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Noctilucent Clouds Observed over Finland

Tom Eklund, July 28, 2001, Valkeakoski, Finland
NLCs are becoming more frequent and brighter

![Graph showing frequency of NLCs over time]

- **Frequency**
- **Time in years**

**Anthropogenic Increase?**

**Solar Minima**

- 1975
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
A spectacular but unexpected event: June 22, 1999!

A NLC is observed and photographed at 40° latitude for the first time!
by AIM Co-Investigator Dr. Michael Taylor
Aim is addressing key questions about NLCs

- Why do they form?
- Why do they vary?
- Why have they appeared at such low latitudes (~ 40°N) in 3 recent NH summers?
- Is there a relationship to global change?
AIM carries three instruments: SOFIE

SOFIE

Ice, H₂O, T, Chemistry, dust
AIM carries three instruments: SOFIE, CIPS

CIPS

Ice images

6 min
AIM carries three instruments: SOFIE, CIPS, CDE
AIM launch is Fall 2006 on a Pegasus XL Rocket

- 600 km sun synchronous high noon orbit
- Two year mission