

## SPOTLIGHT



### MILLSTONE HILL RADAR Westford, Massachusetts

Millstone Hill Observatory is an atmospheric sciences research center in Westford, Massachusetts. It is part of Haystack Observatory, a broad-based atmospheric sciences research facility owned and operated by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Haystack was initially built by MIT's Lincoln Laboratory for the United States Air Force and was known as Haystack Microwave Research Facility. Millstone Hill is the location for two of the most well-known incoherent scatter radars in the world. These radars can measure a vast array of ionospheric components, including temperature, ion concentrations and solar wind data. The incoherent scatter radar facility at Millstone Hill has been

supported by the National Science Foundation since 1974 for studies of the earth's upper atmosphere and ionosphere. The Millstone Hill Radar (MHR) is a large (84-foot diameter) satellite tracking radar, with a 220-foot fixed zenith-pointing antenna and a 150 steerable dish antenna. The Millstone Hill Radar is used to catalogue objects circling Earth and monitoring satellite and spacecraft launches. <sup>1</sup>

*Environmental Control Provided by Data Aire, Inc.  
gForce DX System*

*Manufacturer's Representative: APA, LLC*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.haystack.mit.edu/obs/mhr/index.html>