

# Sounds of space: New 'chorus' recording by RBSP's EMFISIS instrument

September 14 2012

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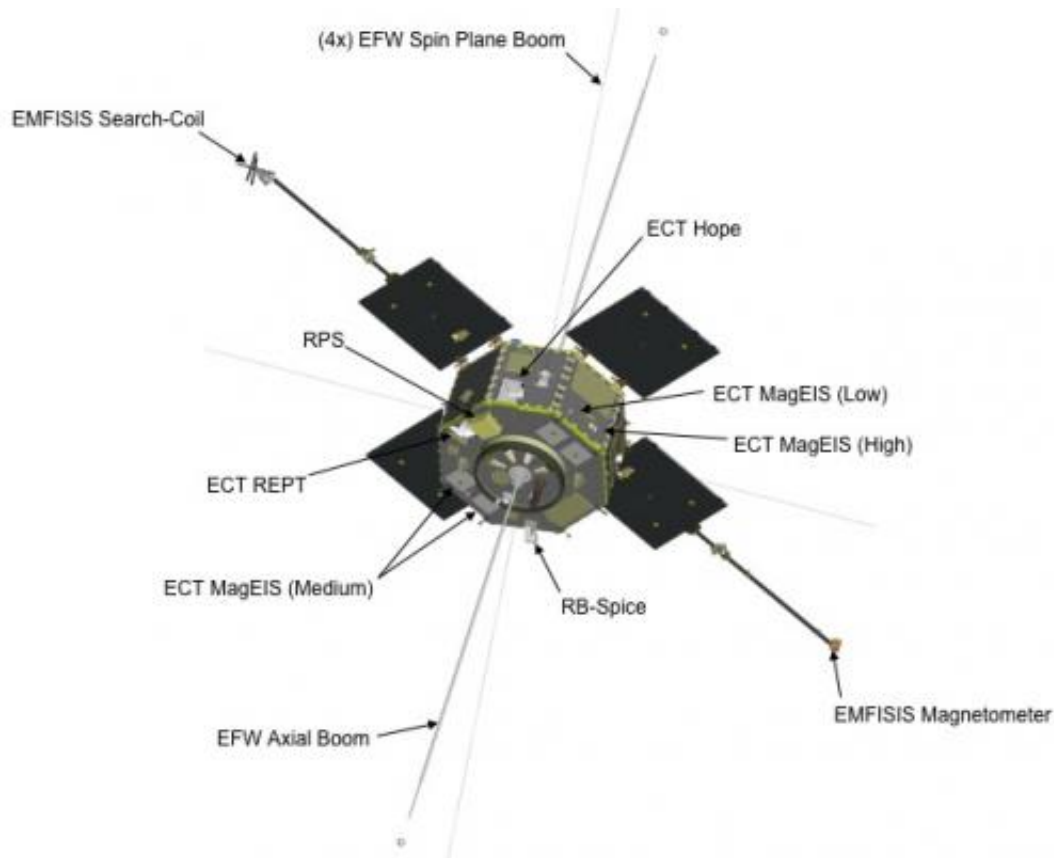


Illustration of RBSP spacecraft with instruments labeled. Credit: LMSAL

(Phys.org)—Researchers from the Electric and Magnetic Field Instrument Suite and Integrated Science (EMFISIS) team at the University of Iowa have released a new recording of an intriguing and well-known phenomenon known as "chorus," made on Sept. 5, 2012.

The Waves tri-axial search coil magnetometer and receiver of EMFISIS captured several notable peak radio wave events in the magnetosphere that surrounds the Earth. The radio waves, which are at frequencies that are audible to the human ear, are emitted by the energetic particles in the Earth's magnetosphere.

"People have known about chorus for decades," says EMFISIS principal investigator Craig Kletzing, of the University of Iowa. "Radio receivers are used to pick it up, and it sounds a lot like birds chirping. It was often more easily picked up in the mornings, which along with the chirping sound is why it's sometimes referred to as 'dawn chorus.'"

This recording was made by many members of the EMFISIS team, including Terry Averkamp, Dan Crawford, Larry Granroth, George Hospodarsky, Bill Kurth, Jerry Needell and Chris Piker.

Provided by NASA

Citation: Sounds of space: New 'chorus' recording by RBSP's EMFISIS instrument (2012, September 14) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-09-space-chorus-rbsp-emfisis-instrument.html>

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