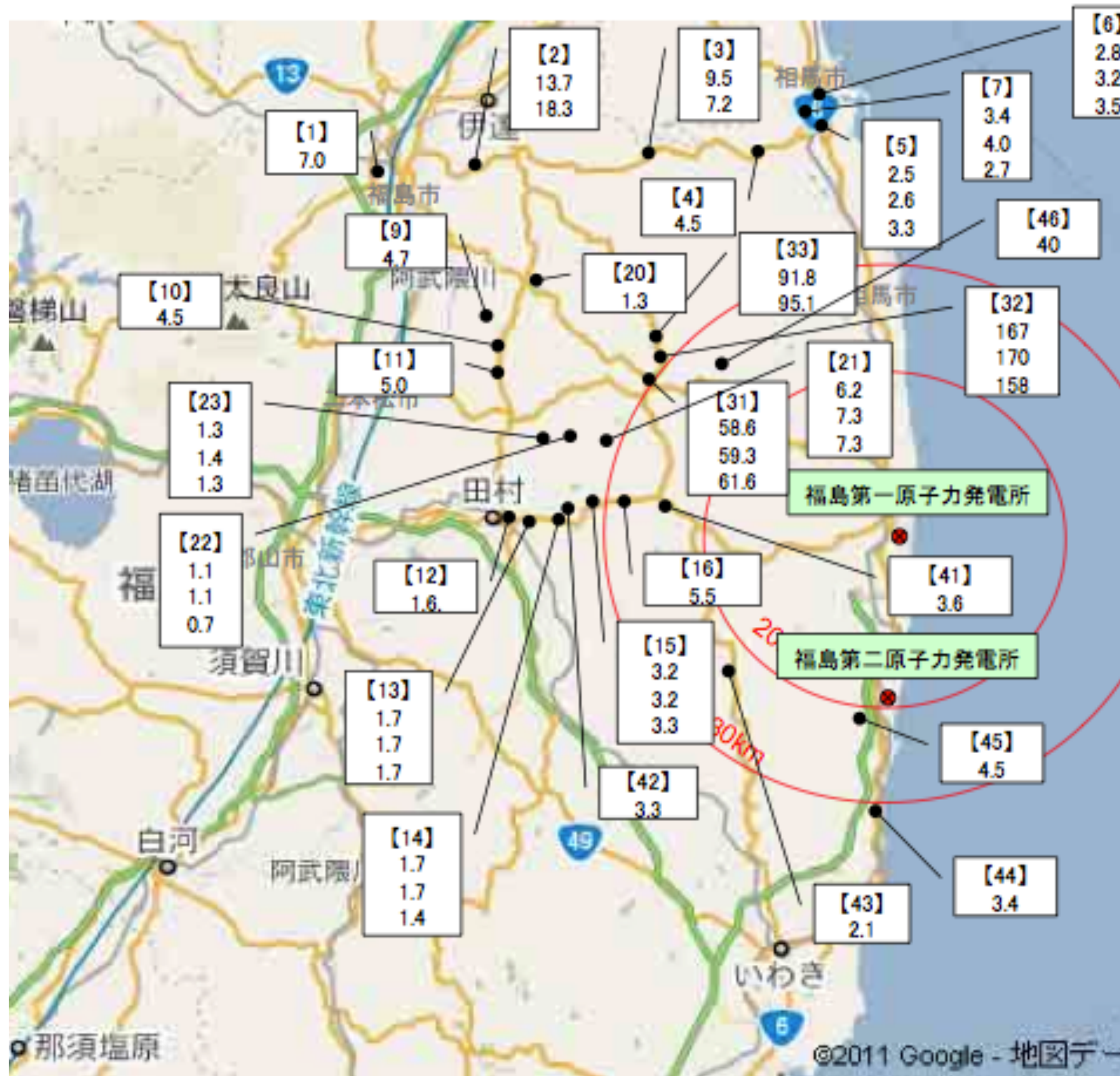
**14:46:24 JST - March 11, 2011**

**Greater Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami  
Fukushima Nuclear Powerplant Accident**



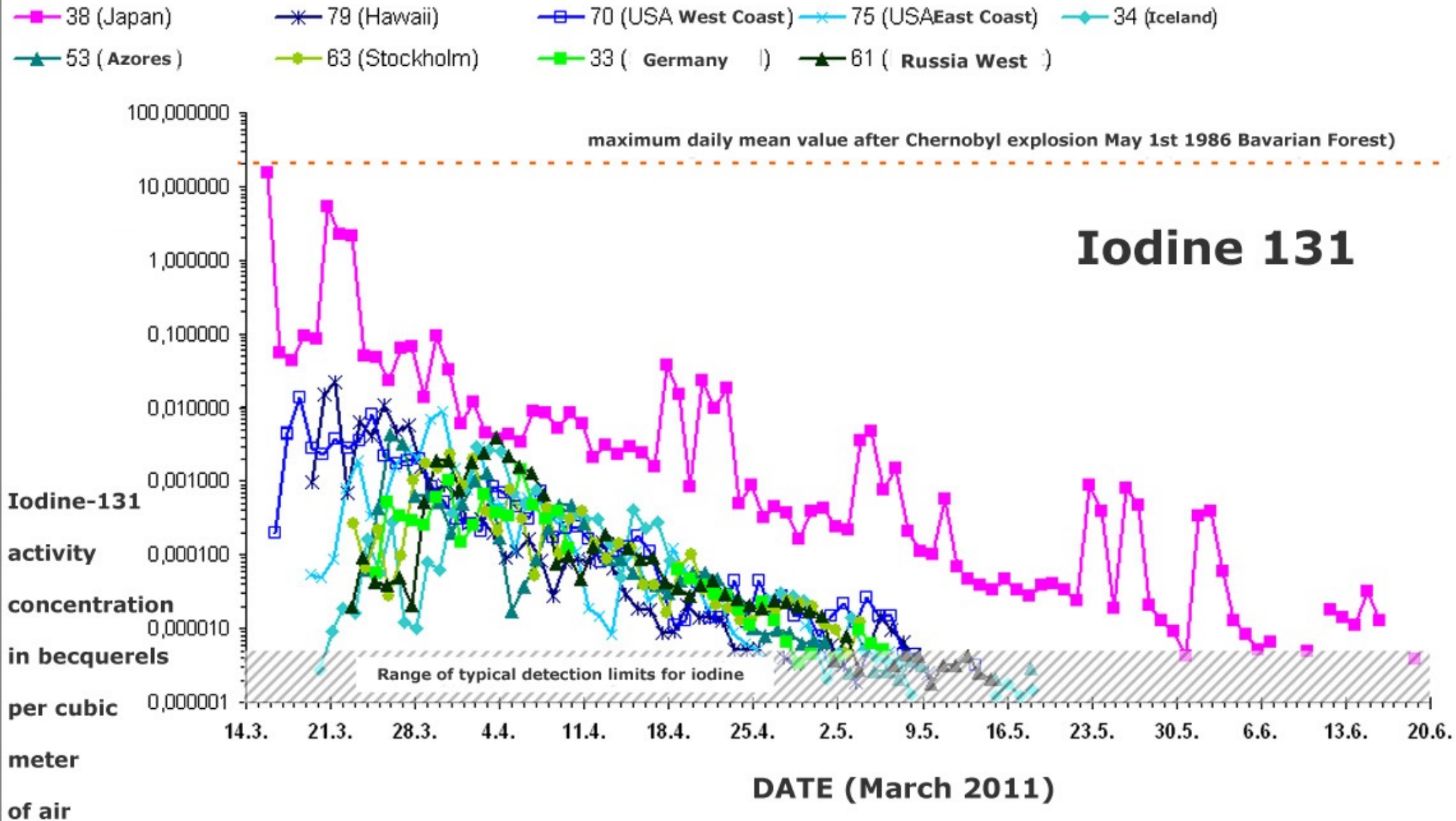
# From the point of view of average citizens:

- Fear, need to decide soon whether to flee
- Information vacuum
- Official sources deemed untrustworthy
- Social media paints more dire picture
- Even knowledgeable people can't find enough reliable and useful data



Official MEXT Map -- Released March 17, 2011

## CTBTO radionuclide monitoring stations selection:



Original file in german (Federal Office for Radiation Protection): [http://www.bfs.de/de/ion/imis/ctbto\\_aktivitaetskonzentrationen\\_jod.gif](http://www.bfs.de/de/ion/imis/ctbto_aktivitaetskonzentrationen_jod.gif)

CTBTO DATA

MARCH 2011



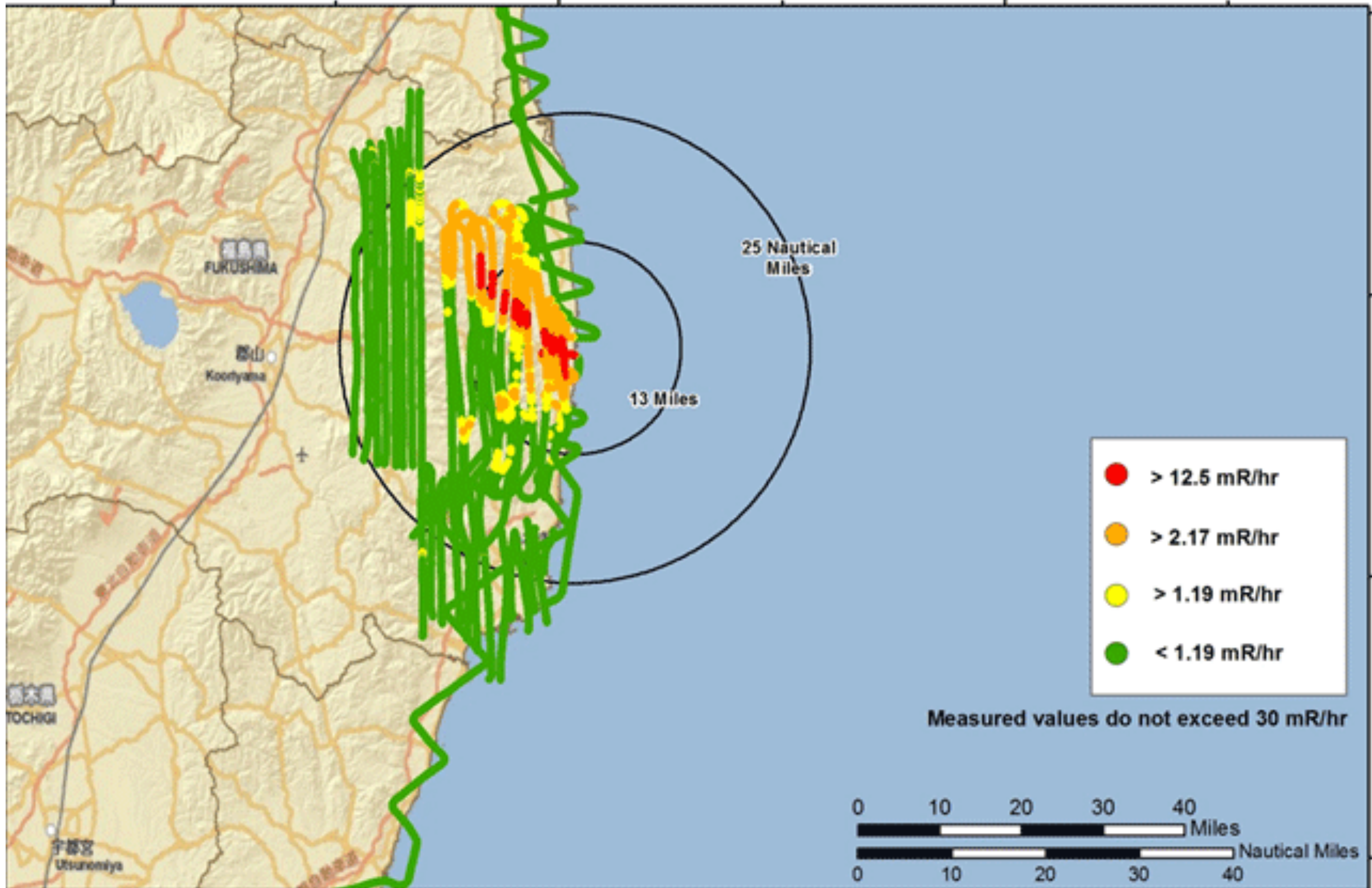
# 放射線量情報

(マイクロシーベルト/時)

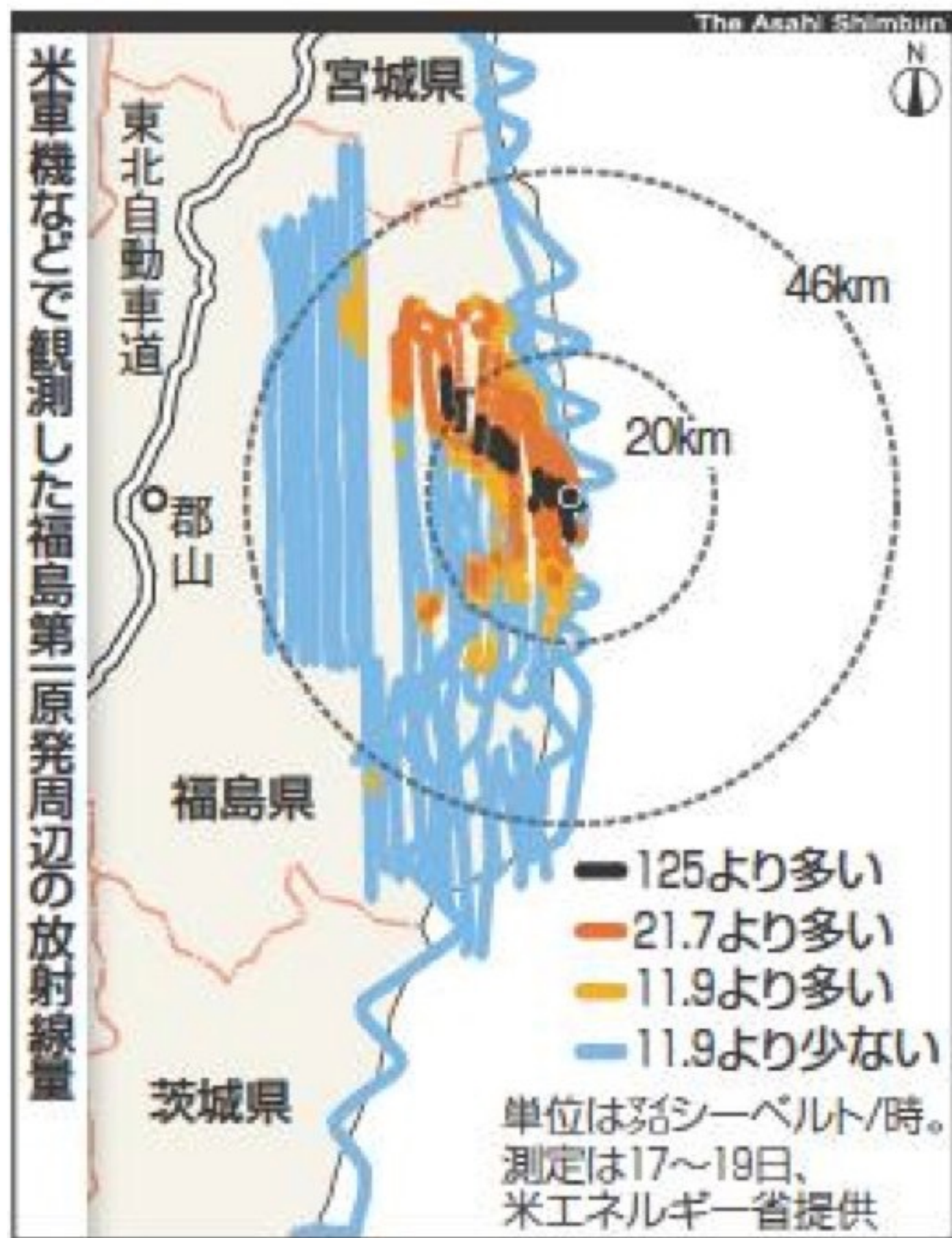


NHK News - April 22nd, 2011



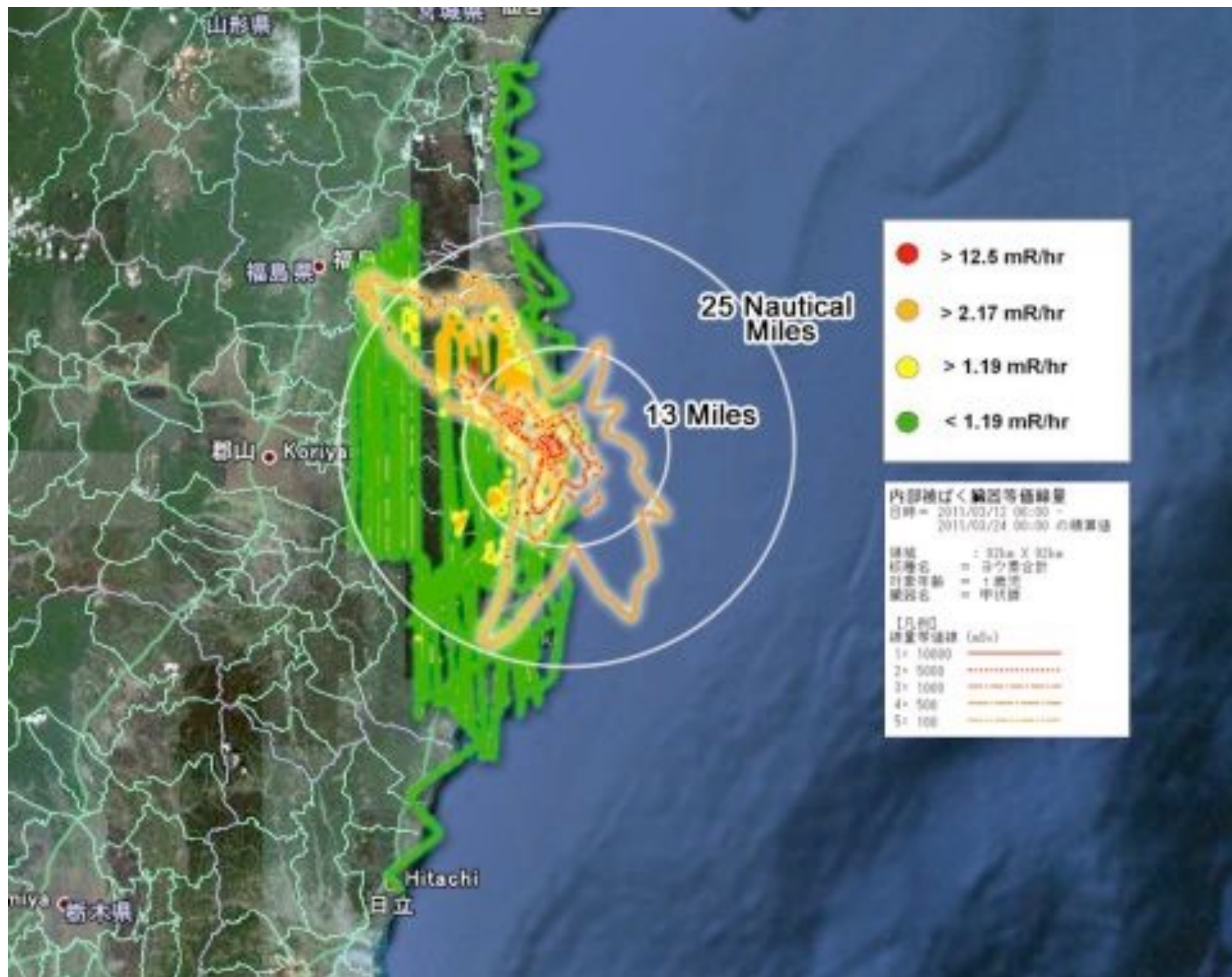


DOE/NNSA Map -- Released online March 22, 2011



DOE/NNSA Map -- in Japanese media March 24, 2011



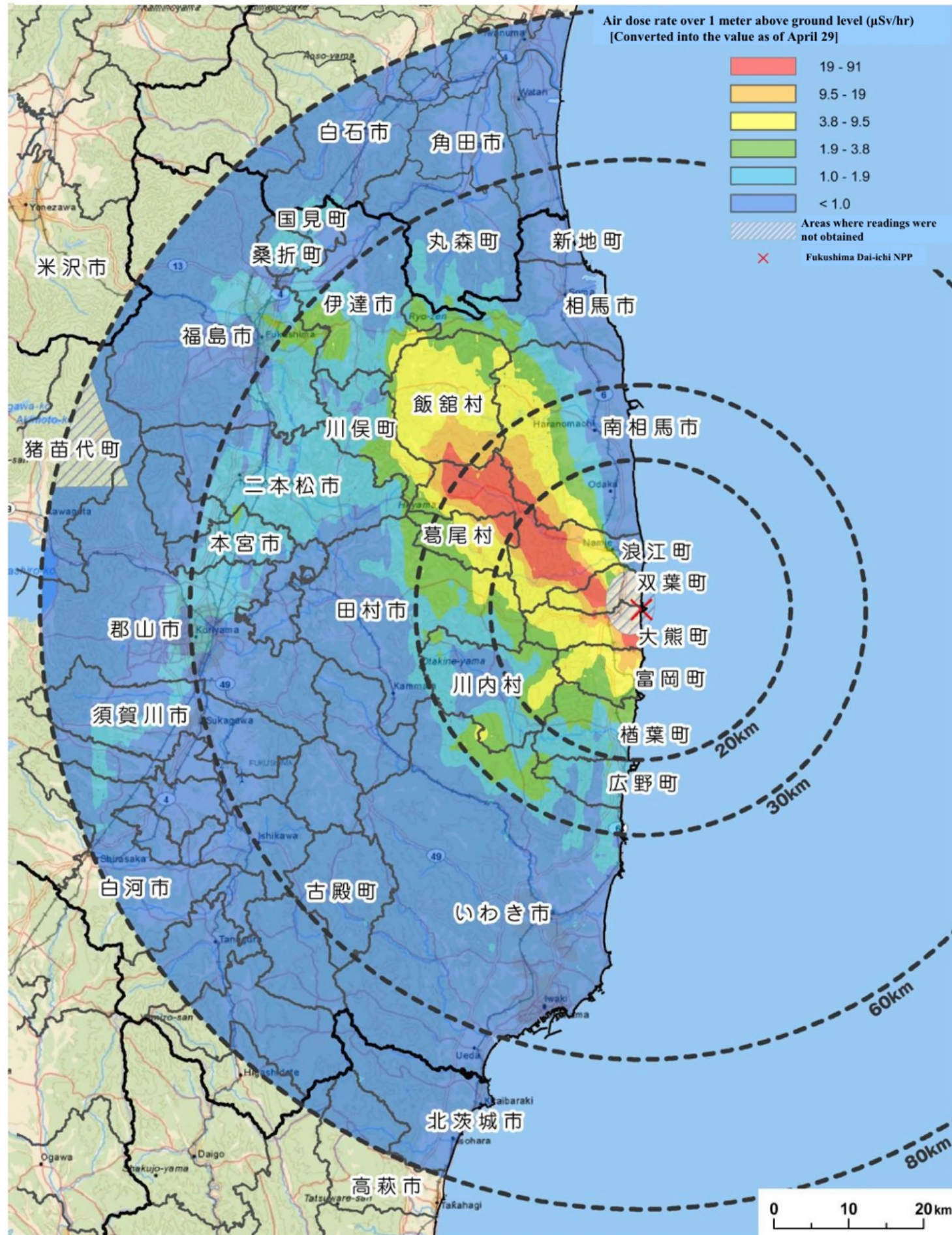


DOE/NNSA + SPEEDI -- Twitter, March 25, 2011



# Results of airborne monitoring by MEXT and DOE

(Readings of air dose monitoring inside 80km zone of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP)

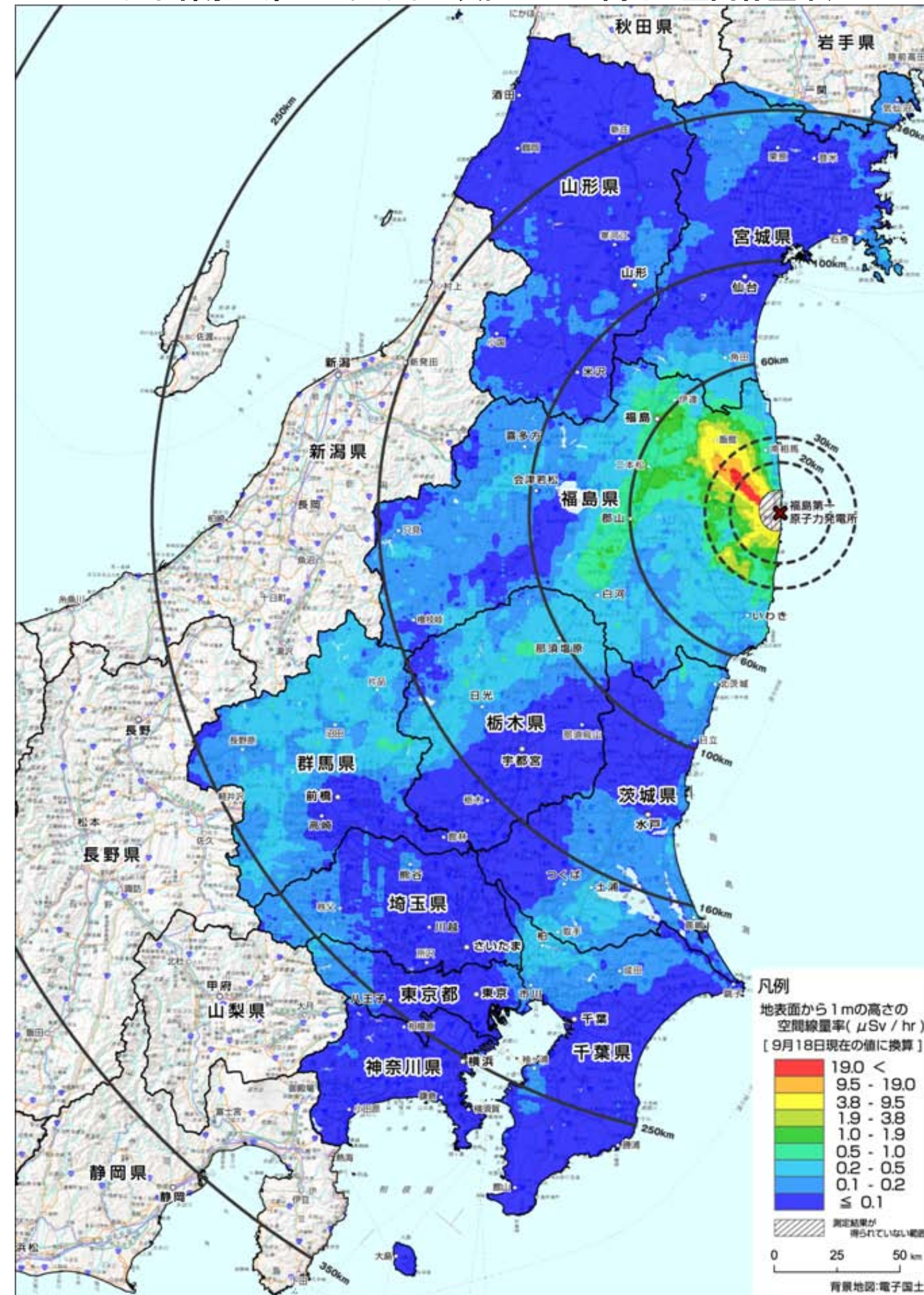


Useful official monitoring maps were slow to appear.

This official map was not released until May, 2011

MEXT- DOE airborne monitoring map, May 2011

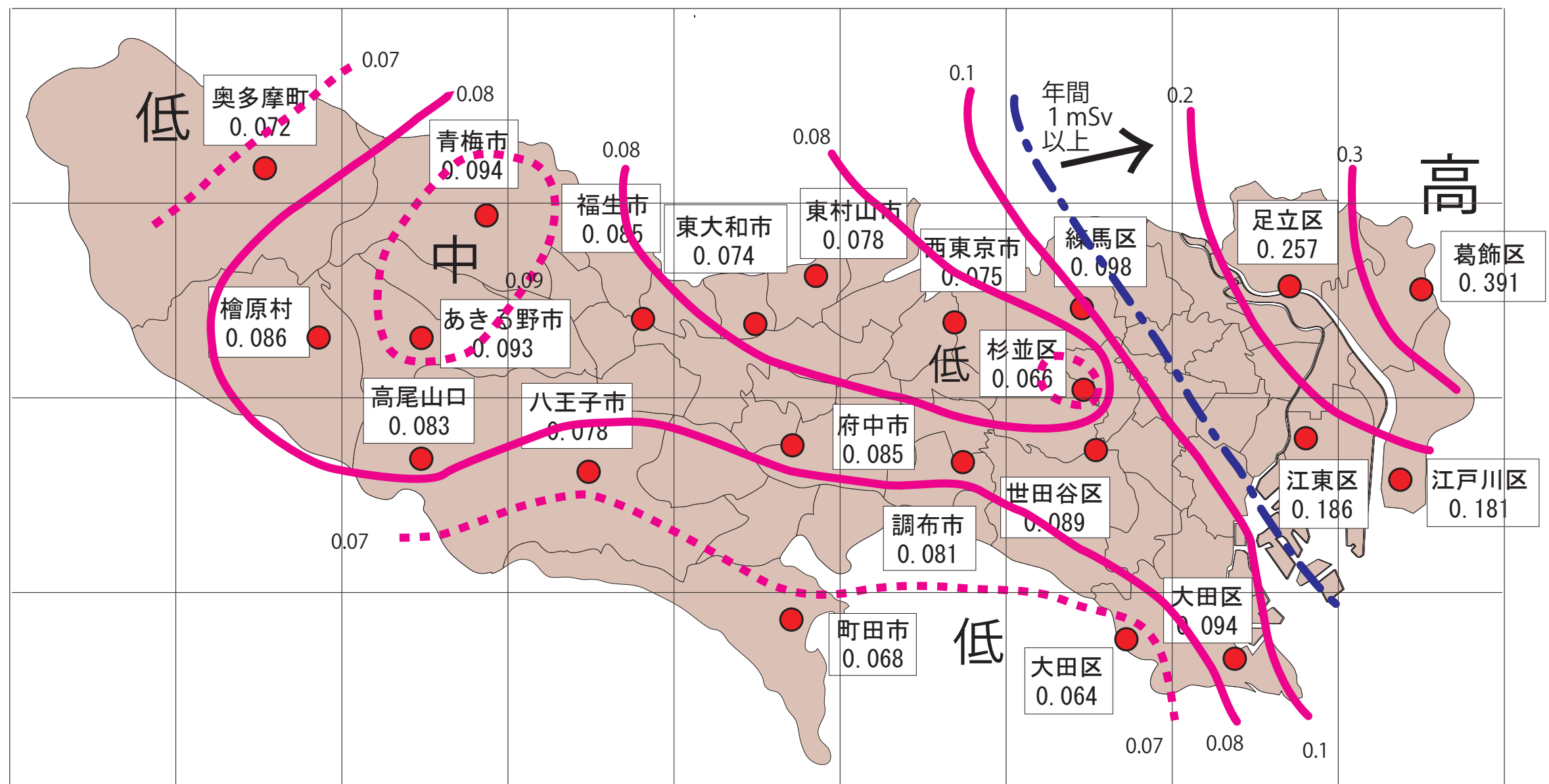




This official map was not released until Oct, 2011

# 資料③ 都内各地の放射線量測定結果 (日本共産党都議団実施)

数値単位  $\mu\text{Sv/h}$



測定日 2011年5月6日～20日 複数地点、複数日で測定しているものについては高い方の通知を記載 測定者 日本共産党都議団と専門家  
 測定地点 都内を10Kmメッシュで区切り  
 測定器 ALOKA PDR-101型 ポケットサーベイメーター  
 測定方法 地上高約1mで表示数値を10秒間隔で10回読み取り(各値は平均値)  
 年間1mSvの積算の根拠 — ICRP(国際放射線防護委員会)の「ALARAの原則」の考え方にに基づき約0.12 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ の放射線量を24時間365日で受ける積算線量とした。  
 なお文科省や東京都が根拠とする「屋外に8時間、木造家屋内(低減効果0.4)に16時間」と仮定した場合には、約0.19 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ となる。

Tokyo radiation survey map by Japan Communist Party, June 2011



# TEPCO





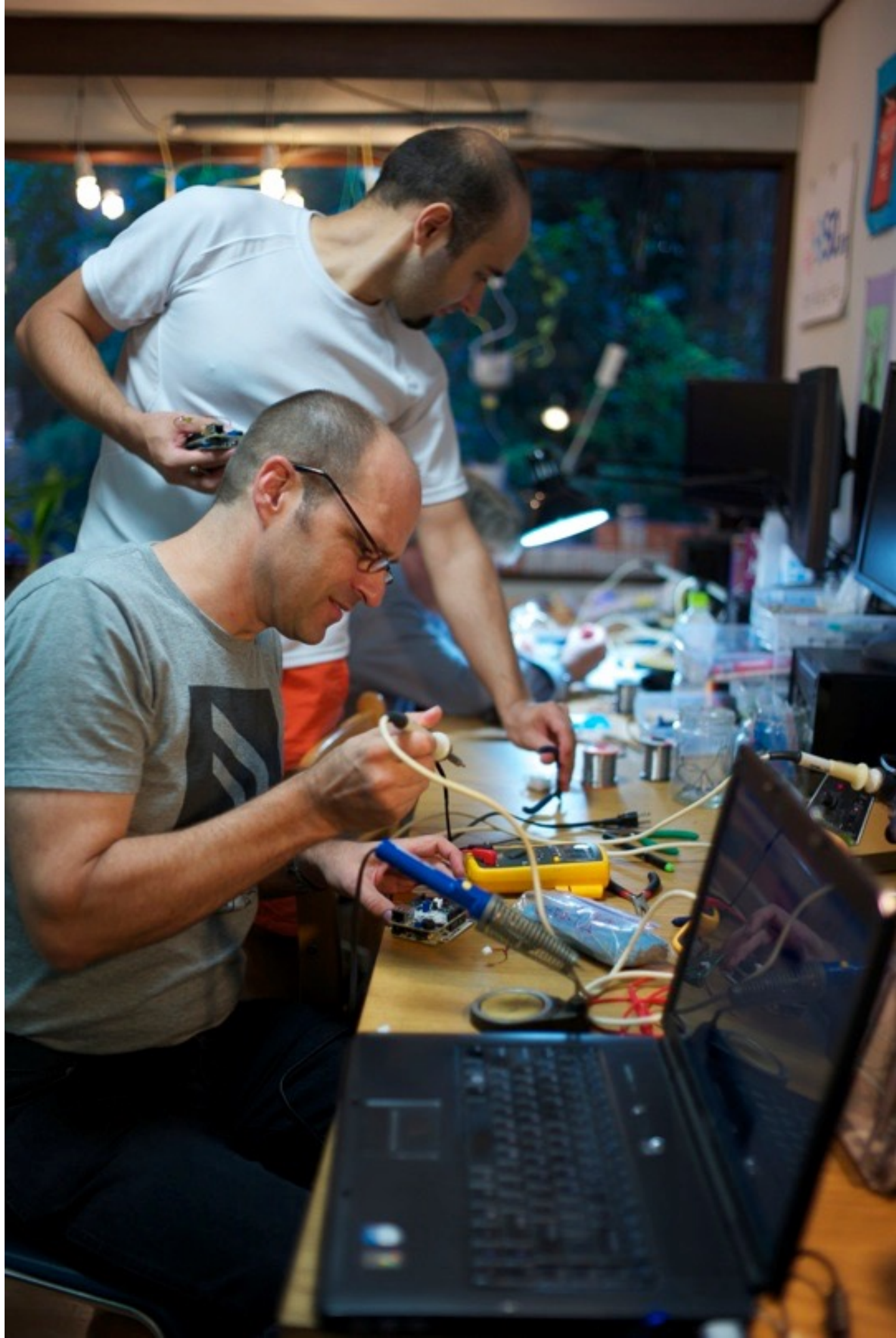


US OPERATION TOMODACHI



# Our Response:

- Develop devices
- Make a mapping system
- Build a community of motivated citizen-scientists who want to measure radiation.







APRIL 20th, 2011

0.996  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$

 **Radalert100**  
Nuclear Radiation Monitor

active  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$

CPU 100%





APRIL 21st, 2011





# April 24th, 2011 – First Drive to Fukushima –







Our first systems were bulky, but worked.



# Deployment:



Automobile



Bicycle



Hand-carry



Aerial drone





# Current workhorse:

## **bGeigie Nano**

- 7th-generation mobile detector
- Rugged
- Arduino-based
- GPS and data-logging
- LND 7317 2" pancake sensor
- OLED display
- Bluetooth and WiFi capable
- Open-source, open hardware, open data
- Designed to be sold as a kit, anyone can build it and upload data



*Yes, We're*

**OPEN**



**WE'RE PRO  
DATA**



# POWER OF PULL

# DEPLOY OR DIE

## AGILE + LEAN STARTUP

*“to innovate quickly you need to reduce the cost of failure”*



# Technology!

- Cloud Computing
- Open Hardware / Open Software
- Arduino: community centric platform
- IoT
- Maker Movement / FabCafe
- Big Data
- Geo Mapping
- BLE / Low cost 3G / Mobile

# INTERNET OF (NO)THINGS



DEVICE  
CENTRIC



COMMUNITY  
CENTRIC



~ 1000 Devices worldwide







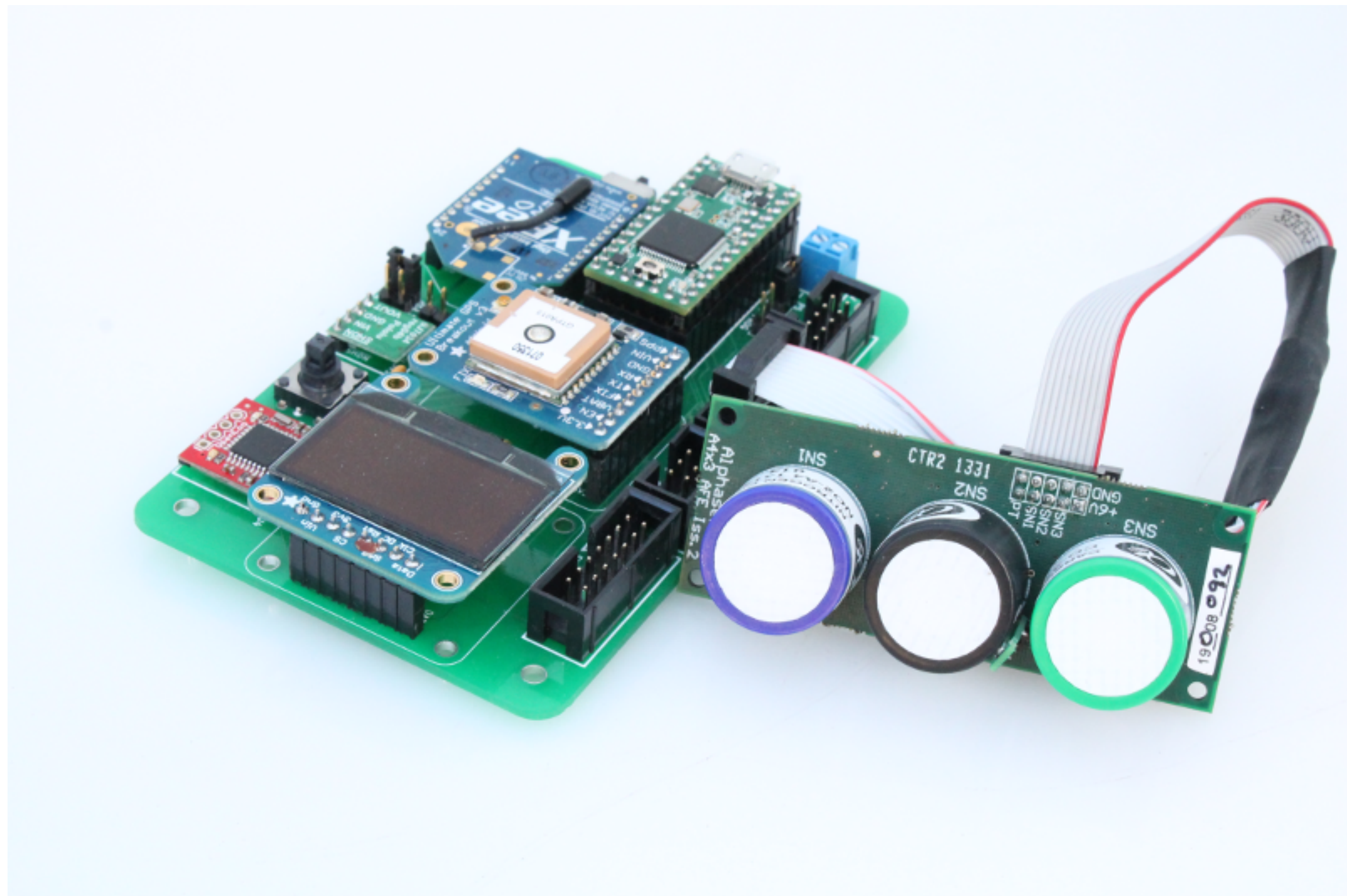
PROJECT:

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**AIR QUALITY**

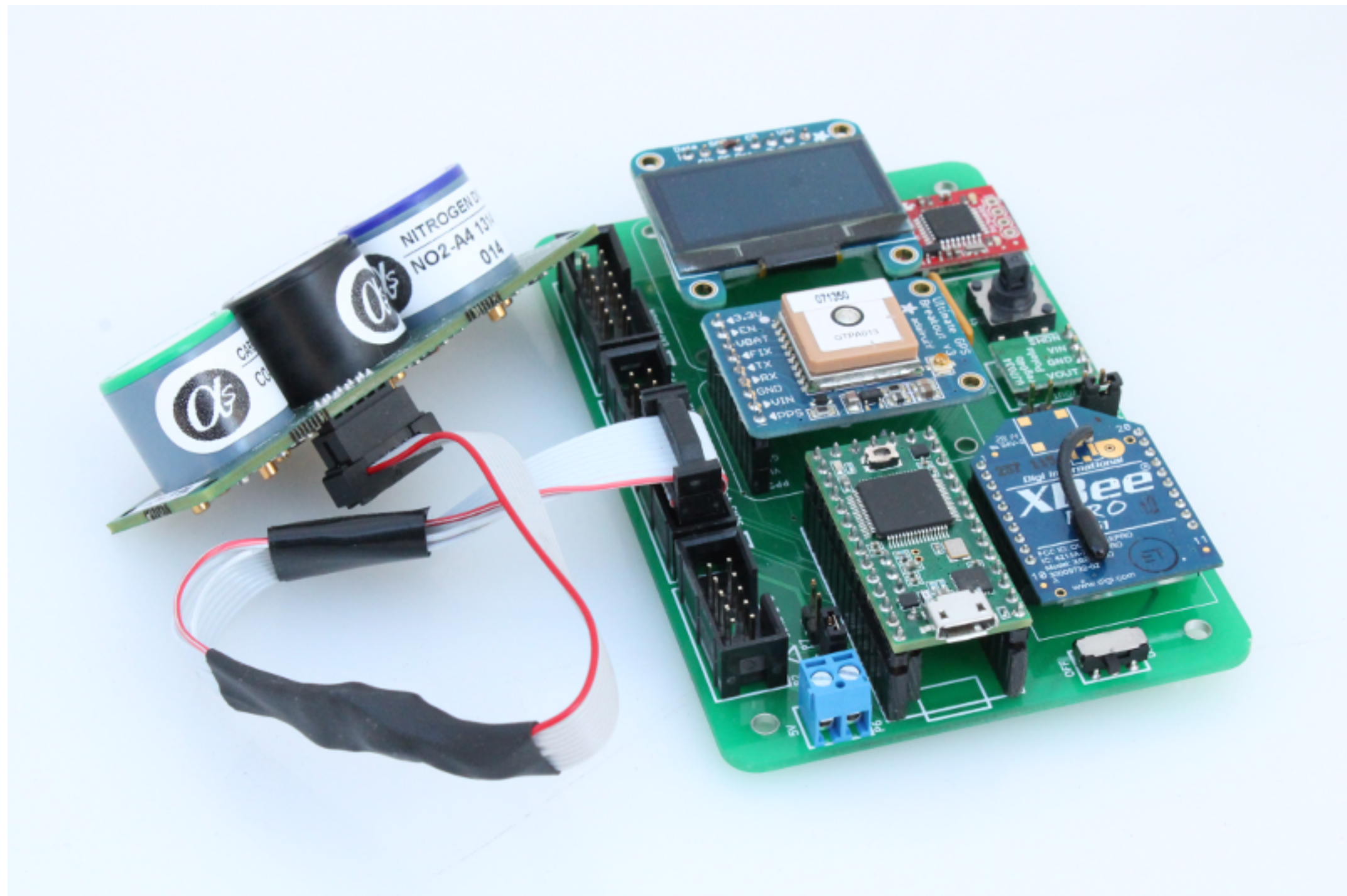


**SAFECAST Air**



Prototype, 2015





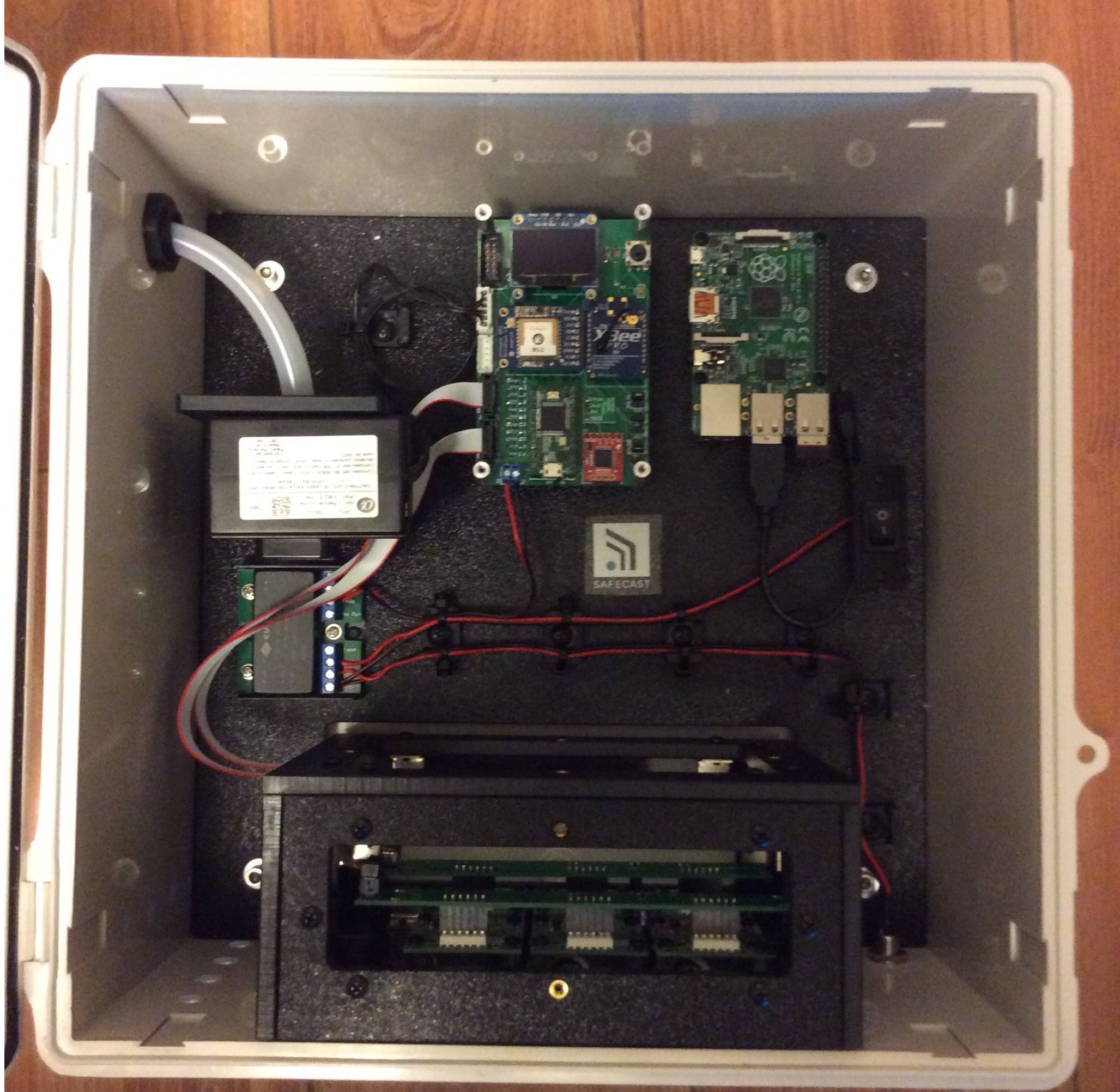
Prototype, 2015



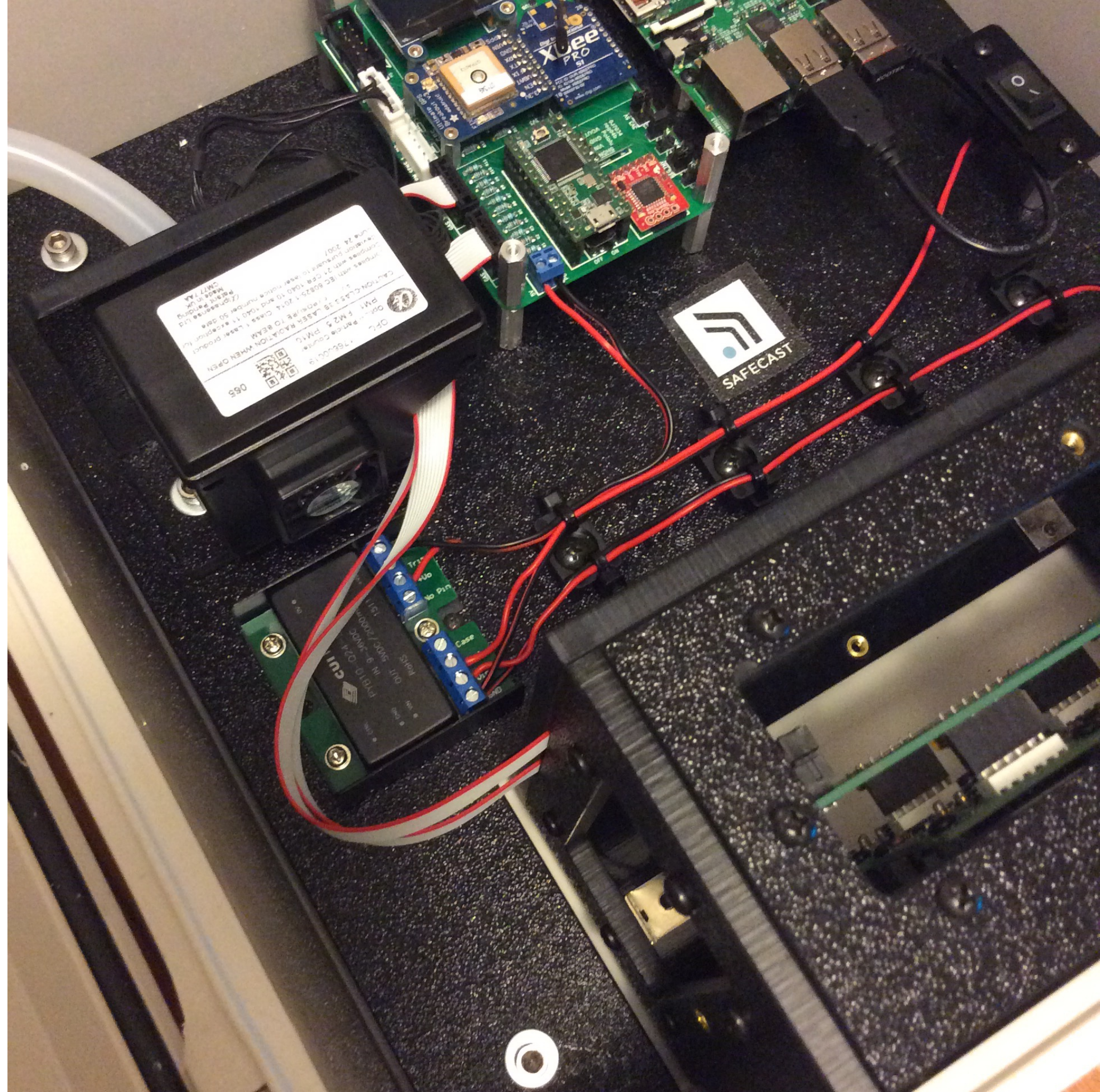


Prototype 001, 2015

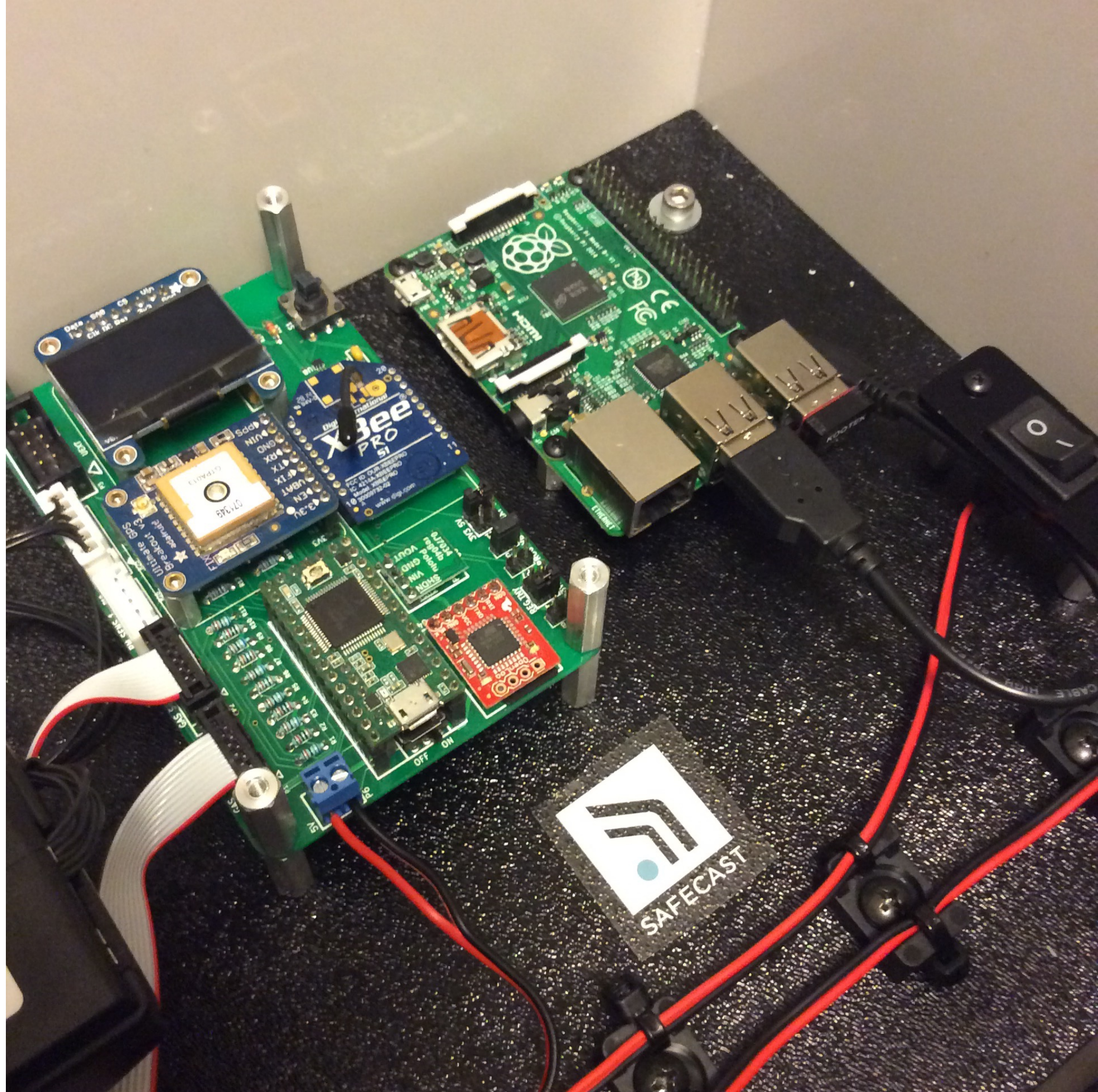
















# SAFECAST Air

Prototype 002, 2016



PM 1.0 / 2.5 / 10



METHANE



O3



CO



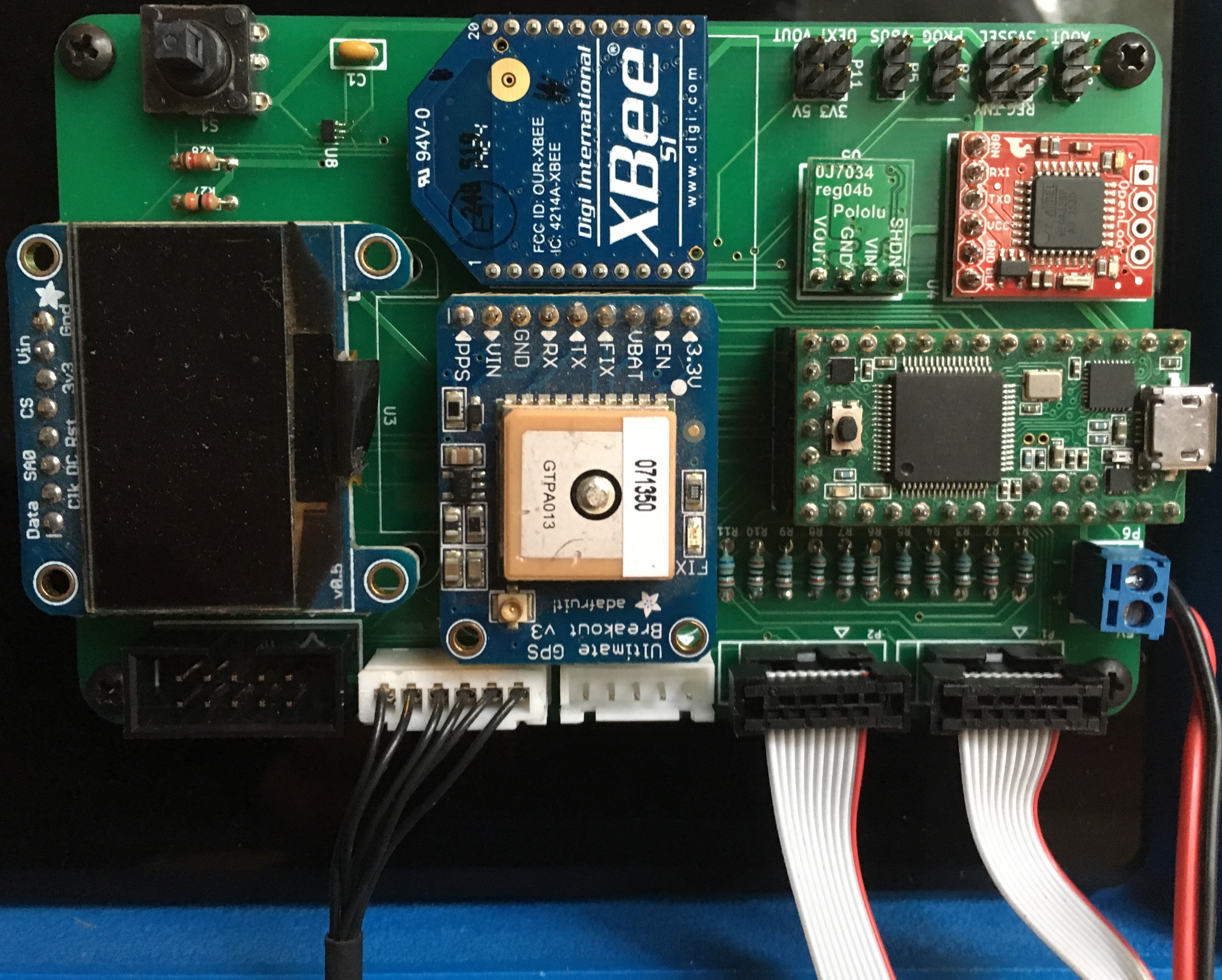
NO2















Prototype 003 (methane detector) 2016





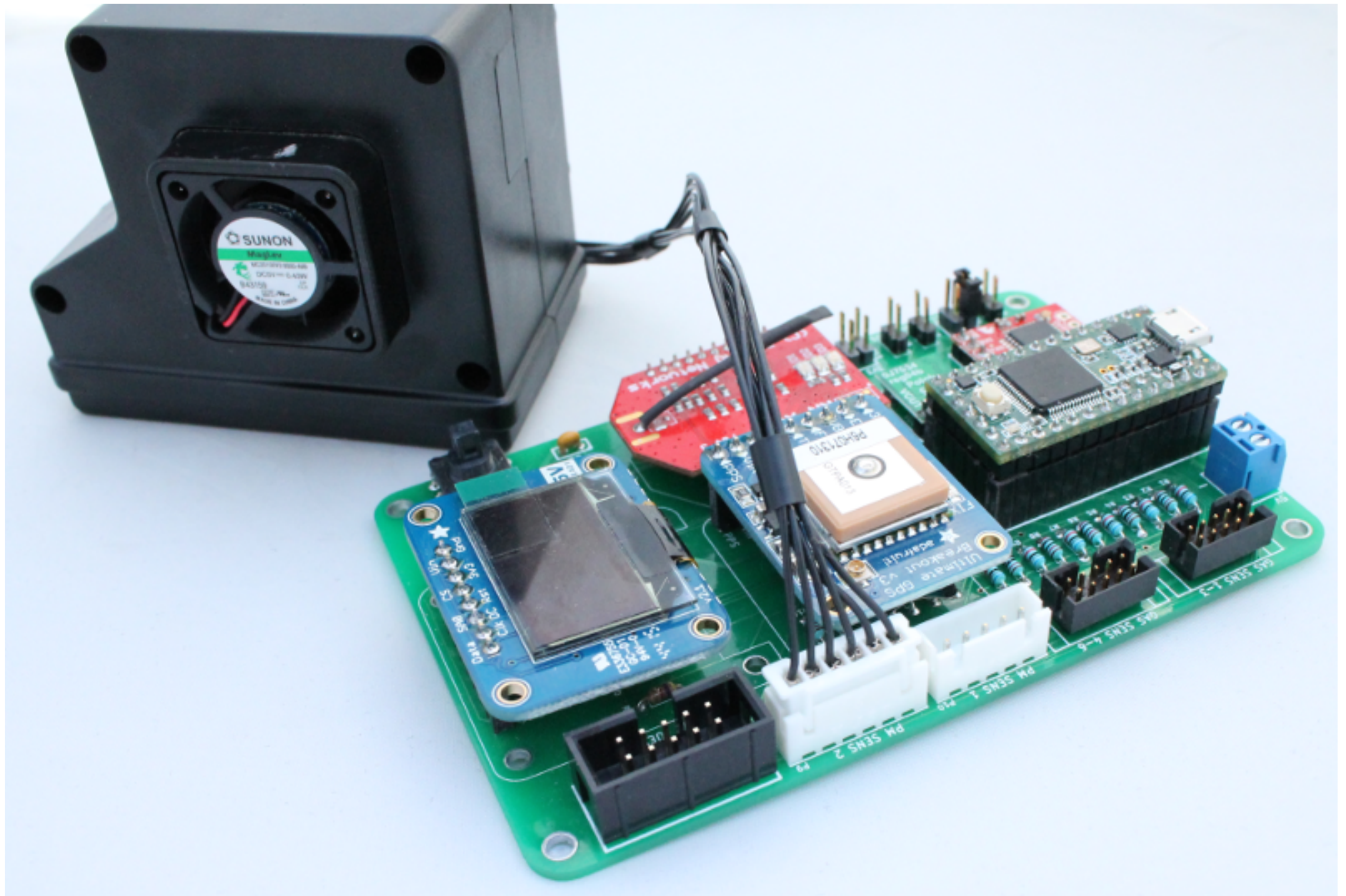
Prototype 003 (methane detector) 2016





Safecast Air Beta Kit, 2016





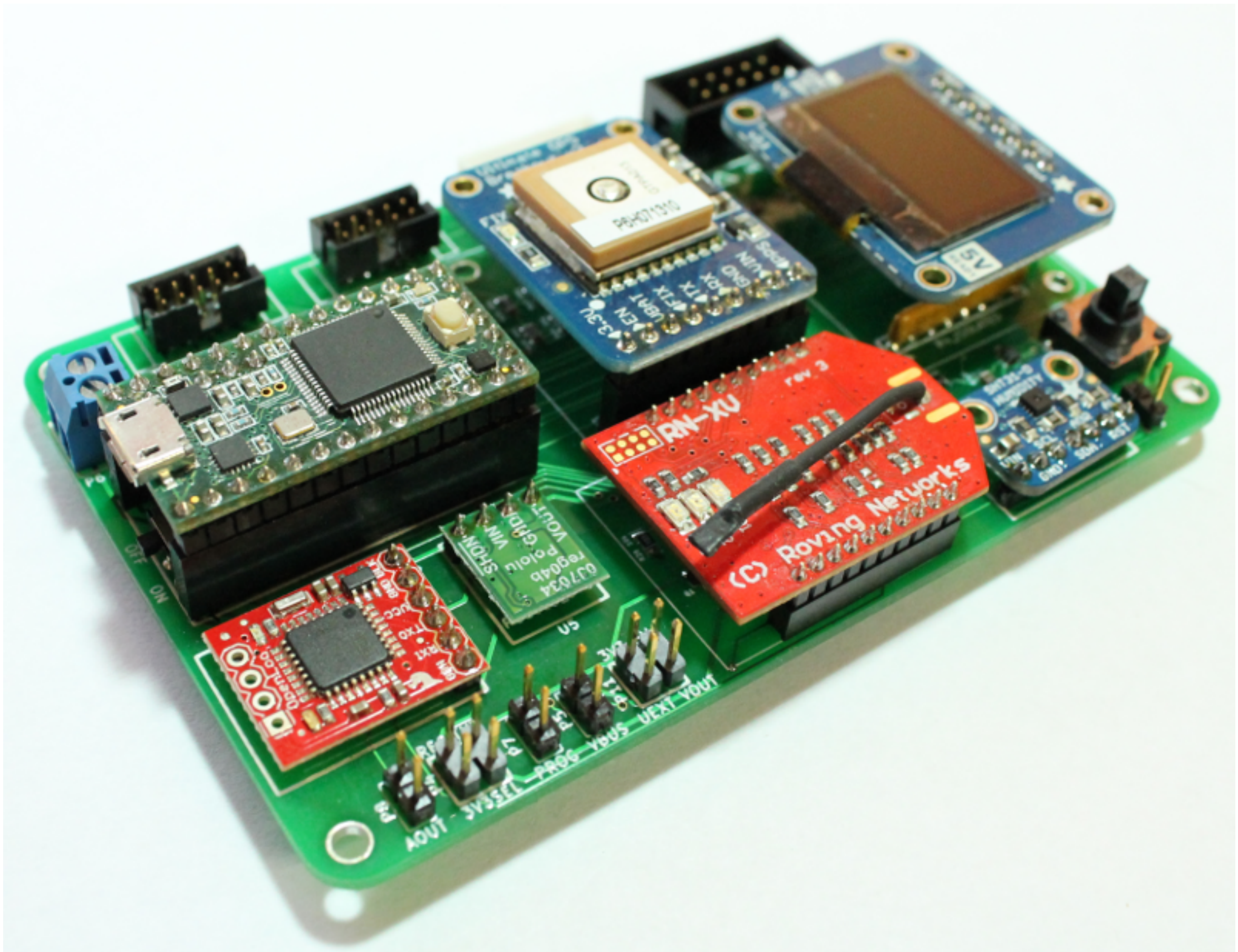
Safecast Air Beta Kit, 2016



## **KEY USAGE PARAMETERS:**

- Measure airborne particulate matter in PM10, PM2.5 and PM1.0 sizes.
- Log temperature and humidity for calibration purposes
- Static devices that to be installed in a single outside location for at least 3 months
- During beta period data will be published into public domain but considered beta, not scientific or research grade, and will not be included in the official Safecast dataset yet.





Safecast Air Beta Kit, 2016





Alphasense Particulate Monitor (OPC-N2)





Plantower Particulate Monitor (pms7003)



# FEATURES:

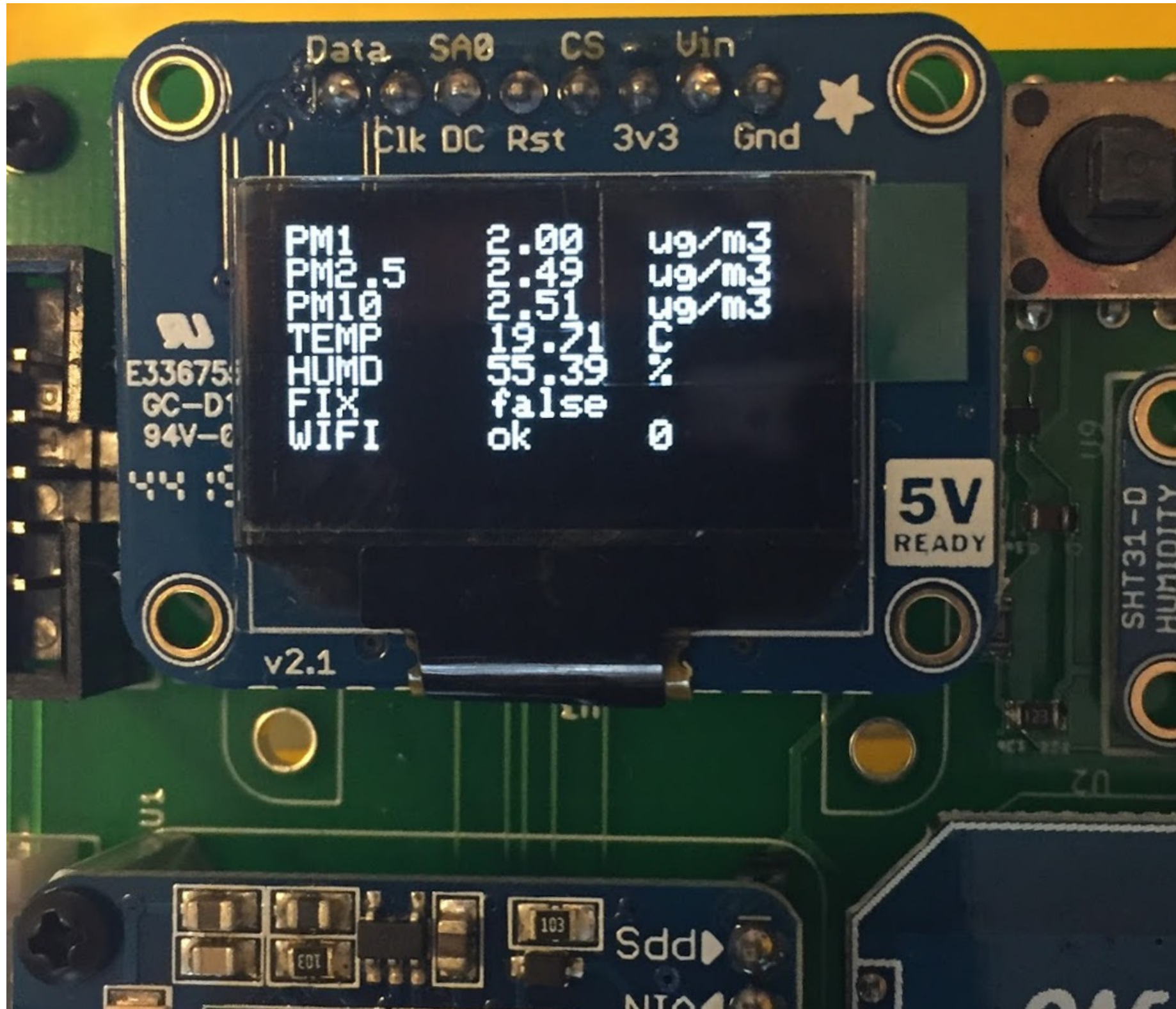
- Designated header for the Alphasense Particulate Monitor (OPC-N2)
- On-board temperature/humidity sensor
- On-board GPS for location data (similar to the Safecast radiation sensor)
- On-board WiFi for sending real-time data to Safecast server
- Based on Teensy 3.x development board
- SD card (OpenLog) for data storage
- LCD display



## FEATURES:

- The Safecast Air board is an Open Source Hardware project. KiCad design files for the PCB can be found on Github
- <https://github.com/Safecast/Safecast-Air>.
- Configurable air quality measurement board. Can be expanded to include other gas measurements.
- Two designated headers for using up to six Alphasense 4-electrode gas sensors (both A4 and/or B4 types)
- UEXT expansion header for connecting other additional sensors or other hardware





**Leftmost column: labels for the readings**

**Middle column: the readings themselves**

**Last column: the unit of measurement.**



# Beta kit display info

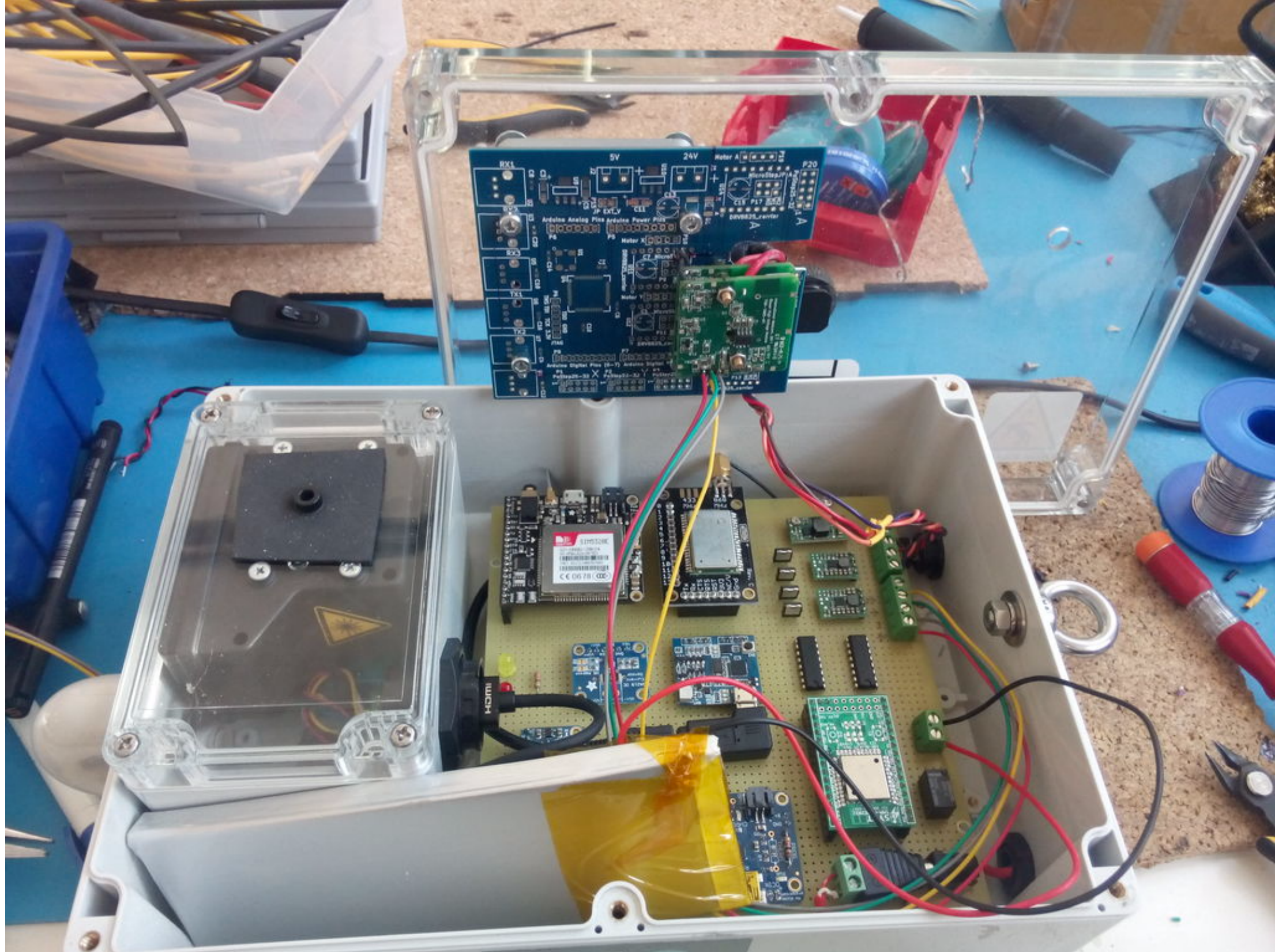
Indicator	Description	Notes
PM1	particulate matter 1 micron or less in diameter	in micrograms per cubic meter of air
PM2.5	particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter	in micrograms per cubic meter of air
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter	in micrograms per cubic meter of air
TEMP	temperature	in degrees Celsius
HUMD	relative humidity	as a percentage of water vapor in the air
FIX	status of GPS fix	Displays "true" when the GPS has a fix, and "false" when it does not. This may be a temporary issue due to the movement/visibility of GPS satellites. Note that it can take up to five minutes to get a GPS fix.
WIFI	the status of the wifi connection	should read "ok"





SOLARCAST - stand-alone radiation and air-quality sensor





SOLARCAST - stand-alone radiation and air-quality sensor





**FUTURE APPLICATION: Use with autonomous vehicles**

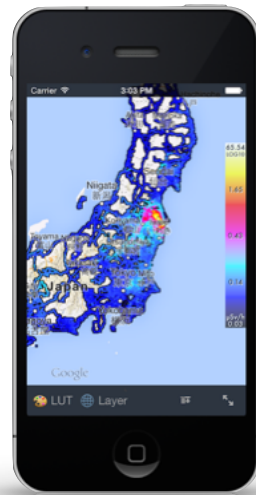


**DOCUMENTATION**

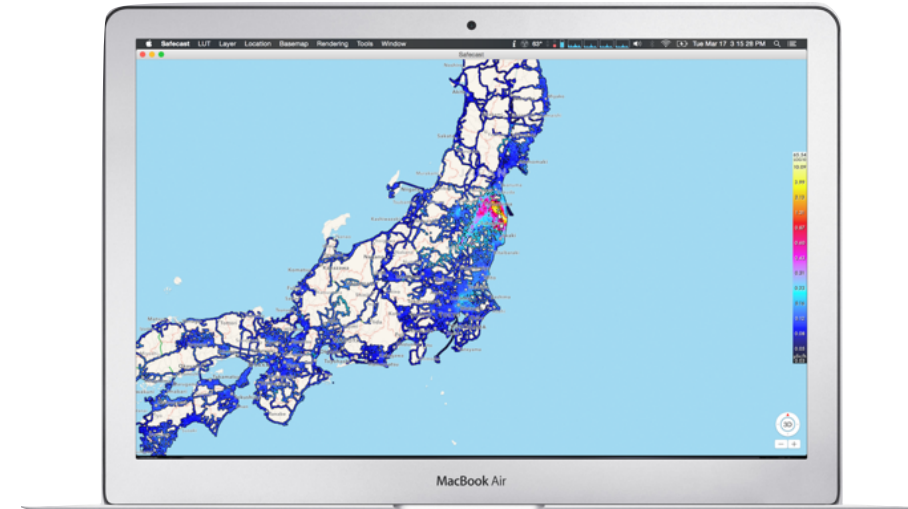




# iOS



# OS X

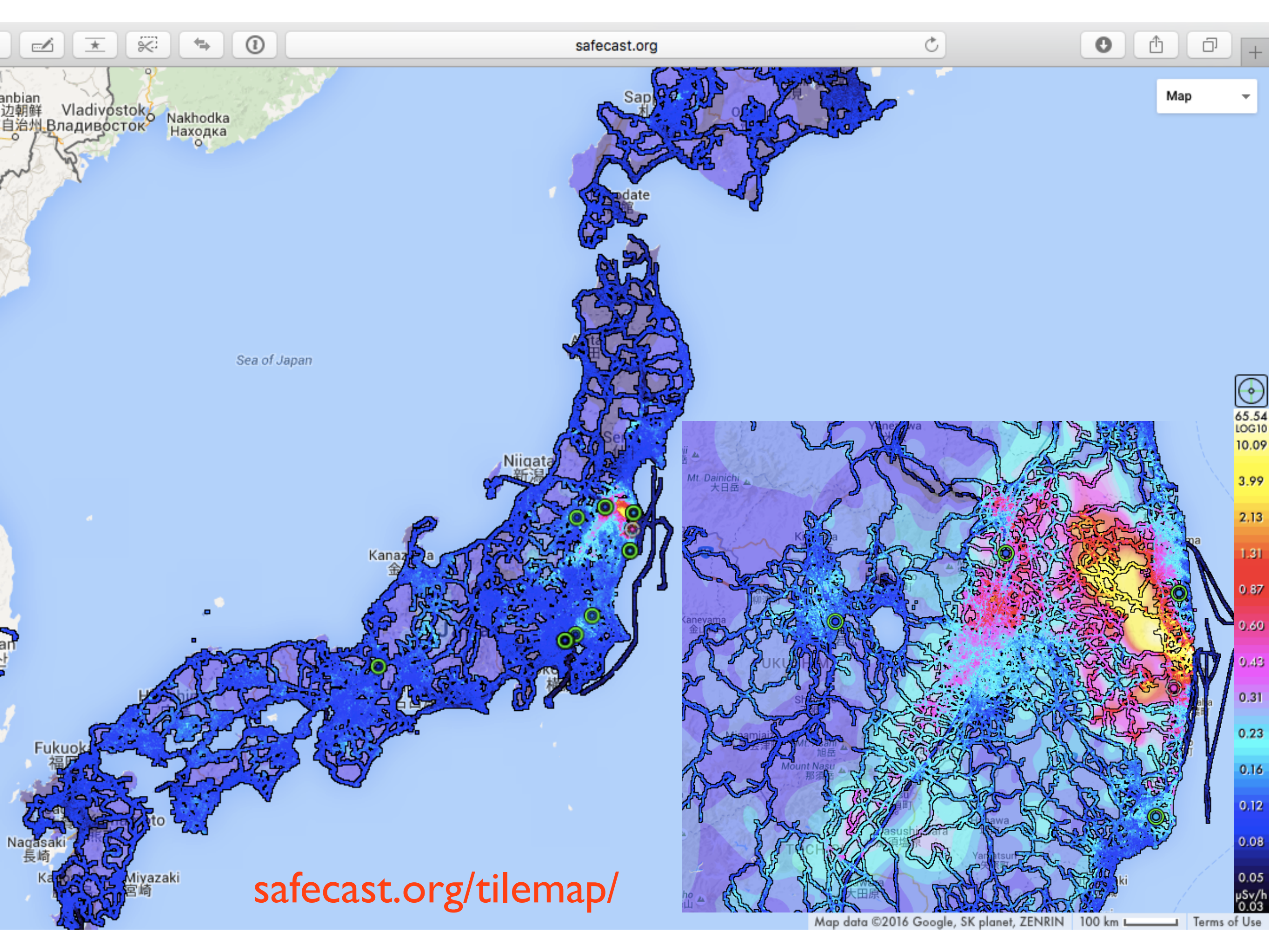


# Web



# Map system:

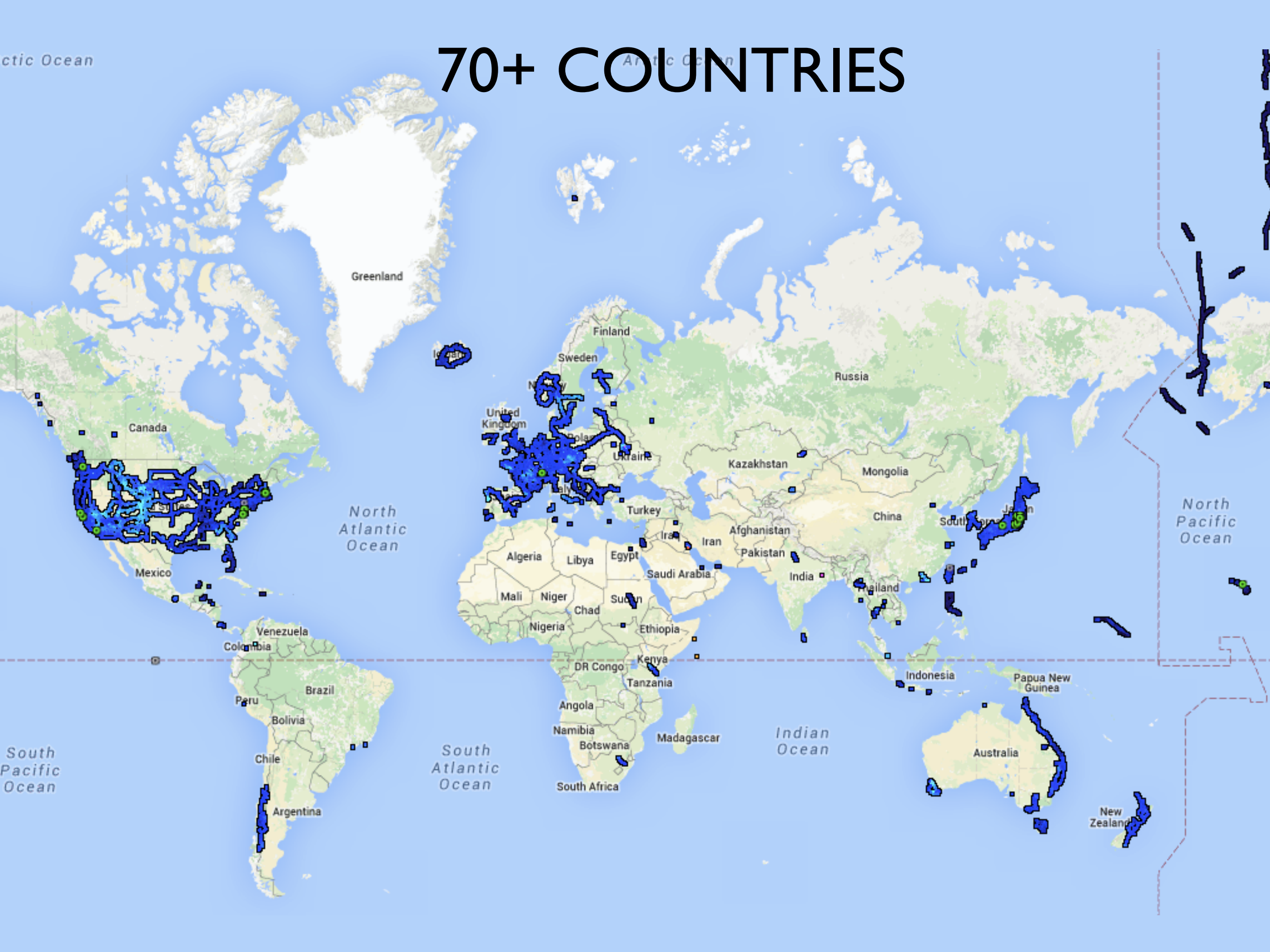
- Database updated daily, now approx 10GB
- Both server-fed webmaps and smart-client iOS and OSX apps
- API with query/filtering by time, location, device, etc.
- Approx 400 volunteers have uploaded data.  
But 90% is contributed by the most active 10%.
- Data and system are open-source (Creative Commons CC0 license). Anyone can download the data, and we encourage independent efforts based on our dataset.



[safecast.org/tilemap/](https://safecast.org/tilemap/)

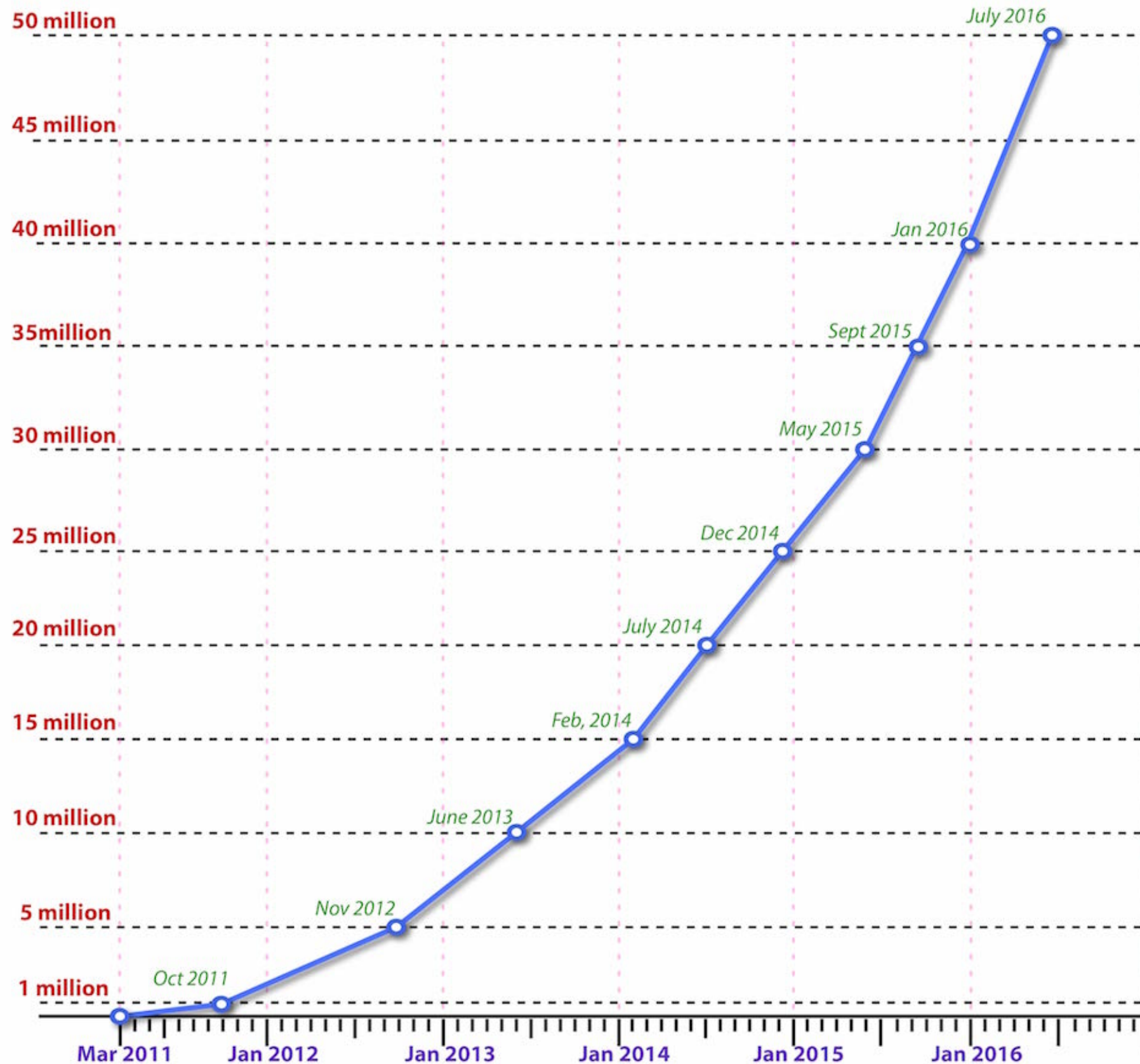


# 70+ COUNTRIES



A world map with a light blue background and a dashed red line representing the equator. Numerous countries are highlighted in a darker blue color. These include: Greenland, Iceland, Canada, Mexico, Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama), Caribbean islands (Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana), South American countries (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina), European countries (Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg), African countries (Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Zaire, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion), Asian countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau), and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand). The map is labeled with 'Arctic Ocean' at the top, 'North Atlantic Ocean' on the left, 'South Atlantic Ocean' at the bottom left, 'Indian Ocean' at the bottom right, and 'North Pacific Ocean' on the right. The equator is labeled 'Equator'.

## Growth of SAFECAST dataset



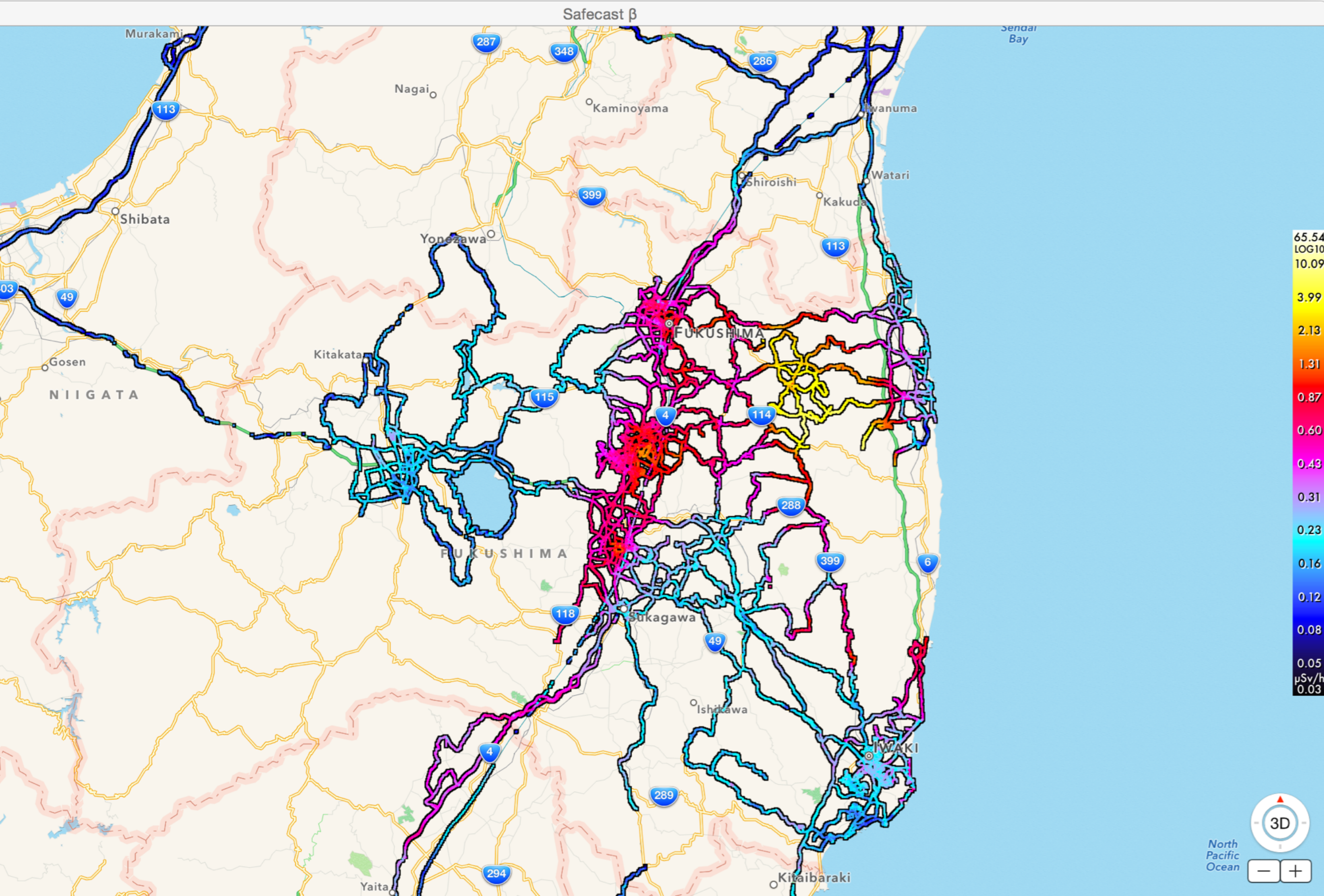
**65,000,000 data points! (March 2017)**



# SAFECAST DATA

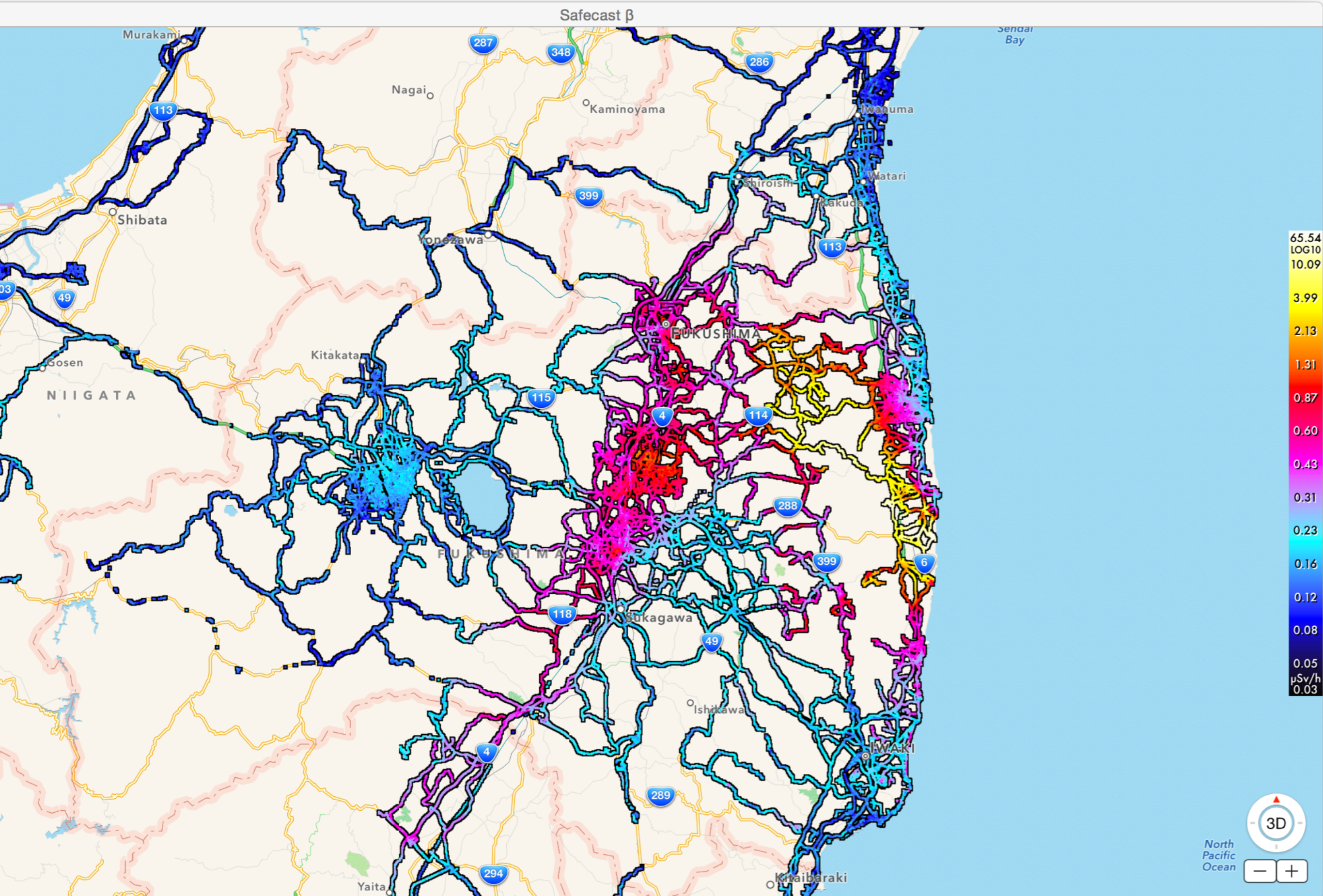
Change over time, March 2011- March 2016

Fukushima region



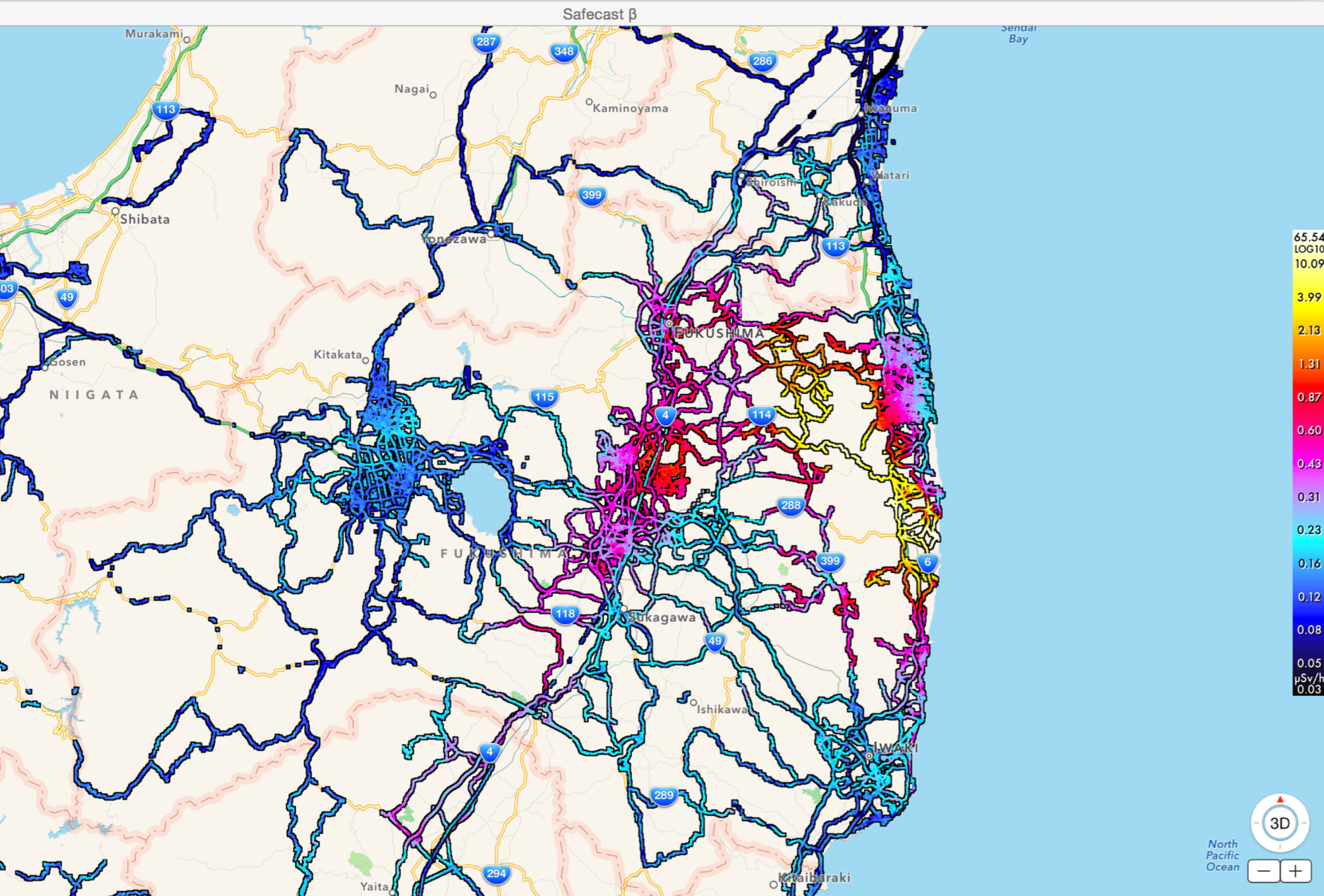
1) March 2011— Sept 2011





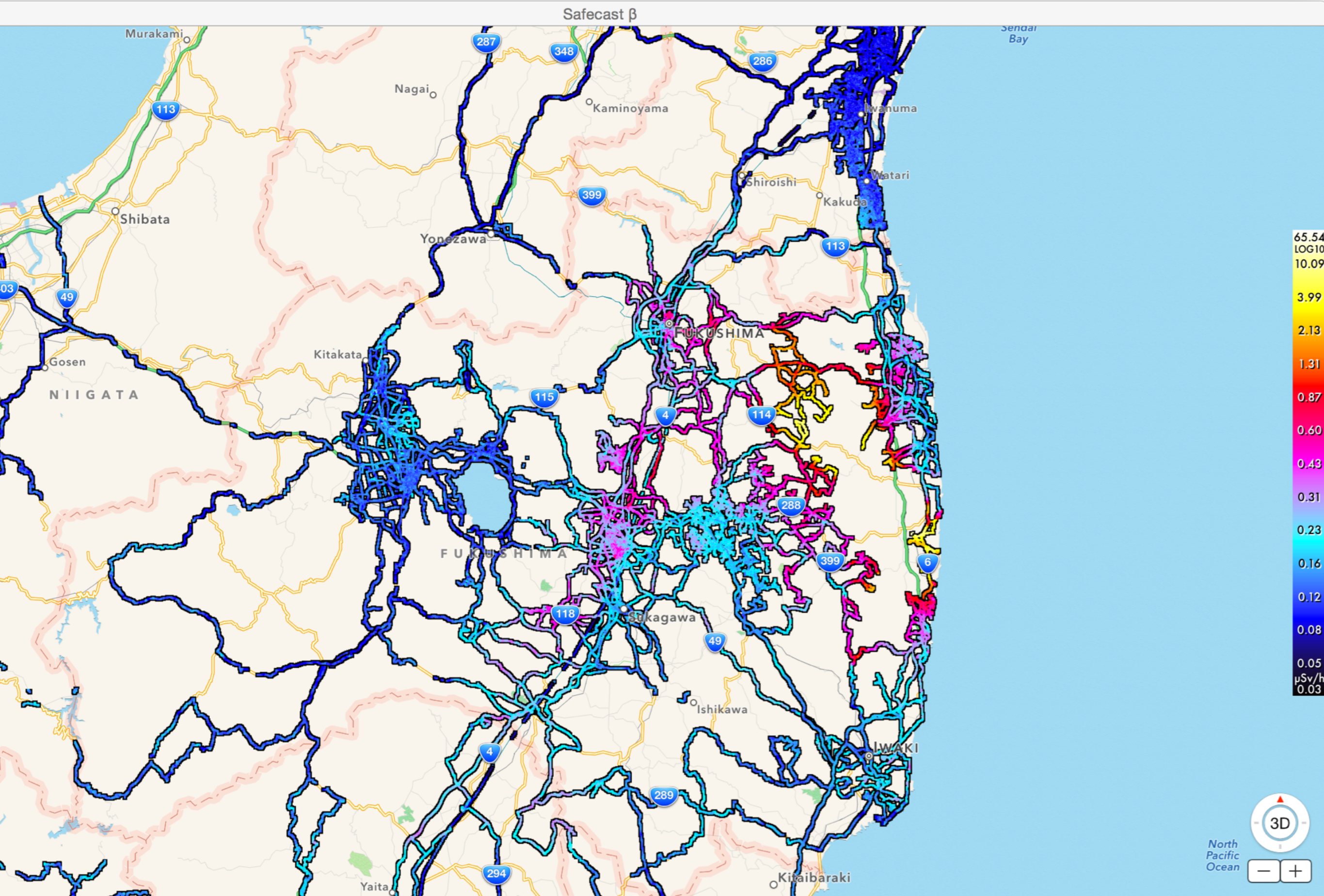
2) March 2011 — March 2012





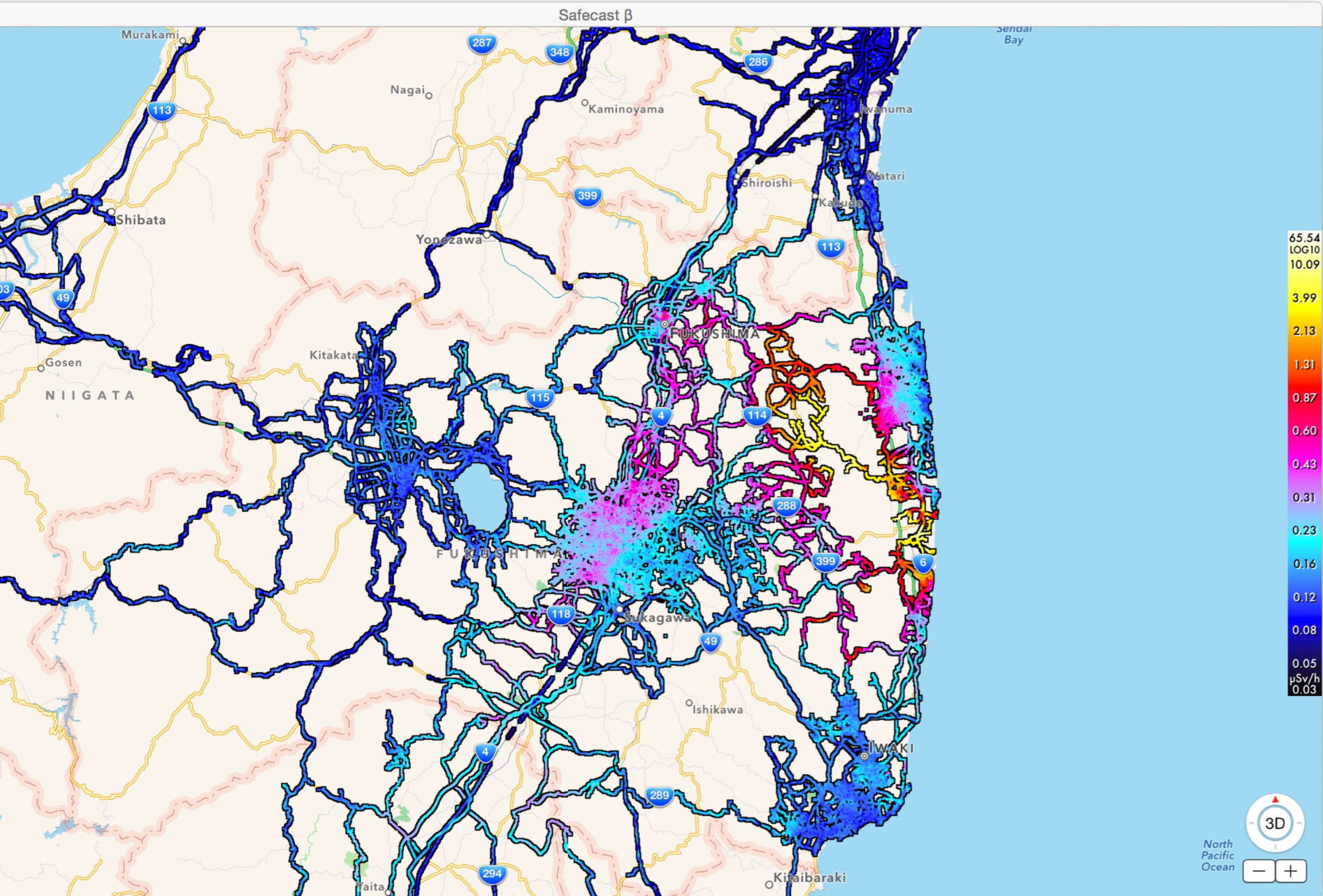
3) Sept 2011— Sept 2012





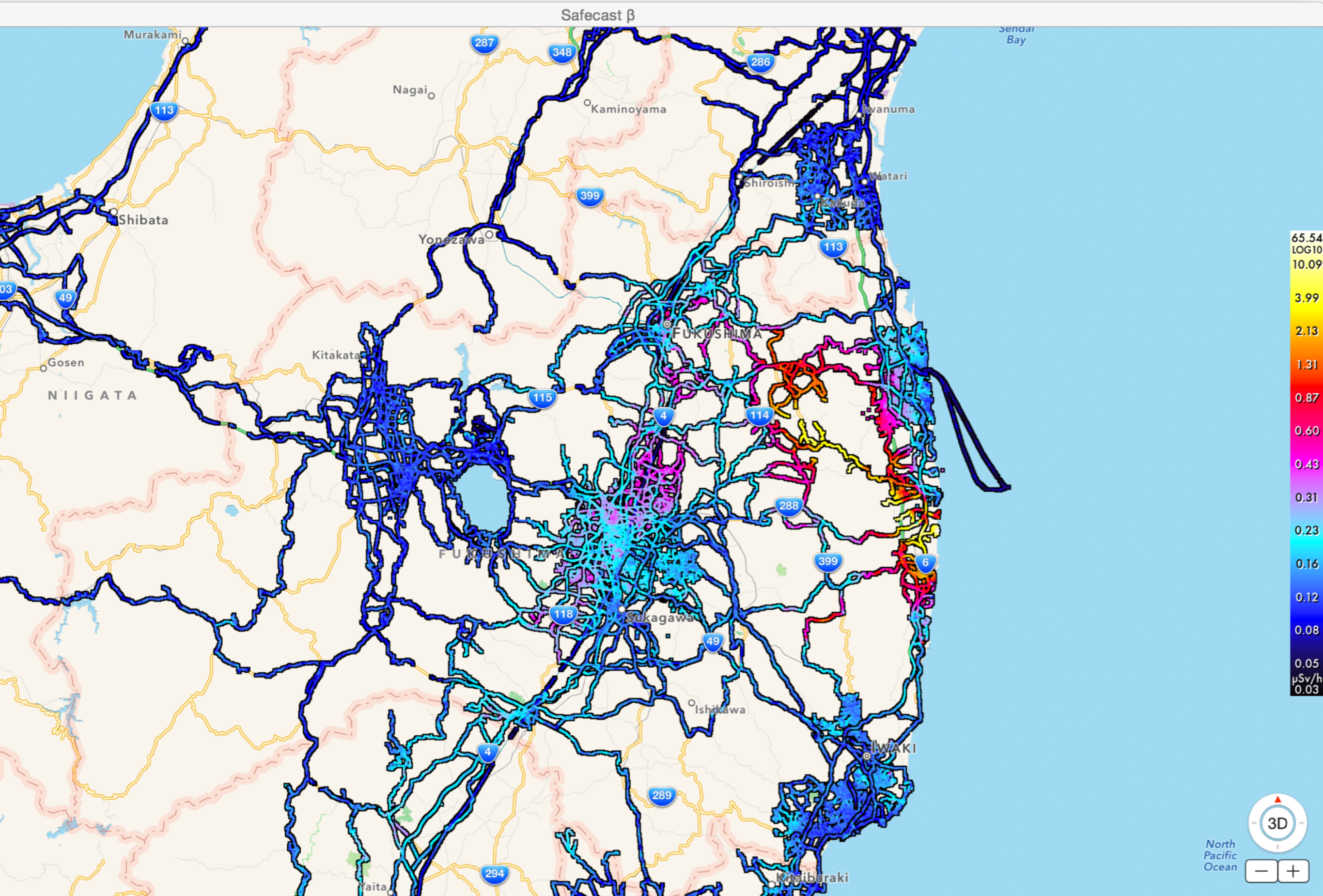
4) March 2012 — March 2013





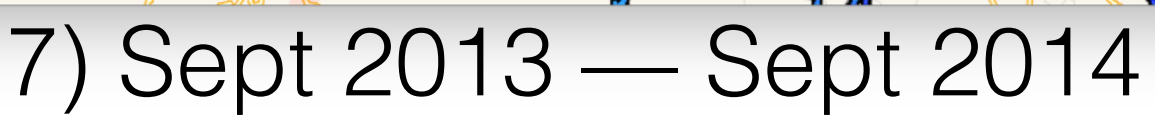
5) Sept 2012 — Sept 2013



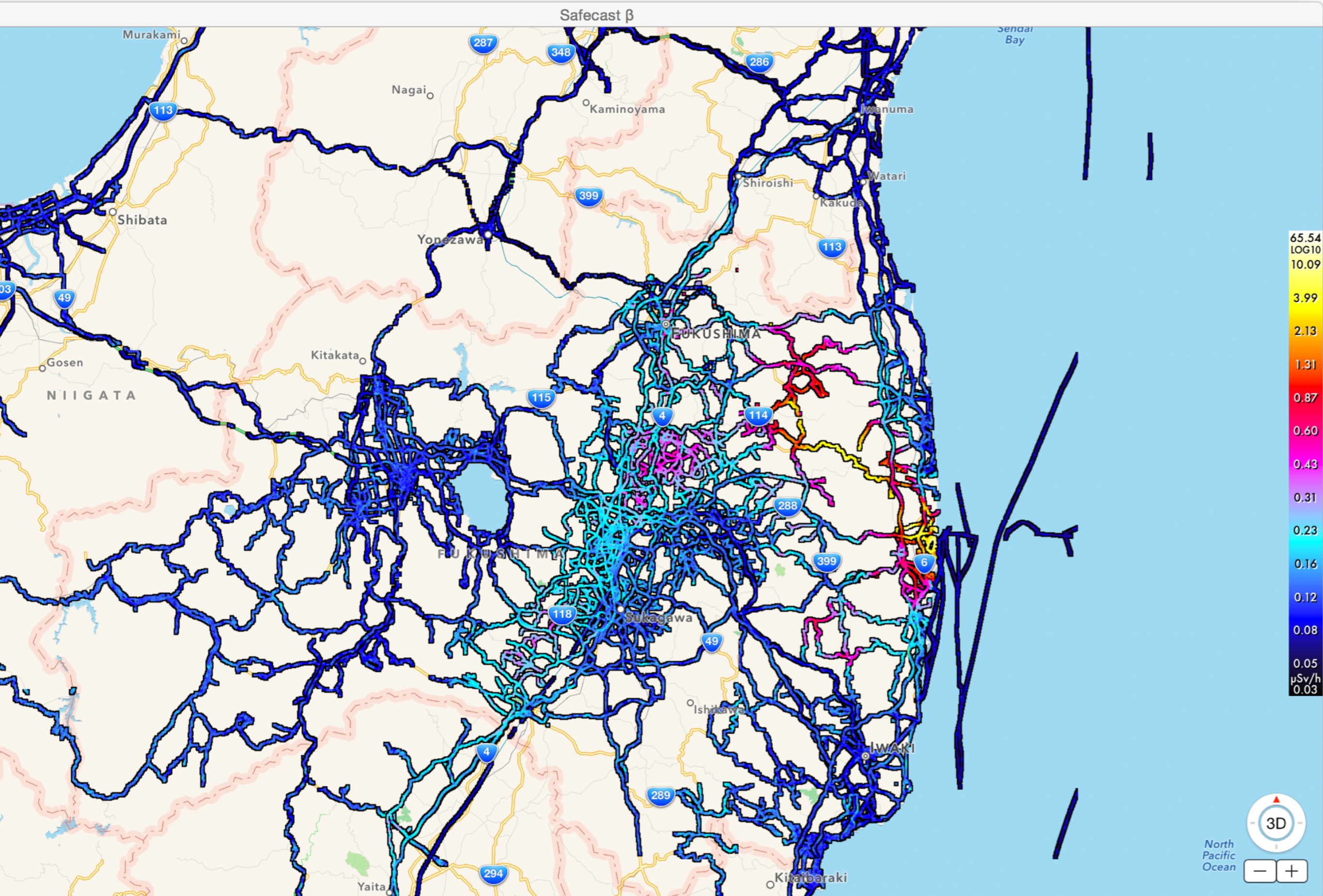


6) March 2013 — March 2014



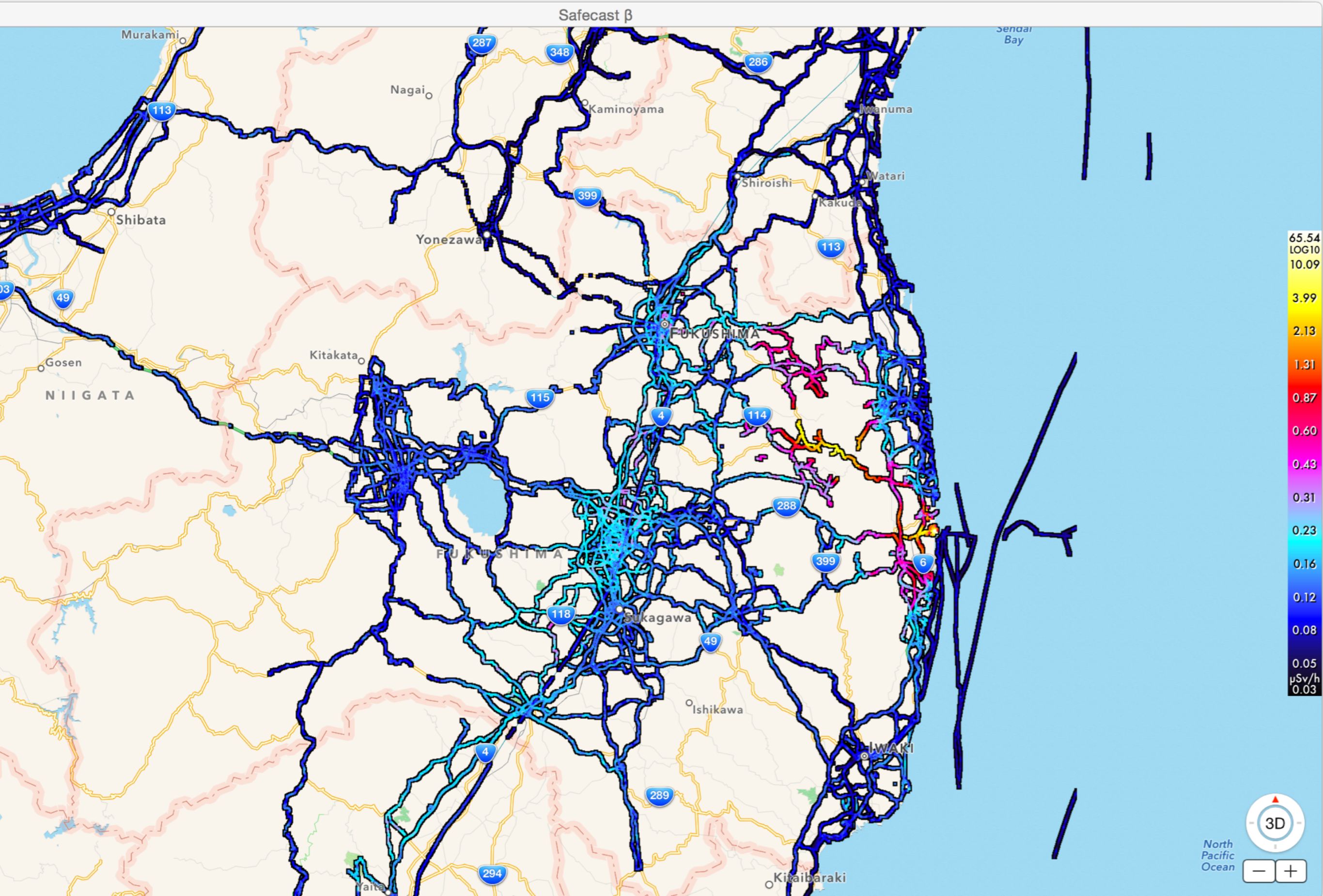






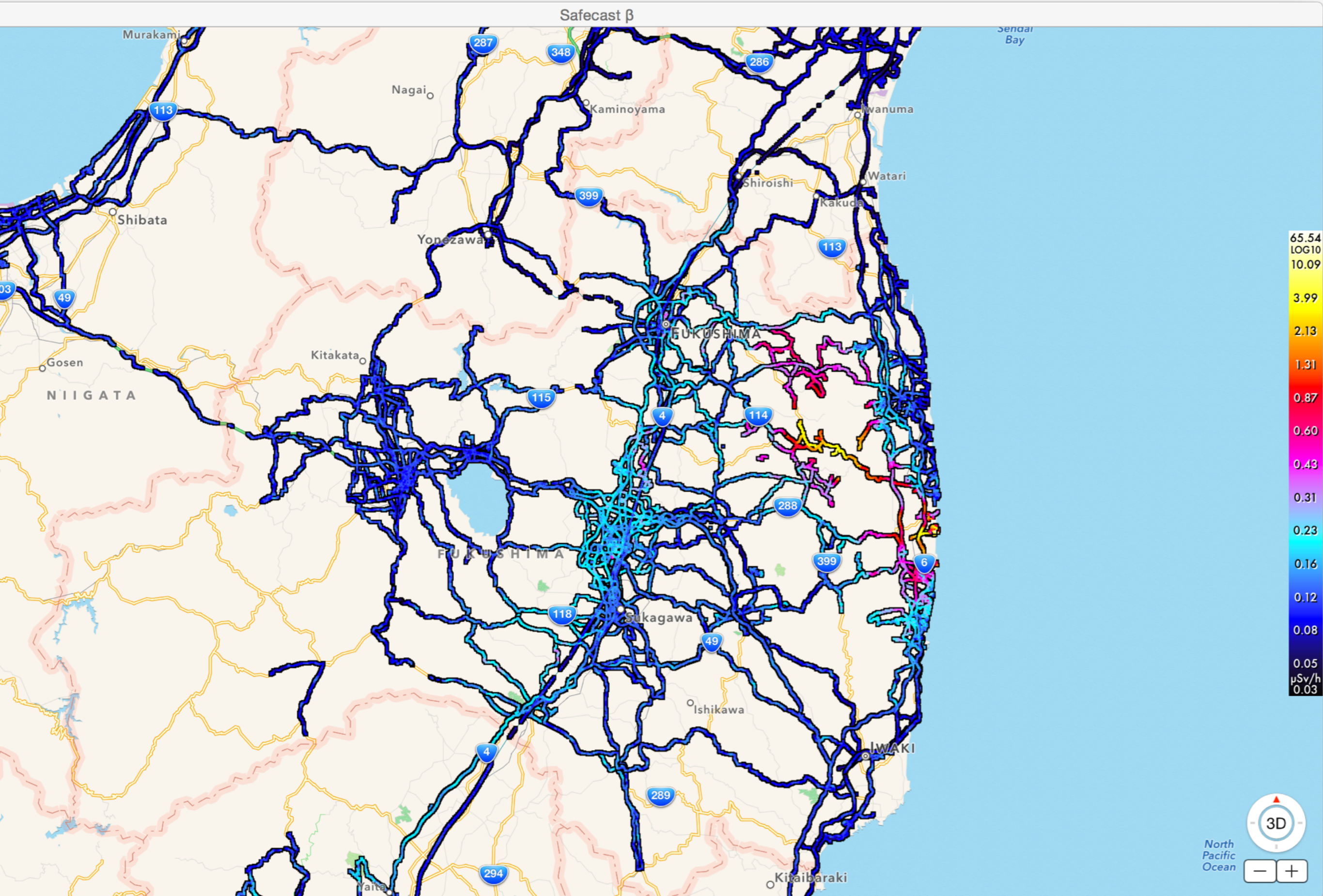
8) March 2014 — March 2015





9) Sept 2014 — Sept 2015





10) March 2015 — March 2016



[Dashboard](#)[Safecast Api](#)[Users](#)[Measurements](#)[bGeigle Imports](#)[Devices](#)

# The Safecast API

Query and add to the Safecast dataset with your own application.

## API Endpoint

<https://api.safecast.org/en-US>

GET <https://api.safecast.org/.json>

[JSON](#)[HTML](#)

## Available Resources

[Users](#)

Add and view user accounts

[Measurements](#)

Add and view measurements

[bGeigle Imports](#)

Add and view bGeigle Imports

[Devices](#)

Add and view Devices

## Users

Get a list of Safecast users

[GET /users.json](#)

Add a new user

[POST /users.json](#)

View a user

[GET /users/334.json](#)

## Measurements

Get a list of Measurements

[GET /measurements.json](#)

Add a new measurement

[POST /measurements.json](#)

View a measurement

[GET /measurements/22684490.json](#)

[api.safecast.org](https://api.safecast.org)



[Dashboard](#)[Safecast Api](#)[Users](#)[Measurements](#)[bGeigie Imports](#)[Devices](#)Bgeigie Import #019-1112.LOG Processed[Download Original File](#)*If you don't see the map, please manually reload the page.*

1. Uploaded

2. Processed

3. Metadata Added

4. Submitted

5. Approved

6. Live

[Metadata](#)[Process Log](#)[Edit Details](#)

## Uploaded By

KM.AIZU

## Filename

019-1112.LOG

## Number Of Lines

6079

## Number Of

## Measurements

6079

## Metadata

Title	Route6 2014/11/12
Description	Route 6 Return difficult district
Credits	Aizu radioactivity information center
Height	1.3m
Orientation	Facing Left
Cities	Koriyama,Hirata,Ono,Iwaki,Hirono, Naraha,Tomloka,Okuma,Futaba,Namie Minamisoma,Iitate,Kawamata,Fukushimaa, Nihonmatsu,Motomiya,Inawashiro,Aizuwakamatsu

[Delete this Import](#)

## MEASUREMENT

## Captured At

2014-11-12T10:27:28Z

Latitude 37.4701

Longitude 140.3621

CPM 72



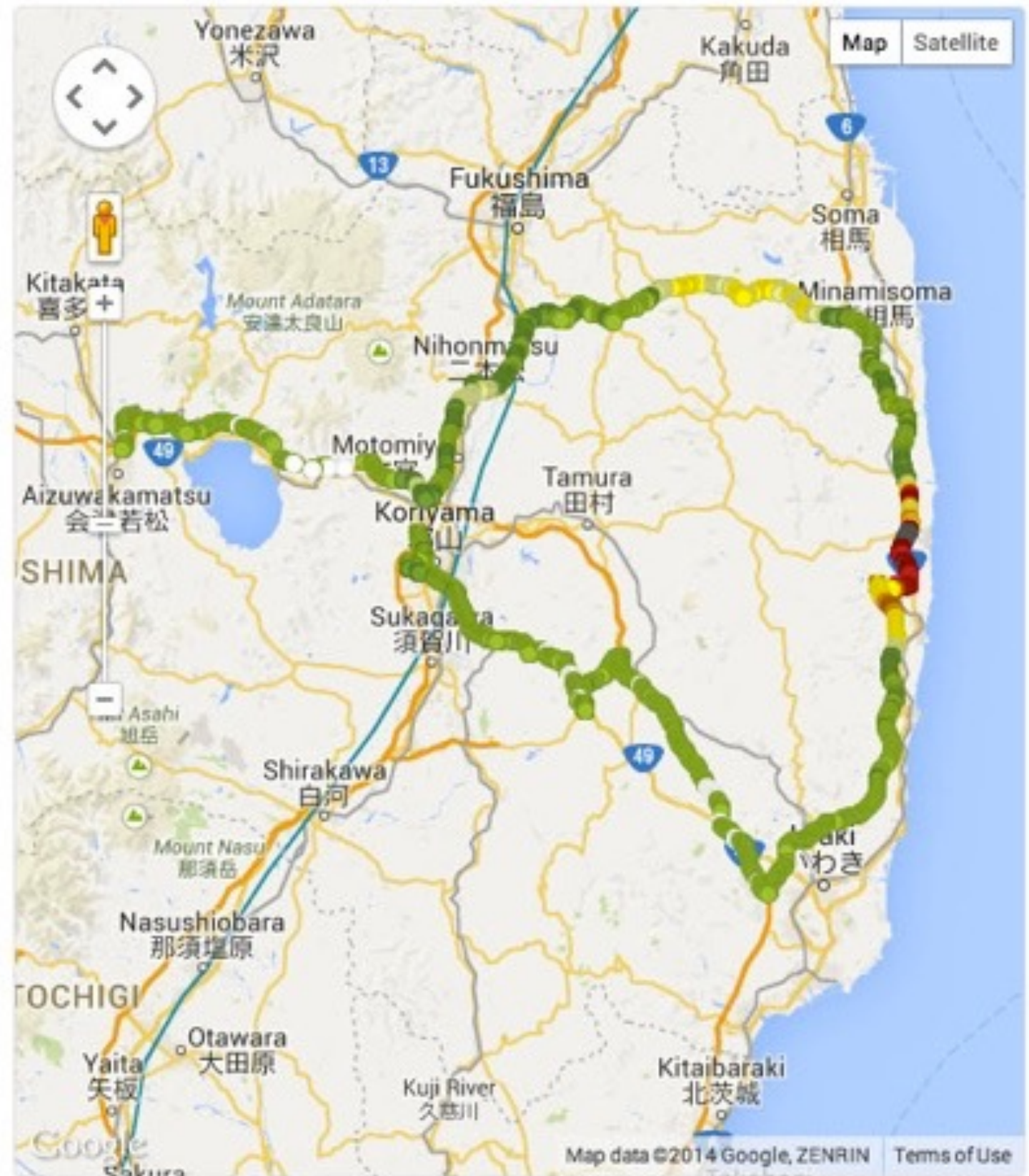
API walks users through  
the upload process



Delete this Import

#### MEASUREMENT

Captured At  
2014-11-12T10:27:28Z  
Latitude 37.4701  
Longitude 140.3621  
CPM 72  
 $\mu$ sv 0.22

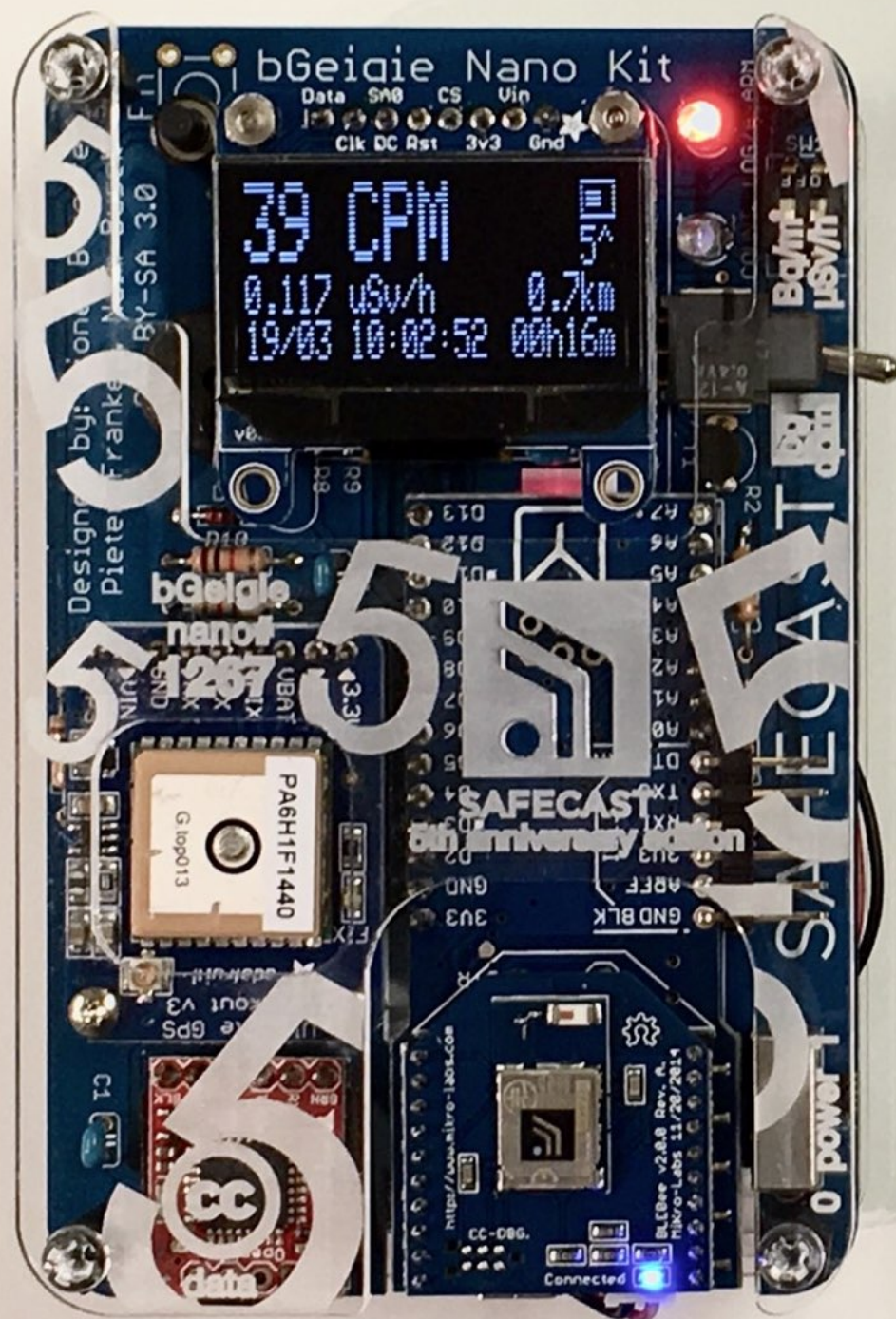


API allows each data point to be checked before approval



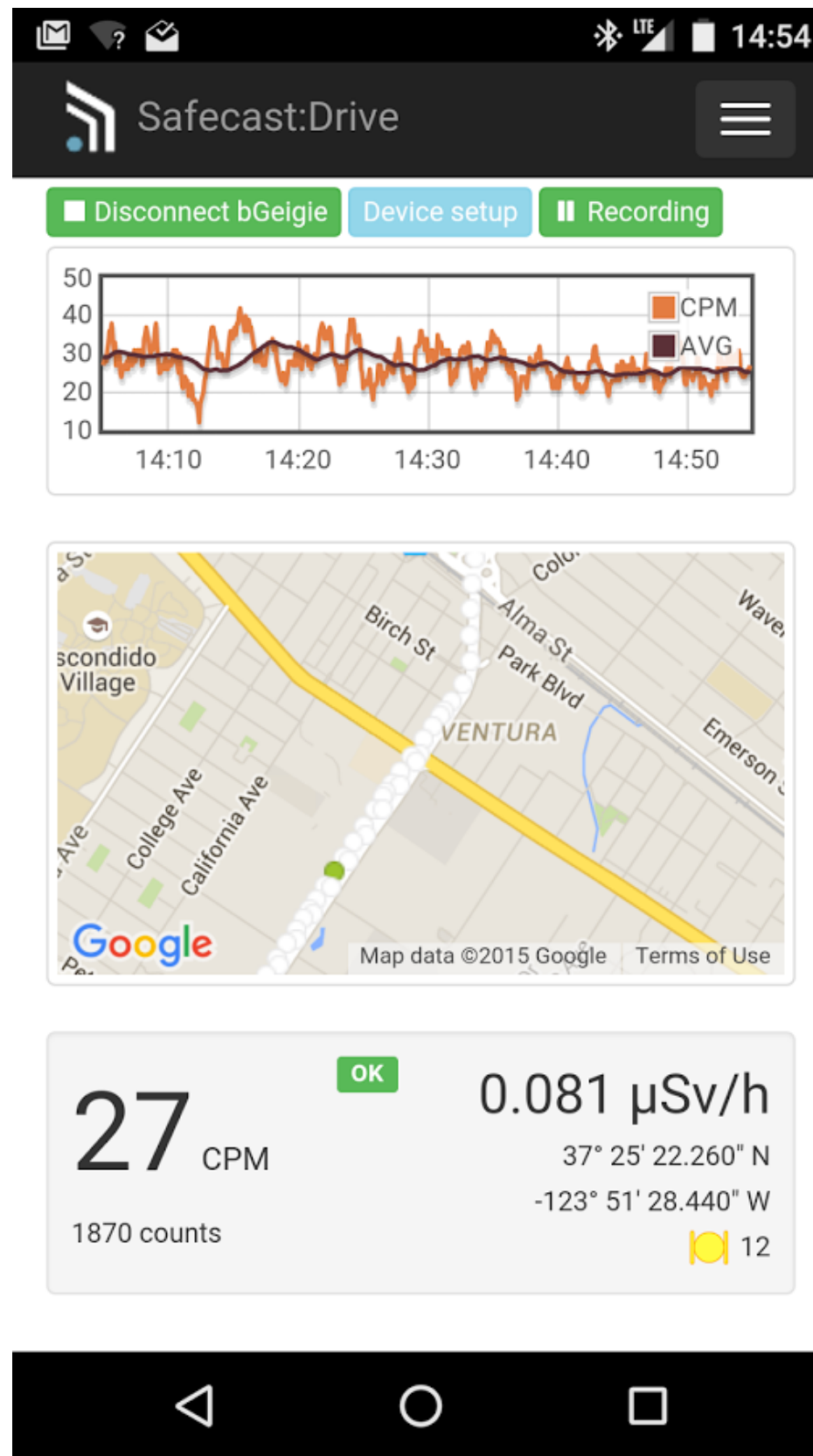
Because sometimes there's no  
substitute for human judgement,  
we think it's important  
to keep humans in the loop!





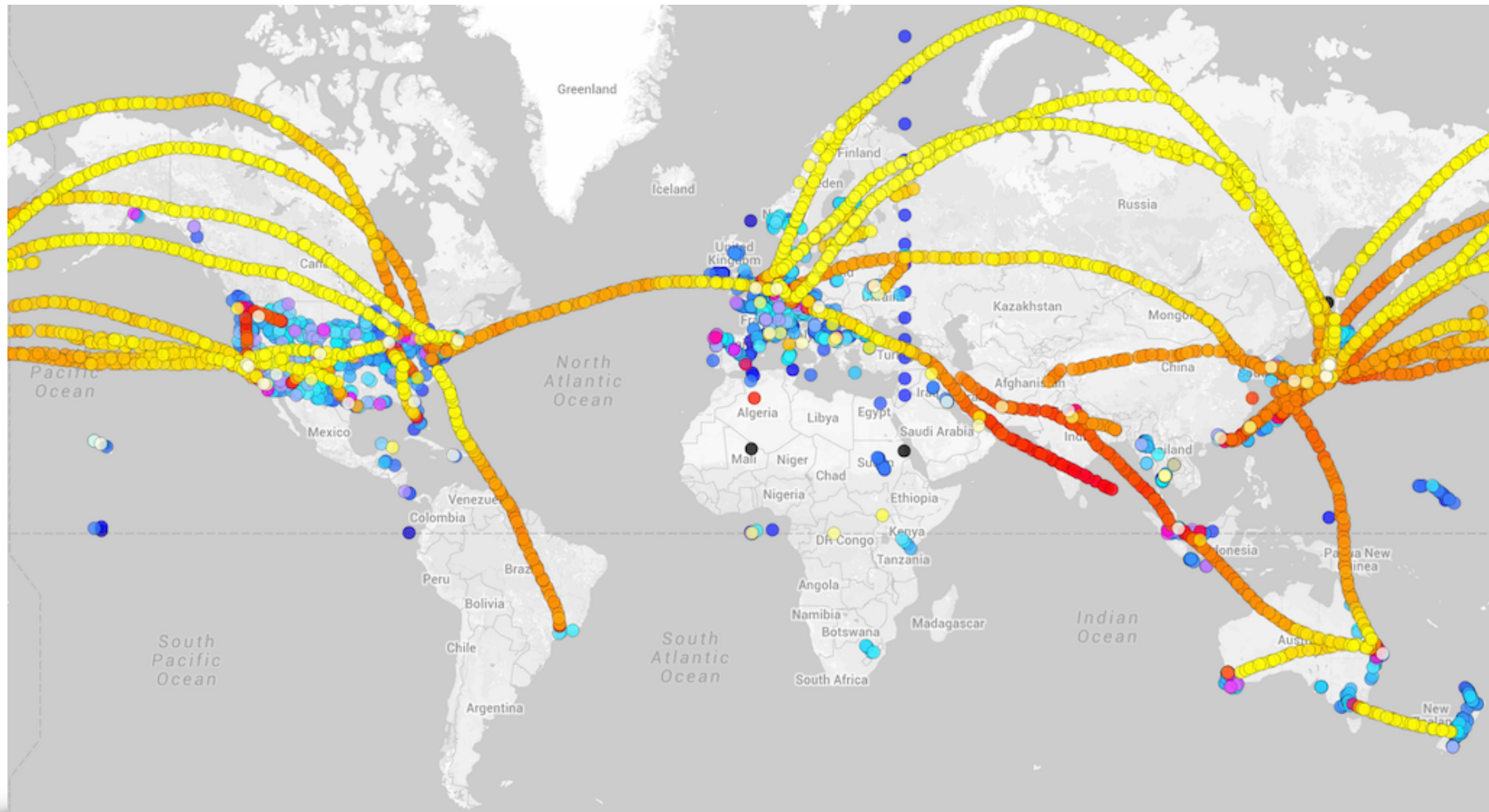
**BLUETOOTH - ENABLED**





# SAFECAST DRIVE APP - ANDROID

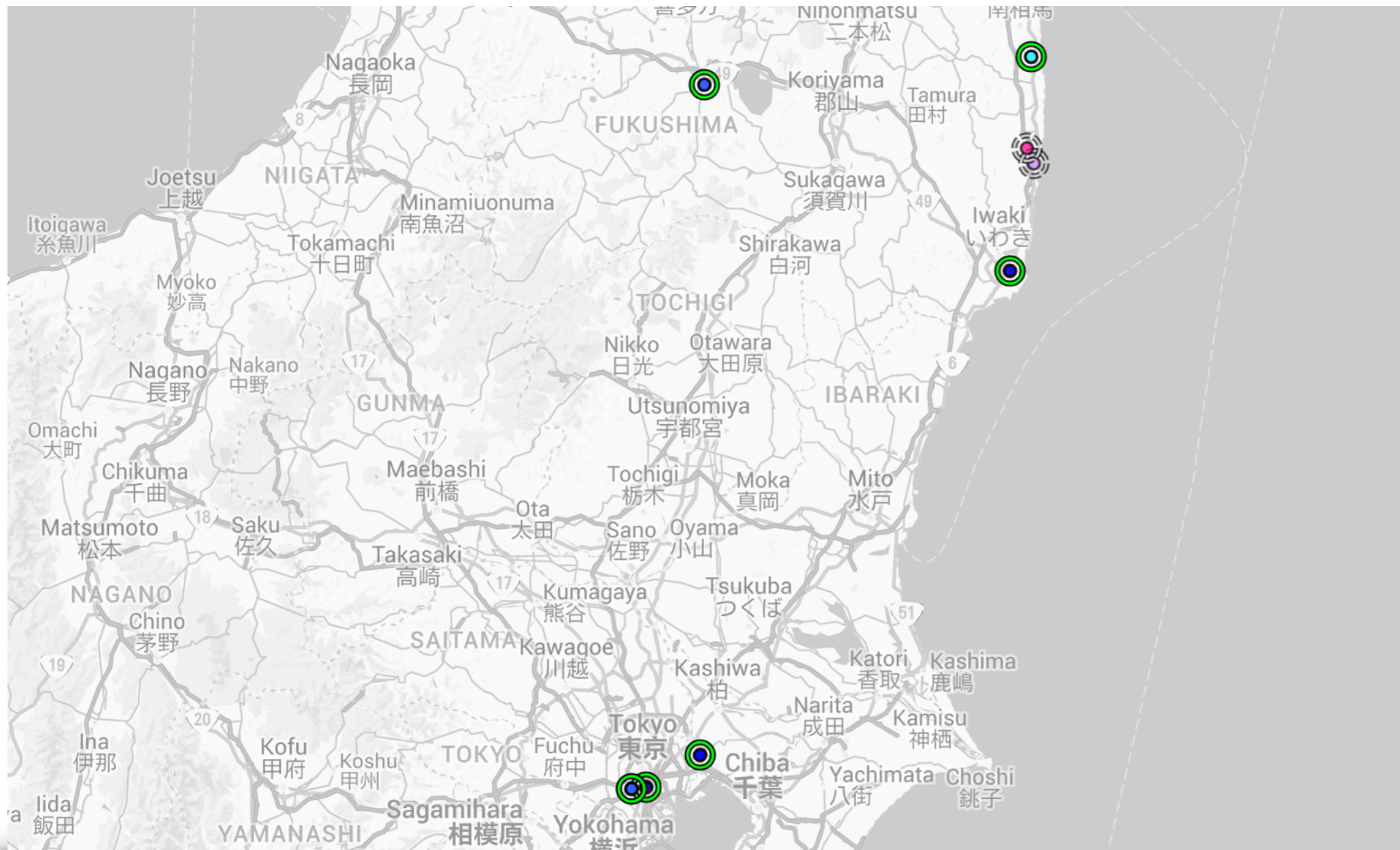




# 5000+ bGeigie Logs

(In-flight radiation data can be displayed)





# Realtime Sensors

[pointcast.safecast.org](http://pointcast.safecast.org)

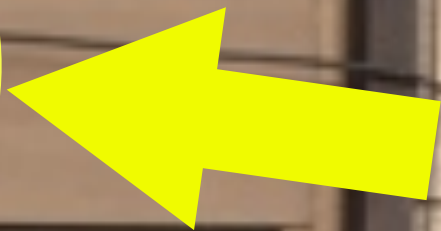




Odaka  
Worker's  
Base

小高ワーカーズベース









Communication  
module (LAN/ 3G)



Dual-sensor unit  
(Medcom hawk)





**imi**  
International  
Medcom, Inc

**SAFECAST**



SAFECAST  
#1000B  
SAFECAST





SAFECAST



S1:46 CPM 0.14uSh  
S2:18 CPM 0.15uSh  
API:06:40GMT PASS  
STS: 4.19V

Brn  
WHT = Vcc  
BLK = Gnd

SAFECAST

POINTCAST-USB  
CDSYMB-1.0.0.0

#10008  
SAFECAST

S1: <http://realtime.safecast.org/sensors/100081/>  
S2: <http://realtime.safecast.org/sensors/100082/>



# Japan, Tokyo, Minato-ku, Roppongi District (sensor 100022)

Online

4 mins ago

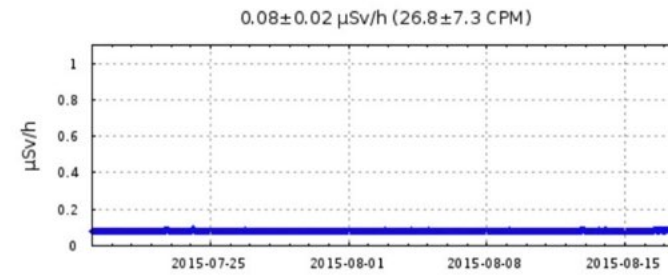
24  
cpm

4 weeks ago

43  
cpm

0.072  
 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$

0.129  
 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$



[More sensor data](#)

Tube:LND7317

[f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [+](#) Share



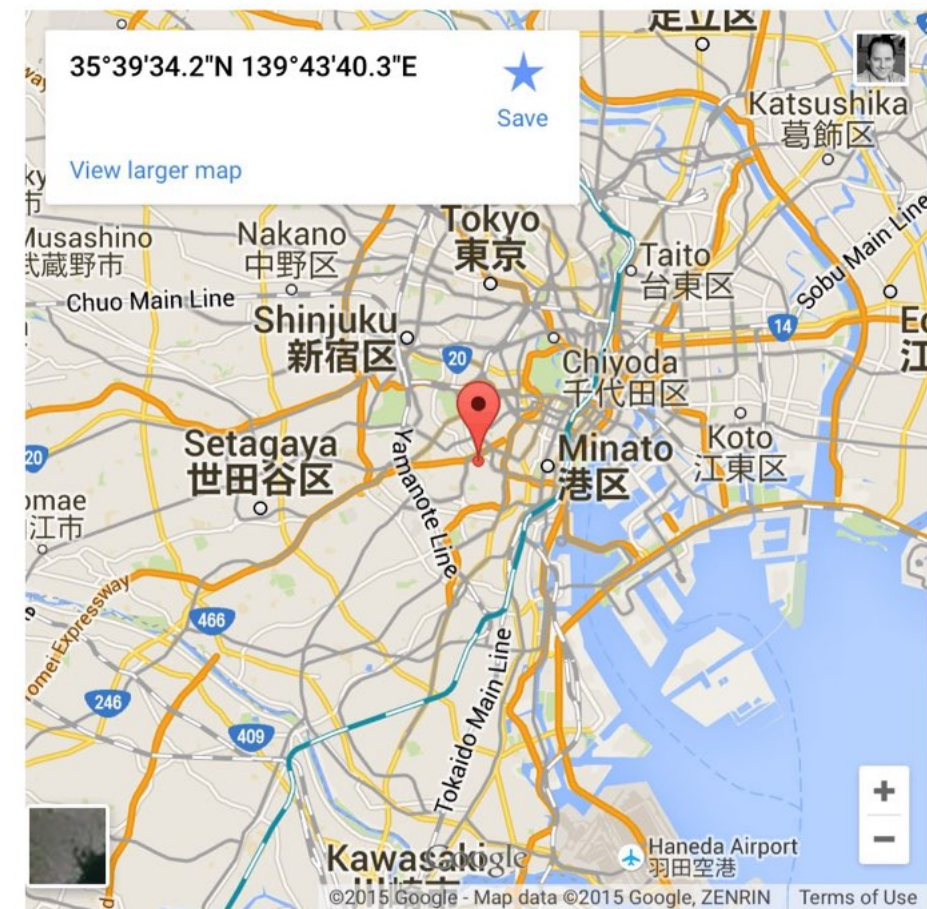
## Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Email (will not be published) (required)

Website

Comment

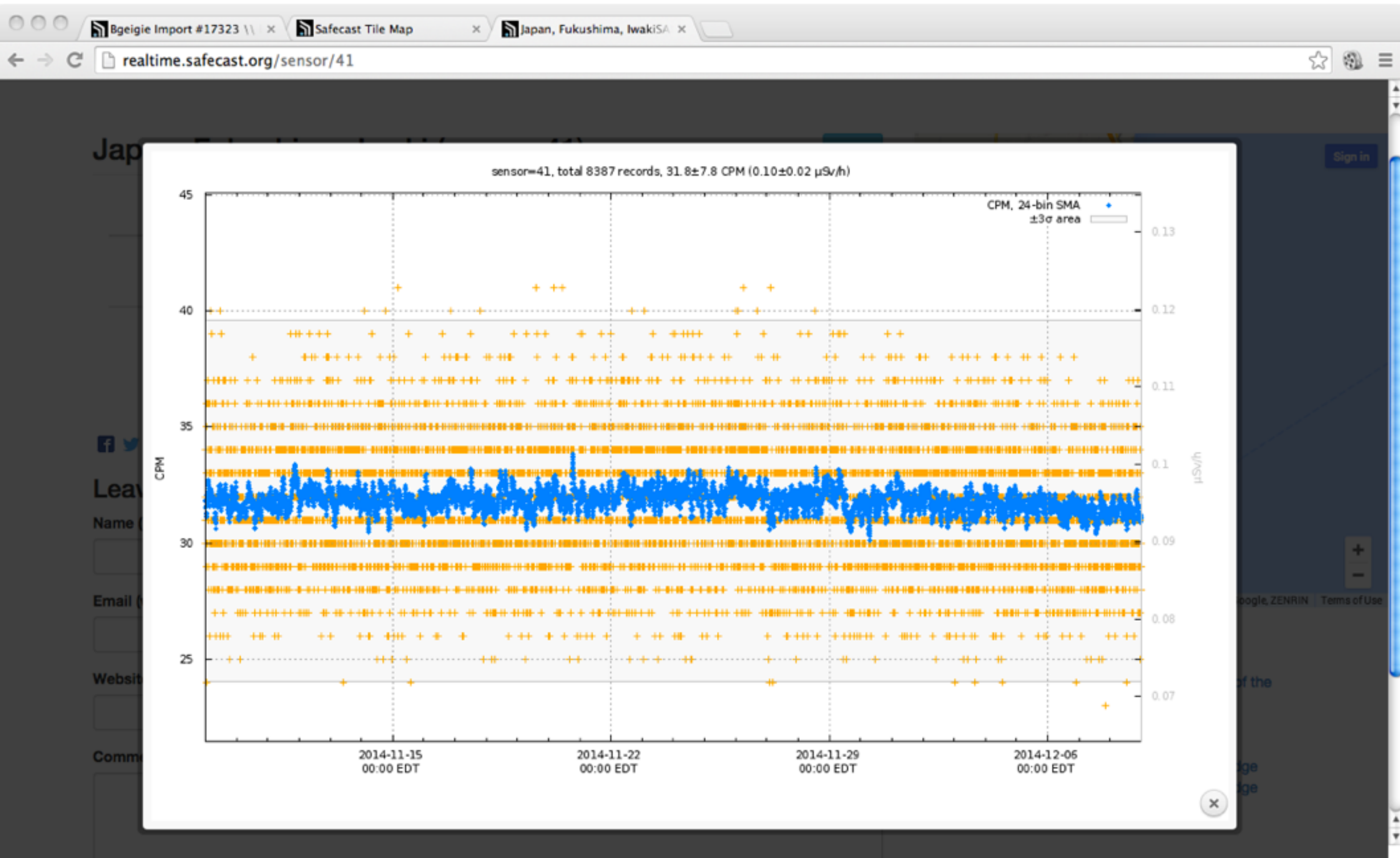


## Comments

- Ross on [USA, California, Bodega Head](#)
- Kent Noonan on [USA, California, Bodega Head](#)
- robouden on [Japan, Nara, Mitsue-Mura, Safecast Nara](#)
- Marco Kaltofen on [Japan, Fukushima , Matsukawa, Seirinji](#)
- Safecast on [Japan, Tokyo, Shibuya, Safecast Office](#)
- Rob Oudendijk on [Japan, Tokyo, Shibuya, Safecast Office](#)
- Jam on [Taiwan, Taipei, Fabcafe](#)
- robouden on [Taiwan, Taipei, Fabcafe](#)
- robouden on [Taiwan, Taipei, Fabcafe](#)
- Tim Wong on [Taiwan, Taipei, Fabcafe](#)

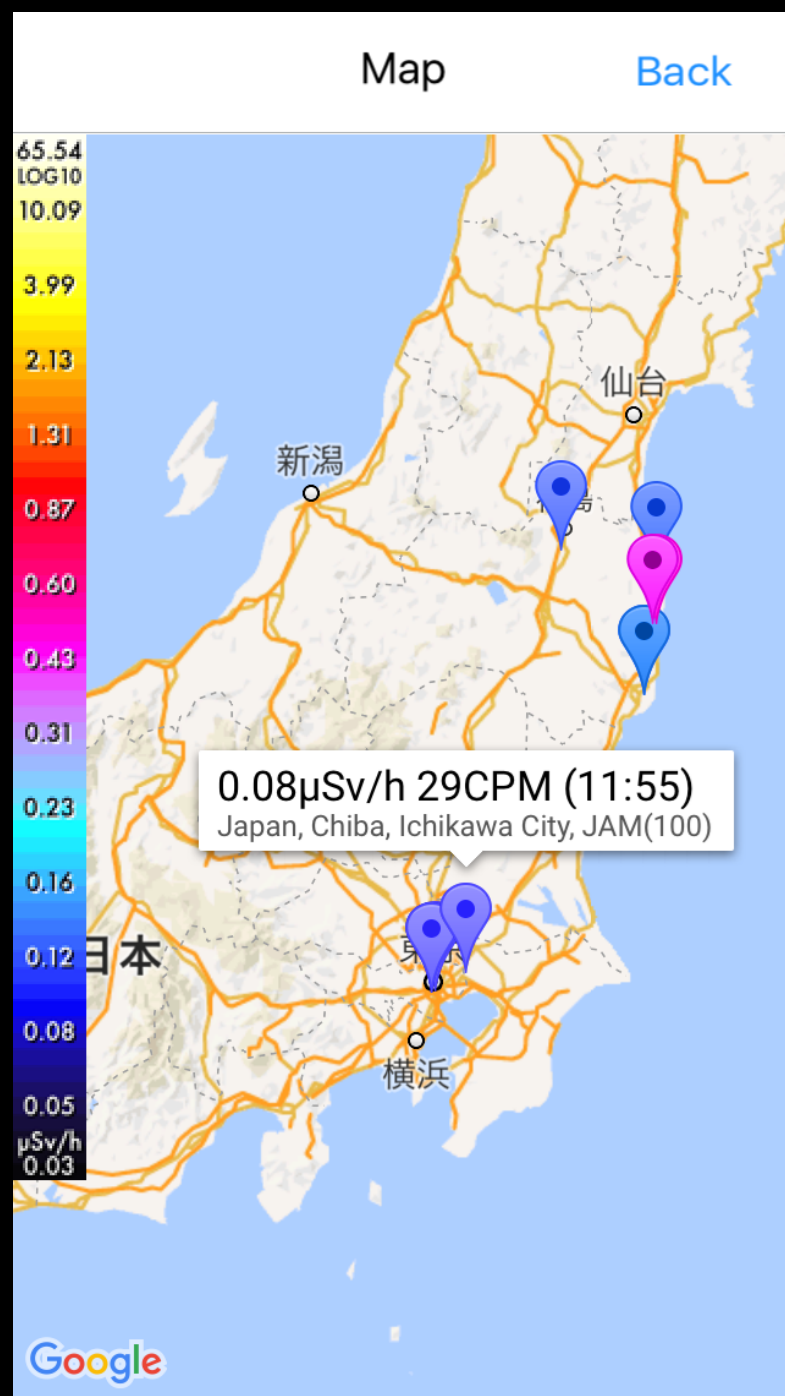
Pointcast unit webpage allows feedback and queries





Detailed view of time series





Sensors Back

Last Update : 2016/03/20 12:04

World	Favorite
<b>Japan, Chiba, Ichikawa City, JAM</b> device_id : 100(LND7318/334)	
★ 2016-03-20 11:55:57	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
30 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
37 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
29 CPM	
0.086 μSv/h	
<b>Japan, Fukushima, Iwaki 1</b> device_id : 100101(LND7138/334)	
★ 2016-03-15 16:02:57	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
0 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
0 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
49 CPM	
0.146 μSv/h	
<b>Japan, Fukushima, Matsukawa, Seirinji</b> device_id : 100011(LND7317/334)	
★ 2016-03-20 11:57:50	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
37 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
45 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
40 CPM	
0.119 μSv/h	
<b>Japan, Fukushima, Minami-Soma ,</b> device_id : 100081(LND7317/334)	
★ 2016-03-20 11:58:19	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
41 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
43 CPM	
0.128 μSv/h	

Sensors Back

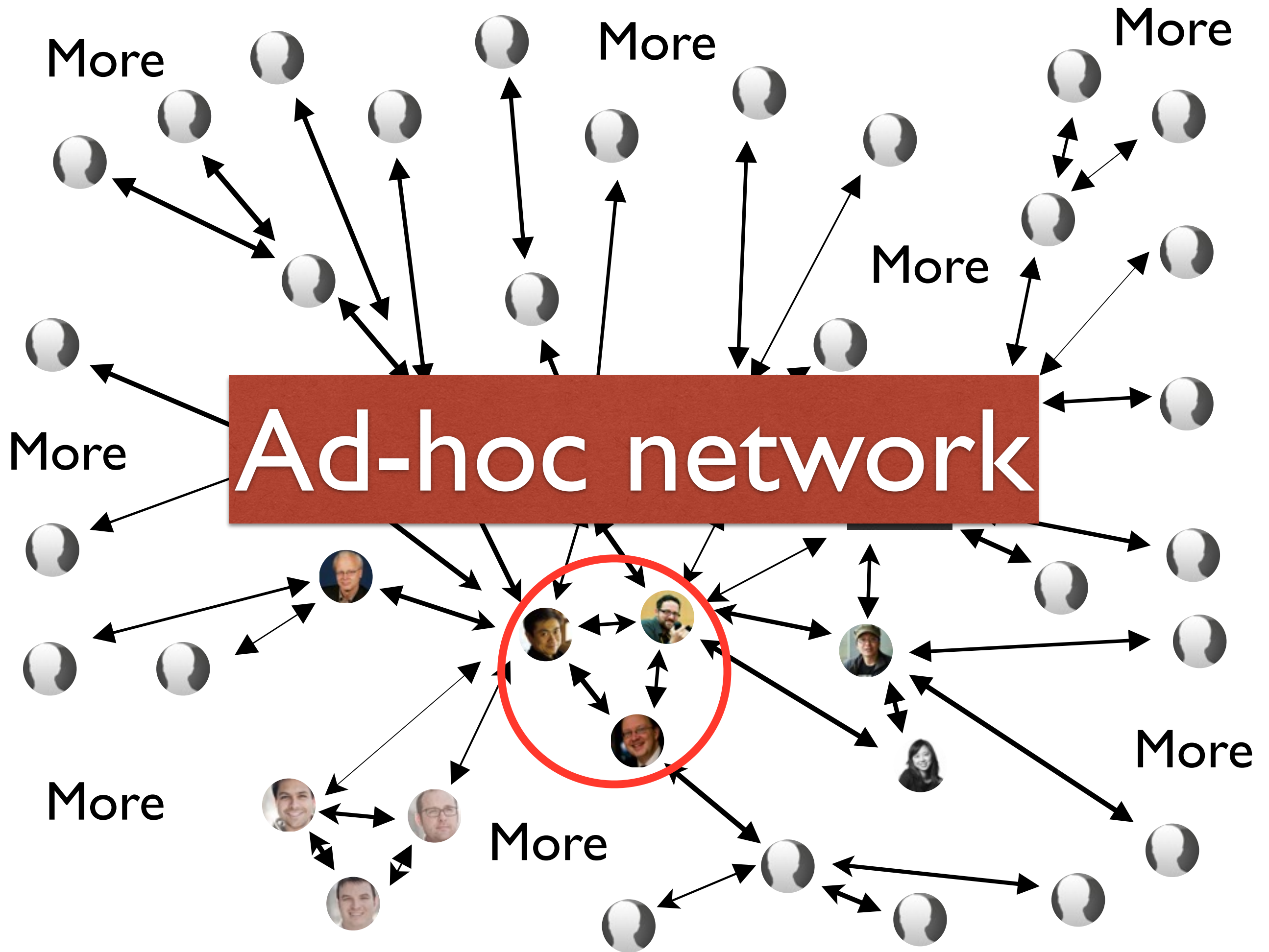
Last Update : 2016/03/20 12:04

World	Favorite
<b>Japan, Chiba, Ichikawa City, JAM</b> device_id : 100(LND7318/334)	
★ 2016-03-20 11:55:57	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
30 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
37 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
29 CPM	
0.086 μSv/h	
<b>Japan, Fukushima, Tomioka 1</b> device_id : 100091(LND7138/334)	
★ 2016-03-01 16:35:00	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
0 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
0 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
140 CPM	
0.419 μSv/h	
<b>Japan, Tokyo, Minato-ku, Roppongi</b> device_id : 100021(LND712/120)	
★ 2016-03-20 11:58:31	
Average (yesterday, month, year)	
11 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
Peak	
16 cpm	123cpm 123cpm
13 CPM	
0.108 μSv/h	



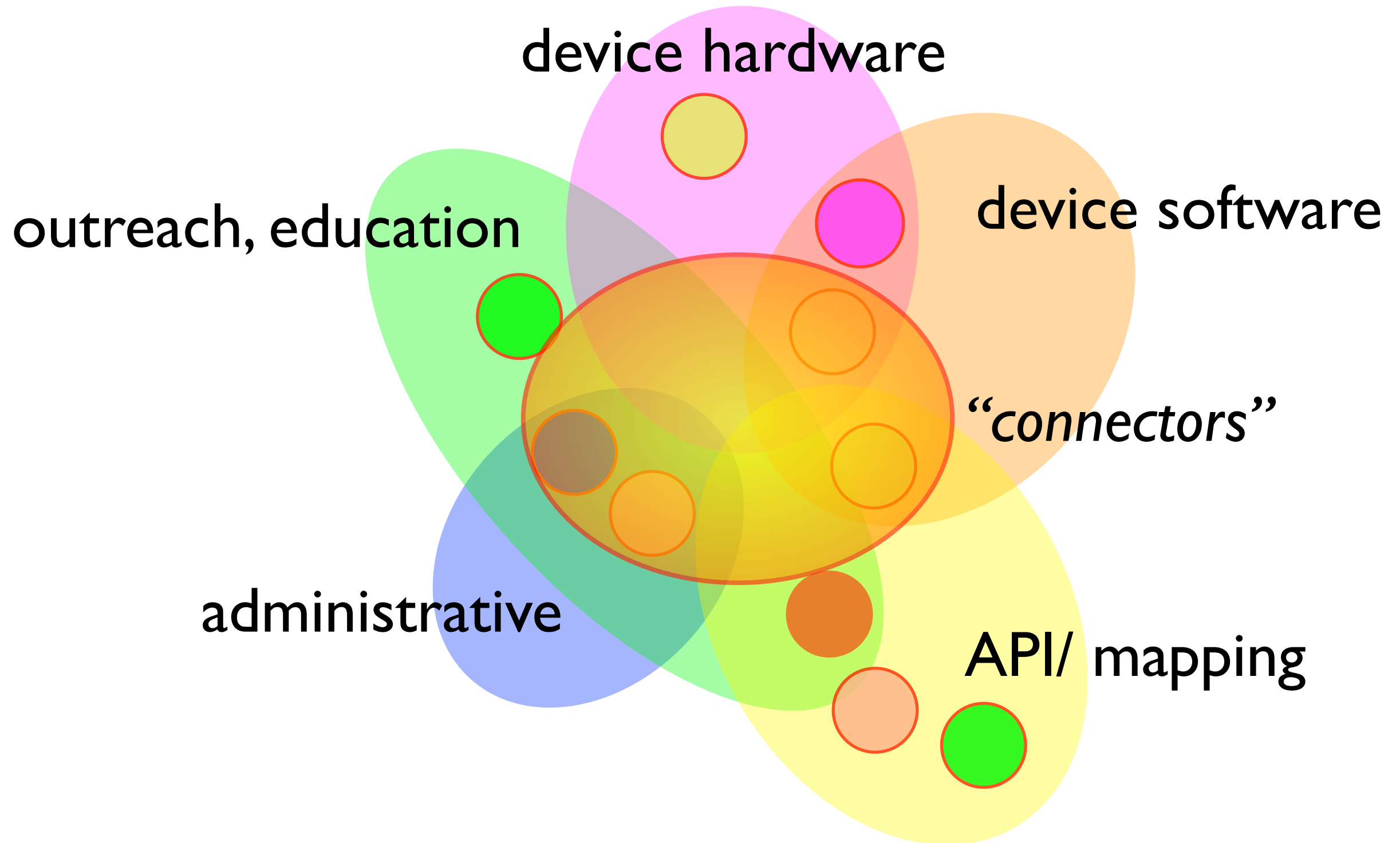
Community







# Our Teams



*Lots of multitasking, multi-competence*



# ANTI DISCIPLINARY

artist



scientist\*



\*pseudo

designer



engineer









# Funding:

- Individual donations
- Crowdfunding: Global Giving
- Kickstarter campaigns
- Support from private foundations
- In-kind support from manufacturers, etc.
- Most importantly, people donate their time



# Building Community

We want to encourage people to get involved.  
This requires skills in education and media.

- Strong social-media presence —  
blog, discussion, Facebook, Twitter, etc
- Device-building workshops
- Talks and presentations
- Media interviews



[Development: Real-Time Interpolation](#) [Safecast OS X](#) [Updated Safecast Webmap!](#) [Safecasting DC](#) [Safecasting Iraq: Open](#) [Safecasting Japan](#)

## ABOUT SAFECAST

Safecast is a global project to empower people with data, primarily by mapping radiation levels and building a sensor network, enabling people to contribute and explore the

[Learn More](#)

## OUR PROJECTS

Safecast is a global sensor network for collecting and sharing radiation measurements to empower people with data about their environments.

[Learn More](#)

## DONATE

Safecast is made possible entirely thanks to tax deductible donations from people like you. We are a registered US 501(c) 3 non profit organization.

[Learn More](#)

## (日本語) BGEIGIE NANOの使用説明-YOUTUBE動画

Sorry, this entry is only available in 日本語.

© Posted on Saturday January 24th, 2015 07:16 PM

[Comment](#)

## HELLO BIKINI !

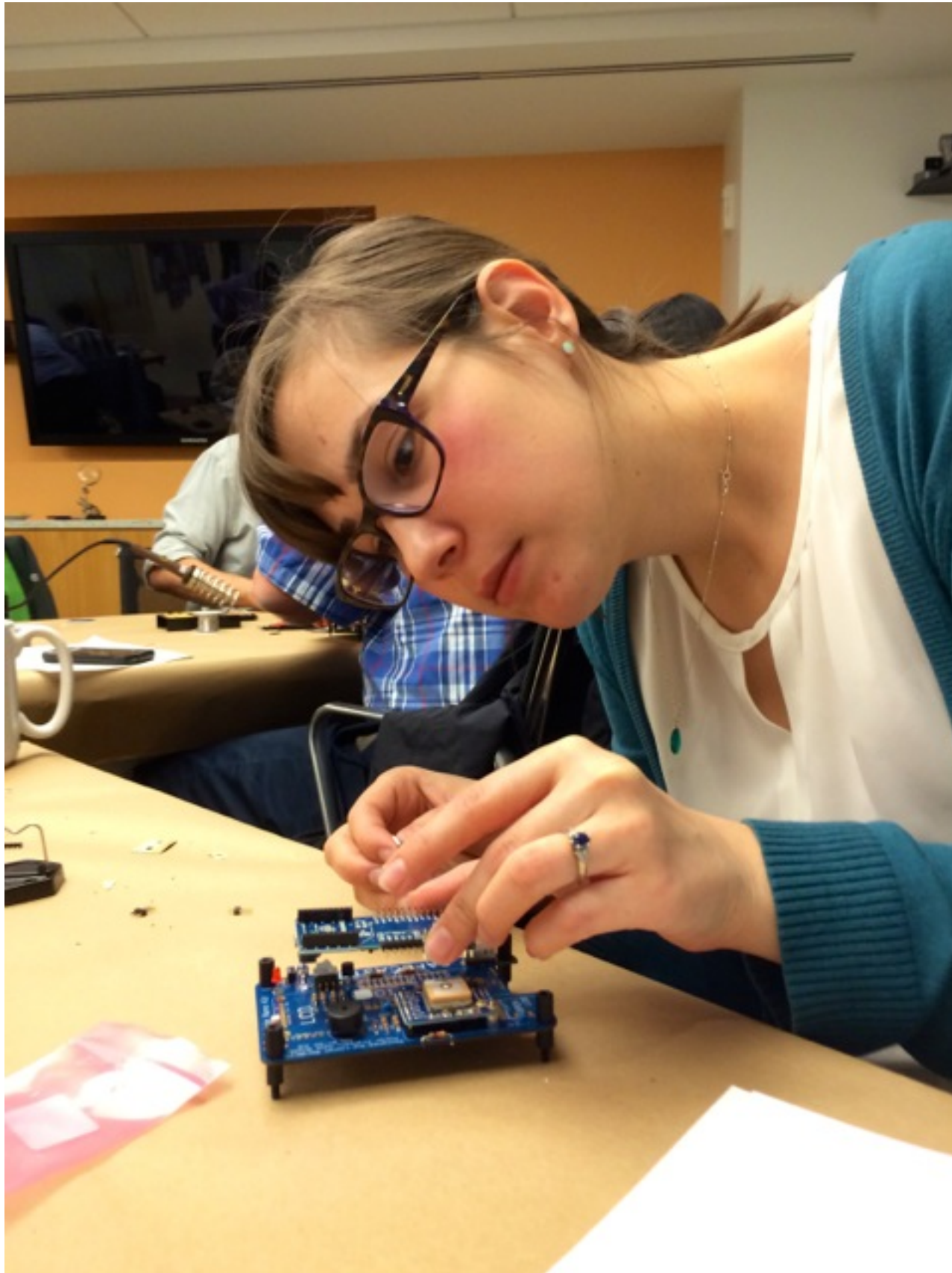
Above: Dr. Buessler on the beach at Bikini. We recently got some unique uploads from Bikini and Enewetak Atolls, courtesy of Dr. Ken Buessler, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Dr.

[Go](#)

Build your own  
bGeigie Nano







## **Recent workshops in:**

Tokyo

Fukushima

Kobe

Washington, DC

Strasbourg

Taipei

Hong Kong

Seoul

**TRIESTE!!**





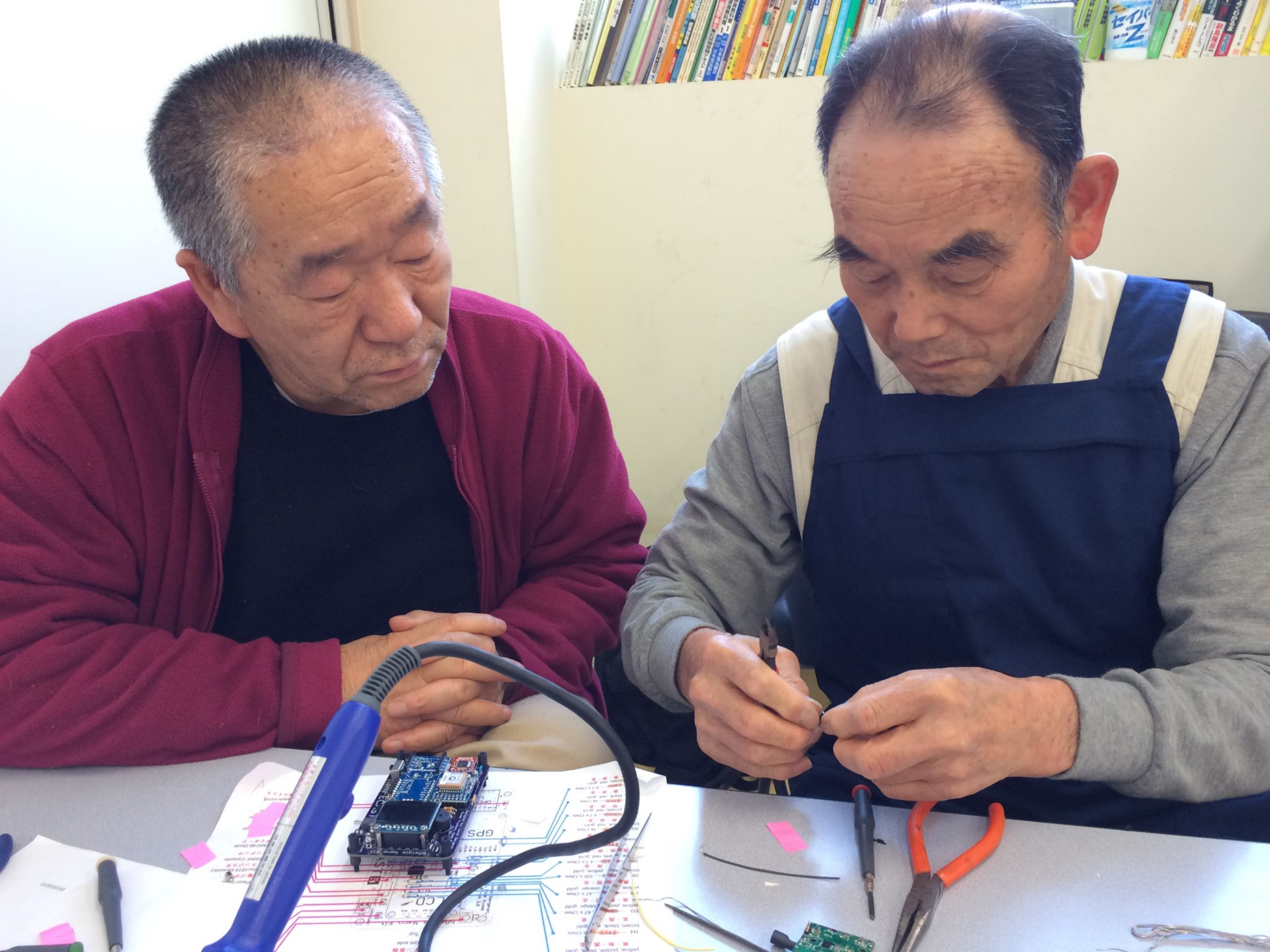
Geiger-counter building workshop with students in Koriyama  
(They then become volunteers, contribute radiation readings,  
and teach others)





Testing 12 newly-built bGeigie Nanos in a nearby park.







## The President in Conversation With MIT's Joi Ito and WIRED's Scott Dadich



**WIRED**



# **Safecast Street-by-Street**





Safecast volunteers and Koriyama City officials





Ten bGeigies were delivered to Koriyama City





They were mounted on postal delivery vehicles, which cover every street in town over the course of normal daily activity.



# Safecast Street-by-Street

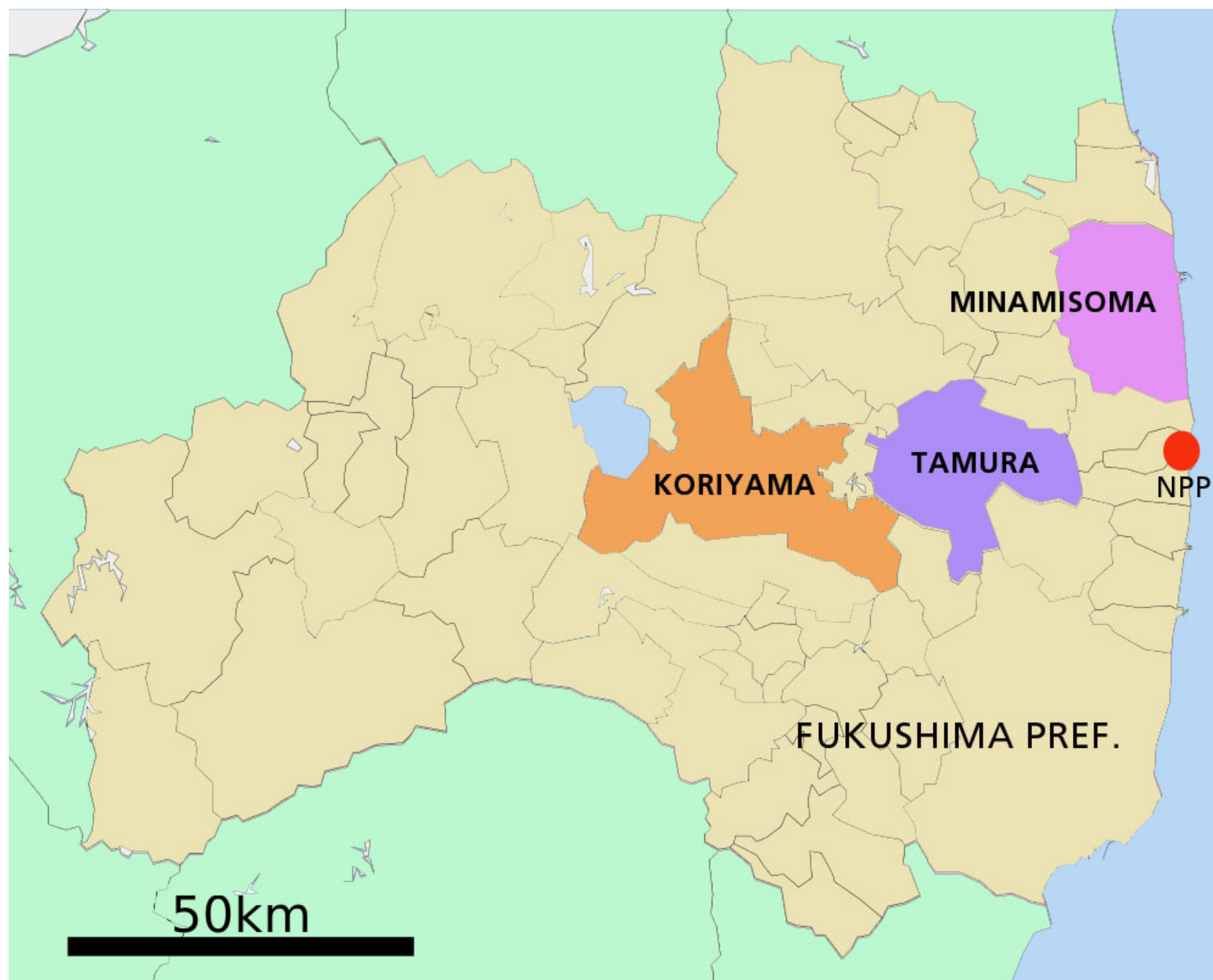
Shown: Koriyama detail -  
100m grid

Info: Mem warning (66.7 MB)

1.00  
LIN  
0.75  
0.50  
0.25  
 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$   
0.00

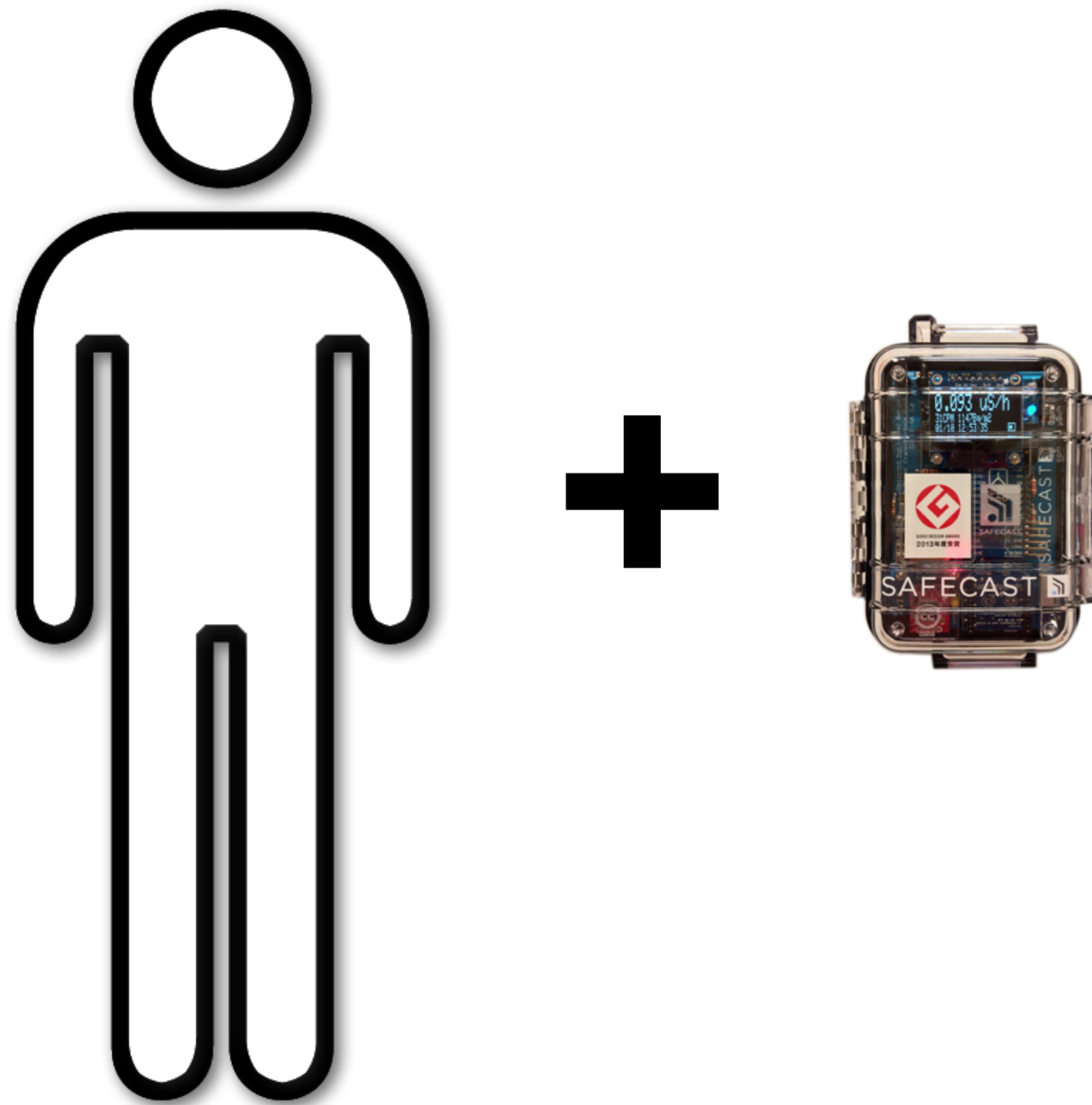
Layer





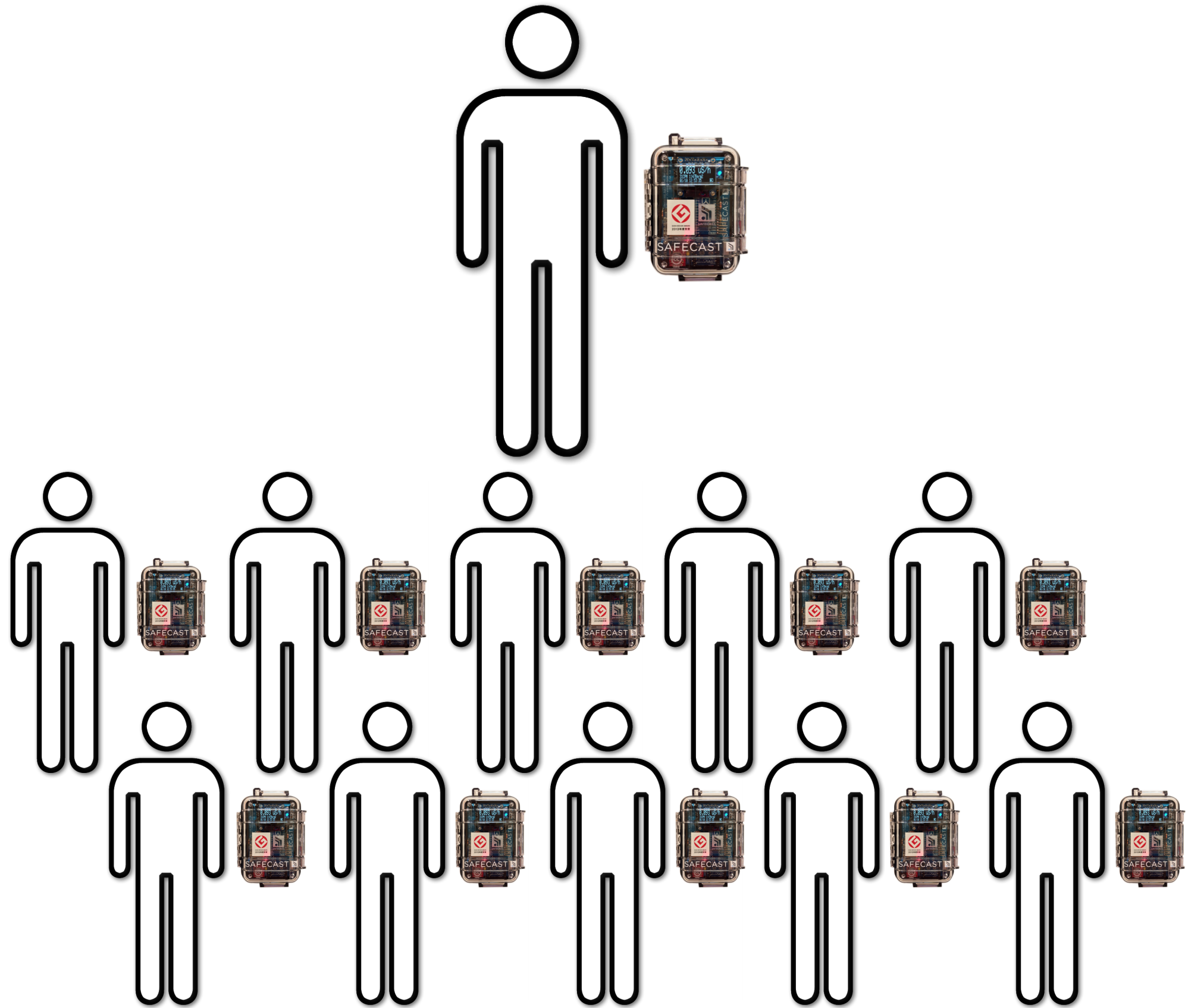
This solution has proven very scalable, and quite inexpensive. To date the towns of Minamisoma, Tamura, and Koriyama have been surveyed through this program (a combined affected population of over 400,000 people). Safecast is confident that every municipality in Fukushima Pref. could be quickly measured in this way.





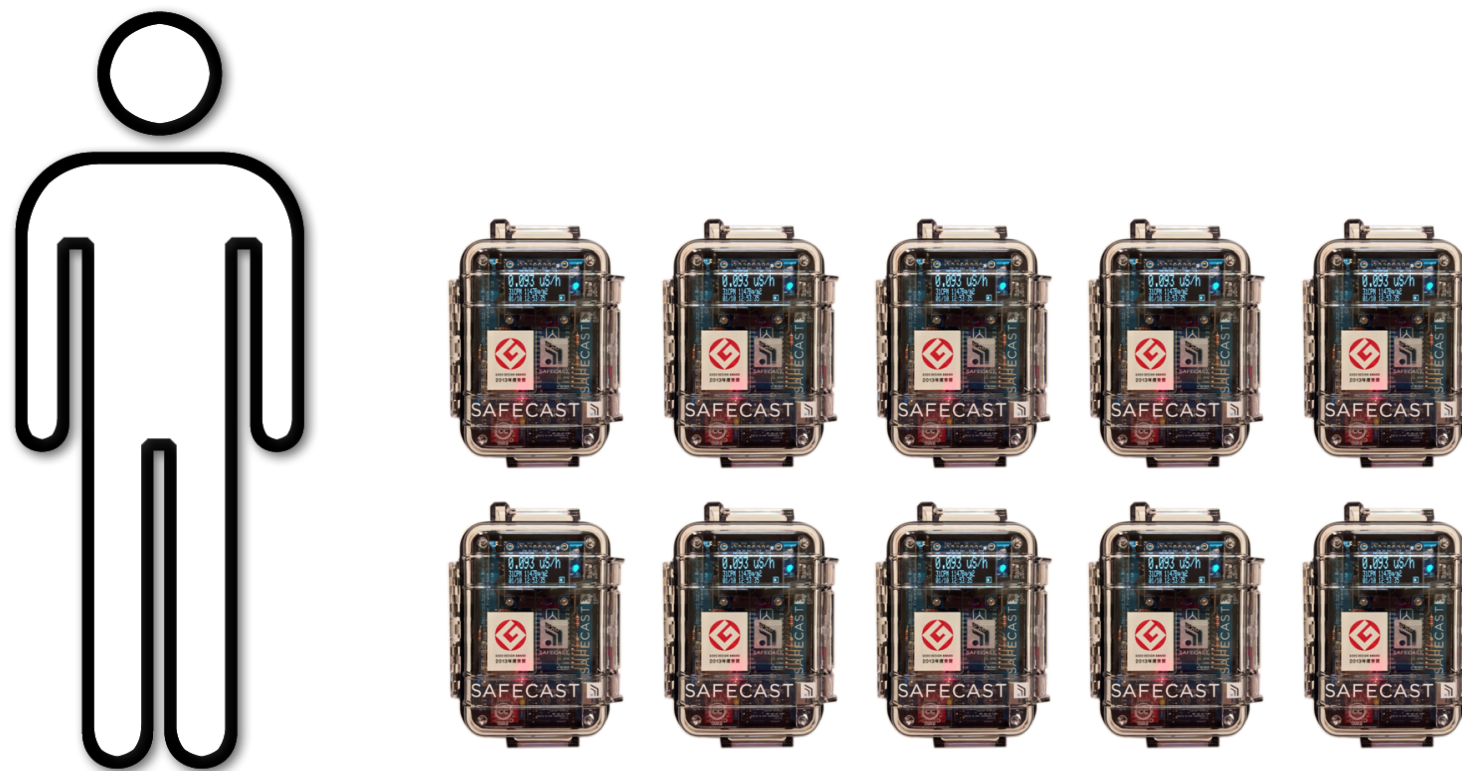
Our experience after Fukushima suggests that in the event of another large radiation emergency additional manpower will be needed.





One person can quickly teach ten others.





We have prepared “airlift crates” of devices that can be quickly sent emergency areas anywhere in the world.





We've found it's necessary to educate media as well.



# THE SAFECAST REPORT

VOLUME 2- MARCH 2016



[www.safecast.org](http://www.safecast.org)

Link: <http://blog.safecast.org/the-safecast-report/>



# SAFECAST REPORT

- First published 2015, second edition 2016
- Purpose: To collect, update information on issues of most concern, and provide guide to reliable sources.
- Also, to discuss controversies, summarize arguments
- Over 100 pages, produced by volunteer effort
- Japanese translation will be released soon.

Link: <http://blog.safecast.org/the-safecast-report/>



# SAFECAST REPORT

## Contents:

- Part 1: SAFECAST project update
- Part 2: Situation Update
  - 2.1: Issues at Fukushima Daiichi NPP
  - 2.1: Evacuees and Returnees
  - 2.3: Environment and Decontamination
  - 2.4: Food
  - 2.5: Health

Link: <http://blog.safecast.org/the-safecast-report/>

# SAFECAST REPORT

Sources used in Environment and Decontamination section (terrestrial impacts) include:

- 28 official reports (UNSCEAR, IAEA, JAEA, Japan Env. Ministry, etc)
- 31 peer-reviewed papers
- 21 journalistic articles
- 8 NGO reports (int'l and local organizations)

Link: <http://blog.safecast.org/the-safecast-report/>



# SAFECAST REPORT

Issues discussed include:

- Environmental impacts as evaluated in scientific studies
- Remediation policy and implementation
- Forest remediation issues
- Longterm storage issues
- Social and economic consequences
- Communication and messaging
- Dissenting and critical voices

Link: <http://blog.safecast.org/the-safecast-report/>

# CITIZEN SCIENCE:

- Where does the Safecast project lie within the spectrum of citizen science?
- ‘Crowd science’, ‘networked science’, ‘massively collaborative science’ ?
- Defined differently in different contexts
- Qualitative definitions and evaluative principles?
- Objective criteria for what constitutes ‘success’ ?



PAPER • **OPEN ACCESS** • **FREE ARTICLE**

# Safecast: successful citizen-science for radiation measurement and communication after Fukushima

Azby Brown<sup>1,3</sup>, Pieter Franken<sup>2,3</sup>, Sean Bonner<sup>2,3</sup>, Nick Dolezal<sup>3</sup> and Joe Moross<sup>3</sup>

Published 6 June 2016 • © 2016 IOP Publishing Ltd

[Journal of Radiological Protection, Volume 36, Number 2](#)



Article PDF

# CITIZEN SCIENCE:

‘With appropriate protocols, training, and oversight, volunteers can collect data of quality equal to those collected by experts’

(Bonney, 2014)



# CROWDSOURCING:

- Meaning of crowdsourcing has evolved
- Safecast's primary goal is to assemble database of observations
- Based on open-source hardware and software
- The achievement of specific social outcomes, such as promotion of openness, is a major motivation from the start
- Ad-hoc voluntary structure which embodies the emerging open collaborative culture

# INFORMATION COMMONS:

- Decisions often reached through informal discussion
- Fluid decision making procedures
- Data-organization choices often impromptu, driven by affordances of open digital platforms
- Informal or semiformal hierarchies of authority, vs professional accreditation
- Norms that facilitate trust



# OPENNESS and TRANSPARENCY:

- Have been key components of the Safecast project from the start.
- Use of open-source hardware and software is considered essential.
- All designs are publicly available for scrutiny.
- Any outside observer can independently evaluate the group's tools and methodology.
- Open-data publication principles go hand-in-hand with this approach.

Whatever authority Safecast possesses can be characterized as adaptive and fluid, and rooted in the shifting needs of the commons, as opposed to the 'constituted' authority of formal science and its institutions.



# WHAT IS SUCCESS?

- Key Metrics: Database size, how many users, how many detectors, etc..
- Intangibles: Perceived shifts in attitudes in society, a growing sense of community
- Increased interest in the capabilities of citizen scientists worldwide

*For Safecast as a project, the intangibles are arguably as important as the metrics.*

‘...Safecast is as crisp an example as we have for how mutualism can serve as a successful workaround for failure (whether for lack of capacity or, more likely, for lack of political will) of a public body.’

(Benkler, 2013)



## **SUMMARY:**

Though groups like Safecast can help fill crucial gaps, ultimately the timely provision of data that citizens need to make informed decisions about their livelihoods and well-being is the government's responsibility.

The fact that a group like Safecast proved necessary at all is in itself an indictment of the failures of government and the international system for informing the public of such risks.

The rise of citizen science should be seen as a very positive development, one of the few bright spots that have emerged following the Fukushima disaster.

## **SUMMARY:**

Though groups like Safecast can help fill crucial gaps, ultimately the timely provision of data that citizens need to make informed decisions about their livelihoods and well-being is the government's responsibility.

The rise of citizen science should be seen as a very positive development, one of the few bright spots that have emerged following the Fukushima disaster.



## **SUMMARY:**

The technical capabilities occasioned by the open-source and digital fabrication movements are poised to put increasingly sophisticated scientific and communication tools in the hands of average citizens worldwide.

This will continue to require social and regulatory accommodation and adjustment as governments and other established stakeholders grow to understand the implications of the changing information landscape and, hopefully, are motivated to reach mutually beneficial relationships with citizen scientists like those at Safecast.

“Emancipatory Catastrophism”

(Ulrich Beck)









[www.safecast.org](http://www.safecast.org)



end