

3.2.6. BASELINE SURFACE RADIATION NETWORK

The STAR group has the leadership role in the BSRN having fulfilled the duties of International Project Manager for the past 5 years. The BSRN is intended to not only supply the international climate research community with the highest-quality surface irradiance data from a globally and climatologically diverse long-term network, but also to keep advancing the state of the art in improving those measurements so that research uses of the data can continue to be challenged. Support of the U.S. BSRN program comes from several agencies (NOAA National Weather Service, NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NASA, and the Department of Energy) and is funded internationally by the participating countries that operate surface BSRN stations and contribute technical experts. The BSRN data are being utilized in major satellite and GCM research programs mentioned previously. The program was conceived in 1988, began operations in 1992, and is intended to operate indefinitely until there are no further extensive research needs for such data. Current activities of the BSRN are further summarized by *Ohmura et al.* [1998].