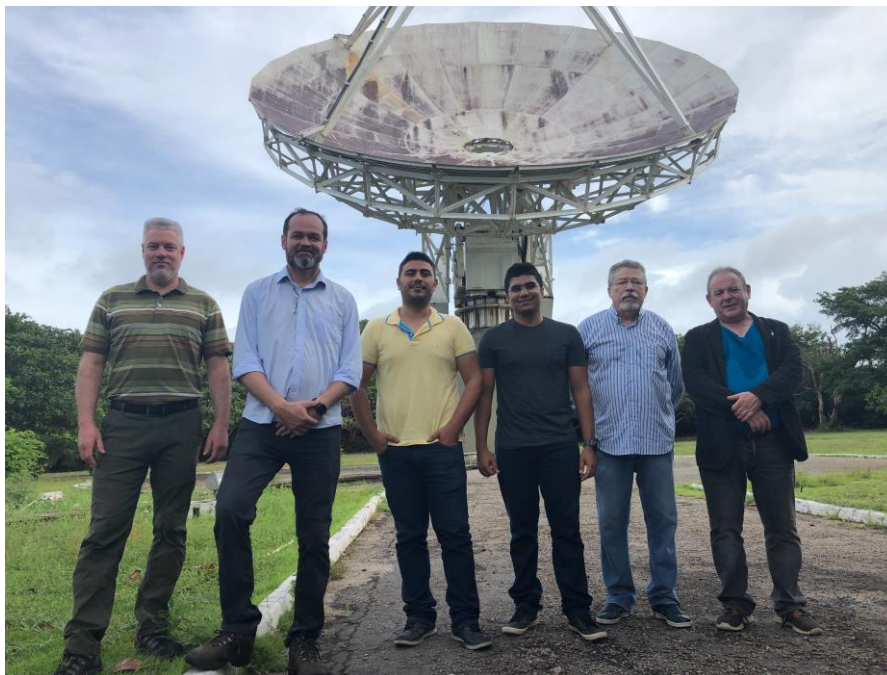# Visit of Dr. Stephen Merkowitz
NASA Scientist and Program Manager
23-26 April 2019
Project: "Space Geodesy" PROJ-CAPESPRINT1033401P

Dr. Stephen Merkowitz is a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) scientist and manager of the Space Geodesy Project (SGP) of NASA. Mackenzie Presbyterian University (UPM) is providing services to NASA in Space Geodesy through an agreement between NASA and Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), and within a contract between NASA and UPM.

On 23 and 24 of April, Dr. Merkowitz visited Radio Observatório Espacial do Nordeste (ROEN) installation to meet Mackenzie engineers and technicians, the coordinator of the Centro de Radio Astronomia e Astrofísica Mackenzie (Dr. Jean-Pierre Raulin, CRAAM) as well as collaborators from Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE). The following specific activities were performed:

- visit of the site;
- exhaustive list of NASA equipment's at ROEN;
- discussion of technical aspects for a 5 years renewal of NASA-UPM contract;
- discussion of possible locations for a new system within the next 3 years.

14-meter diameter antenna at ROEN part of the SGP network

On April 26, 2019, Dr. Merkowitz visited the UPM and provided a seminar untitled "The NASA Space Geodesy Network", at Guilherme Thut amphitheater at 10:00 am. The seminar of Dr. Merkowitz was really a success, with over 60 participants, more than half of them being graduate and under-graduate students from Civil and Electrical Engineering Schools, and graduate program Ciências e Aplicações Geoespaciais (CAGE).

After his seminar Dr. Markowitz visited the CRAAM installations at UPM and a scientific discussion occurred on the SGP. On the same day, Dr. Merkowitz along with CRAAM members meet with UPM authorities, Director of Engineering School Prof. Sergio Lex, and the Dean of UPM, Prof. Benedito Guimarães Aguiar Neto, to discuss the on-going activities within the actual contract, and the basis for its renewal for 5 more years.

Dr. Merkowitz seminar announcement