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Monitoring of volcanic emissions for risk assessment at Popocatépetl volcano (Mexico)

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In January 2014, the Mexican Agency FOPREDEN (Natural Disaster Prevention Fund) accepted to fund a project to renew, upgrade and complement the gas monitoring facilities. The UNAM-CENAPRED (National Center for Disaster Prevention) gas monitoring system currently consists of:

- A COSPEC instrument and two mini-DOAS used for mobile traverse measurements
- An SO₂ camera used for punctual campaign
- A network of three permanent scanning mini-DOAS (NOVAC type 1 instrument) and one permanent mini-DOAS (NOVAC type II, currently under repair).

The activity planed in the framework of the new project, of which several of them are already successfully implemented, include:

- Completely refurbished permanent scanning mini-DOAS network consisting of four stations and the punctual deployment of three RADES (Rapid Deployment System) for assessing plume geometry and chemistry or for responding to emergency situations.
- \bullet Prolongation of the mobile traverse measurements in order to continuously update the 20 years-long SO₂ flux database obtained with the COSPEC, now coupled with a mobile DOAS for redundancy.
- \bullet The development and installation of a permanent SO_2 camera, for monitoring in real time the short timescale variations of the SO_2 emissions.
- \bullet The installation of two permanent FTIR spectrometers, one measuring the plume thermal emissions and the other measuring with the solar occultation geometry, for frequent measurements of molecular ratio between SO₂, HCl, HF and SiF4
- The exploitation in near-real time of the satellite imagery (OMI, MODIS and ASTER) available for the volcano. A special attention will be paid to increase the reliability and graphical representation of these data stream in order to facilitate their use for decision-making by the civil protection authority in charge of the volcano.