2D Radiation Plots

Frequency of Interest and Standard Plot Cuts - Interpretation and Further Analysis.

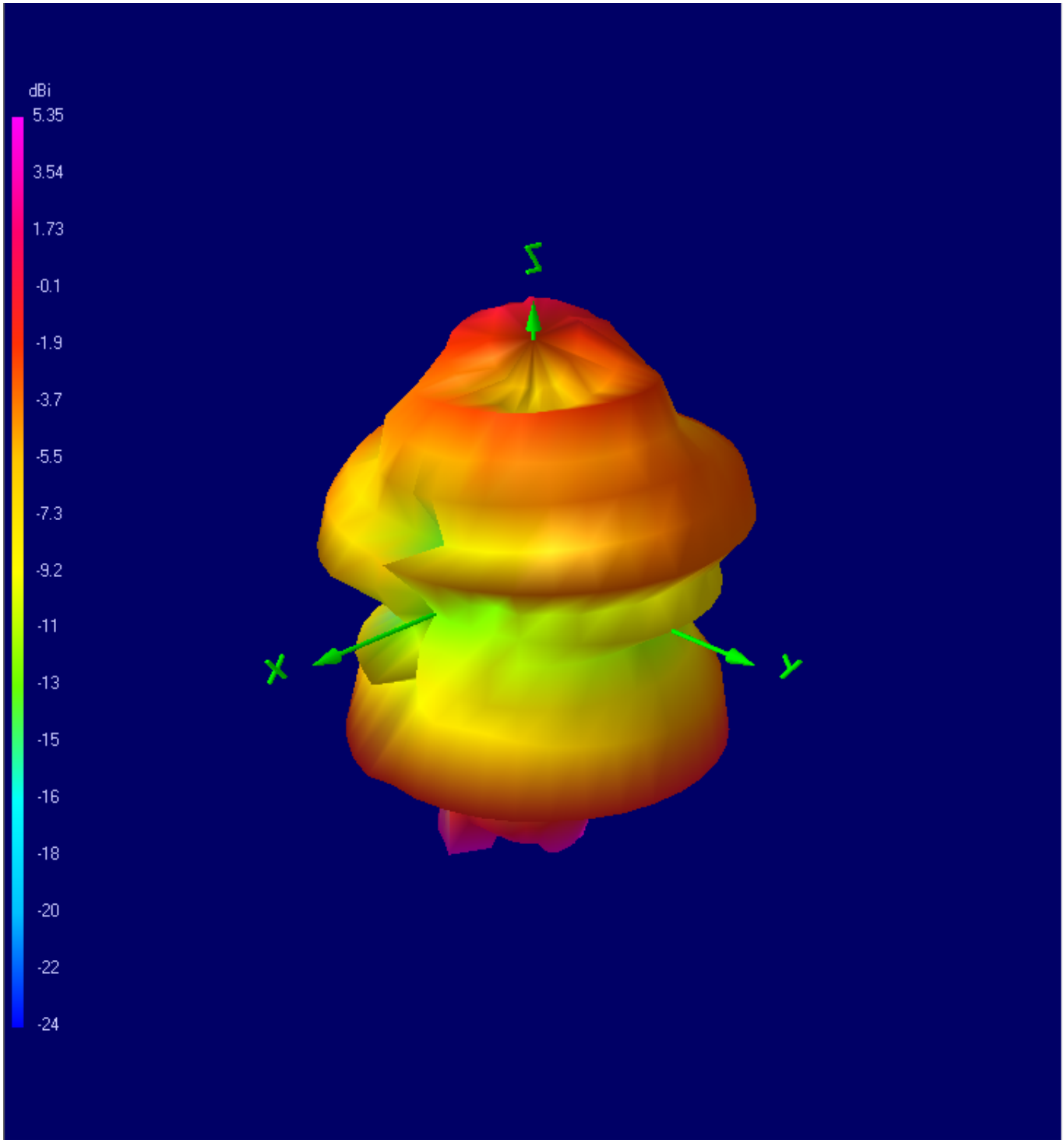
Below, we show how to read the 2D Radiation charts, on our datasheets, to determine the performance provided for a frequency band.

Overview

There are two types of radiation plot provided from the same data. The 2D representation is a standard spherical data format used by test laboratories. This data is per IEEE Std 149 (1979) 'IEEE Standard Test Procedures for Antennas' and uses the Phi axis rolling as per the 'Great Circle Cut System'. Each of the standard datasheet cut planes may miss key information, as the maximum radiation point may not be present in the cut. The 3D plot shows an overview of the radiation energy at the spot frequency which is easier to visualise.

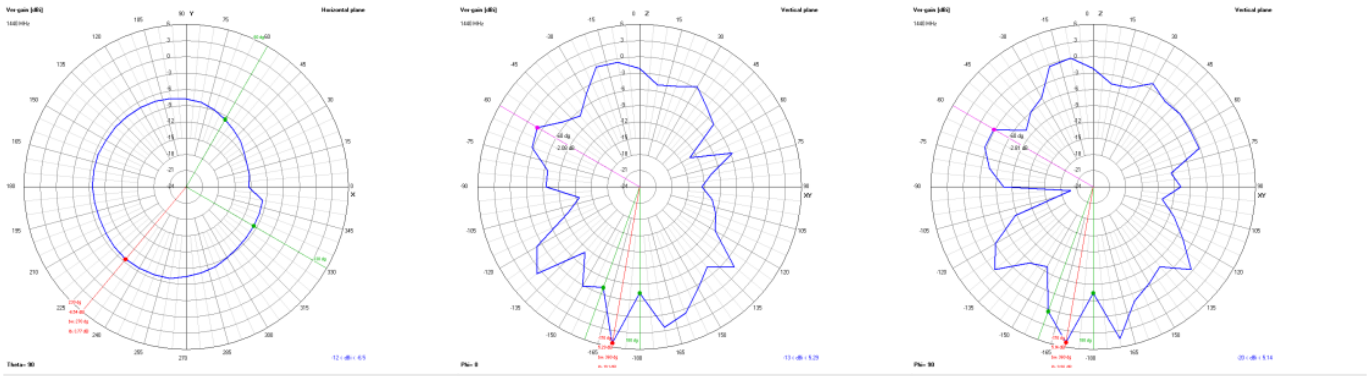
1440 MHz

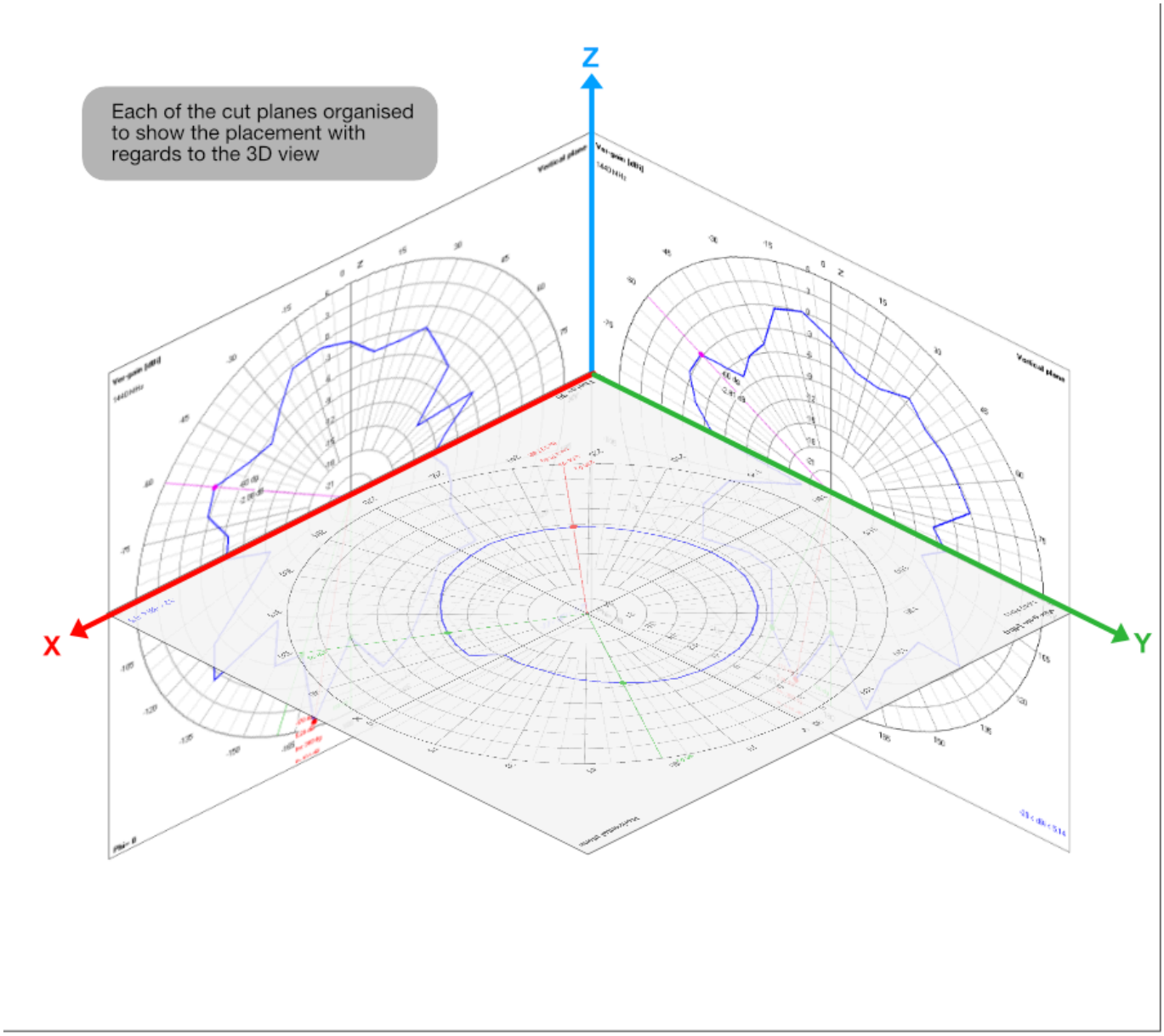
2D Radiation Plots



1440 MHz XY XZ YZ

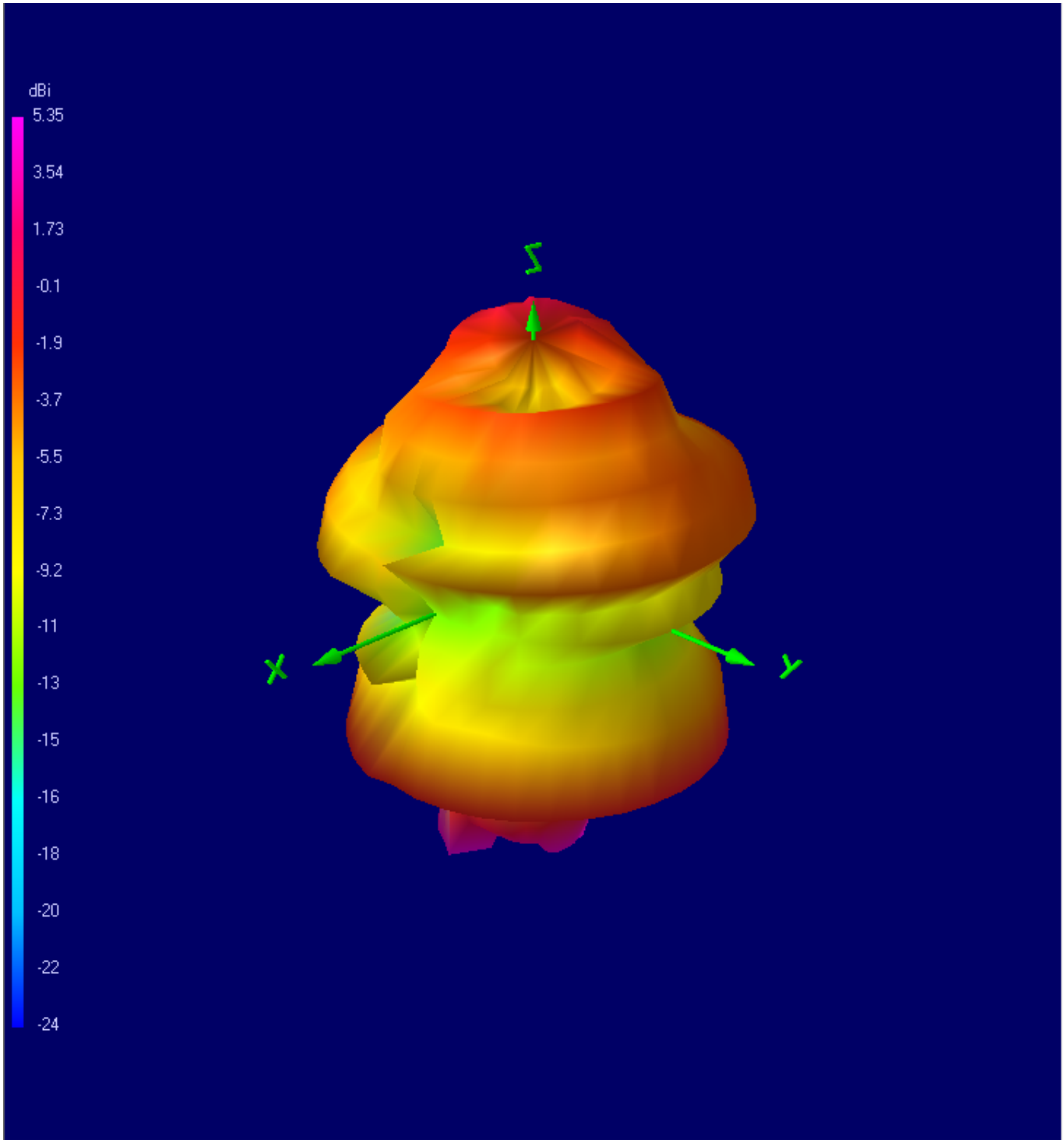
2D Radiation Plots





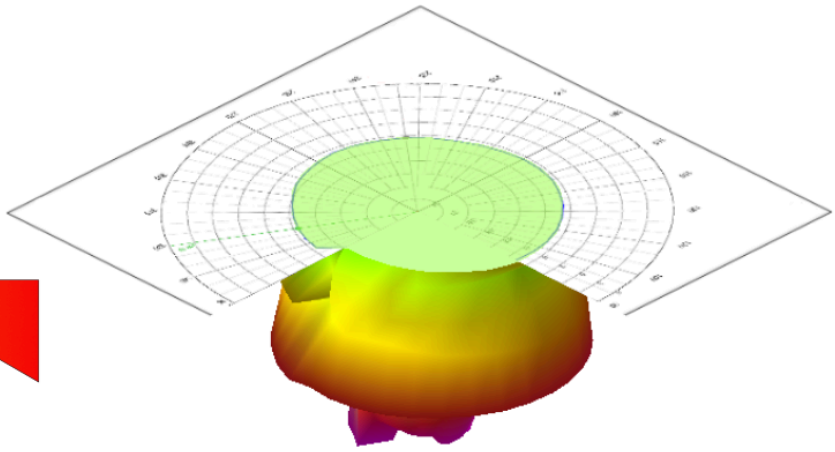
1440 MHz

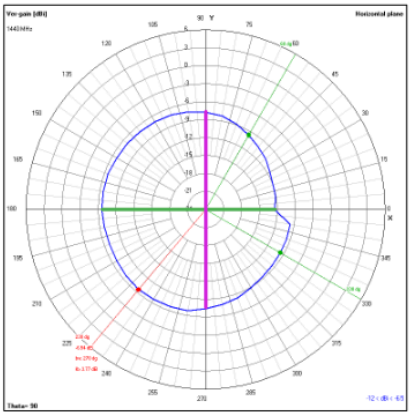
2D Radiation Plots

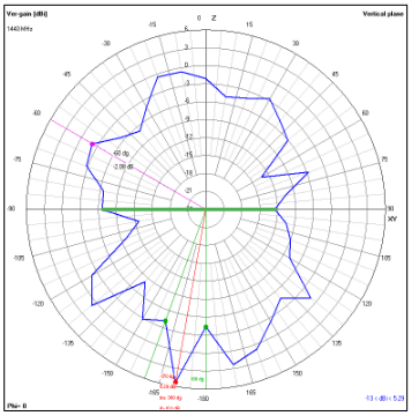


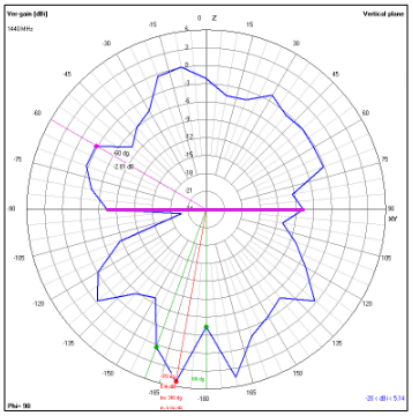
2D Radiation Plots

The XY cut plane shown in the middle of the 3D plot highlights that it does not depict the highest energy radiated. The cable feed below the antenna has a partial dominant effect at this spot frequency. The main energy radiated emanates from the top of the antenna above the x line

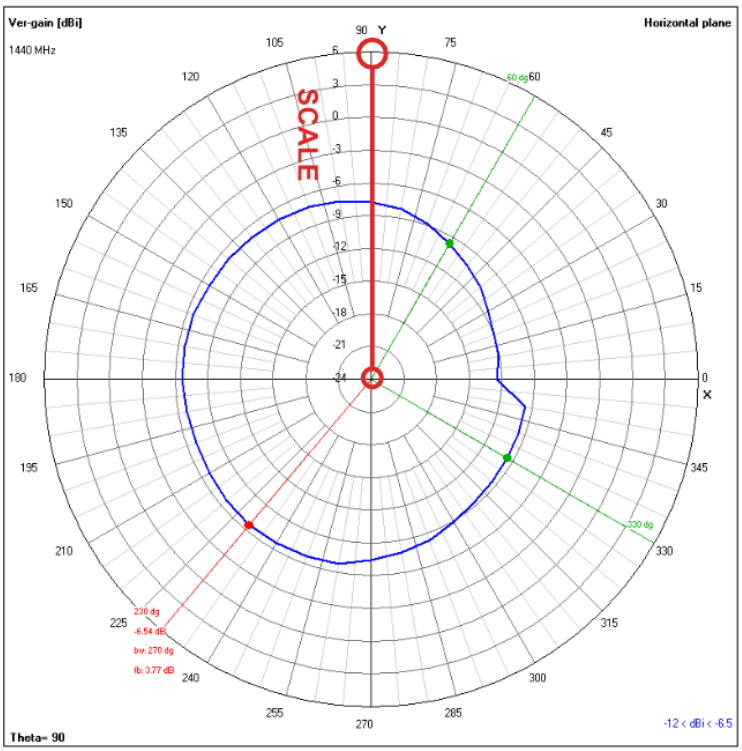




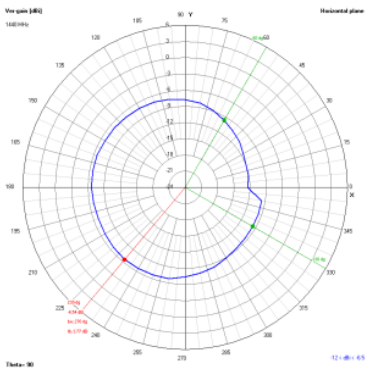


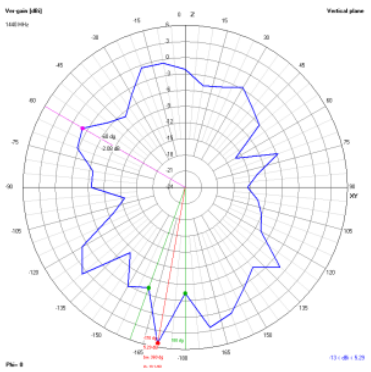


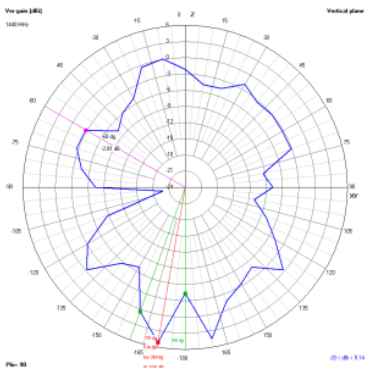
The scale on the graph will change from frequency to frequency. This is to display the maximum value found across the 3 plots but keep the scale the same for comparison.



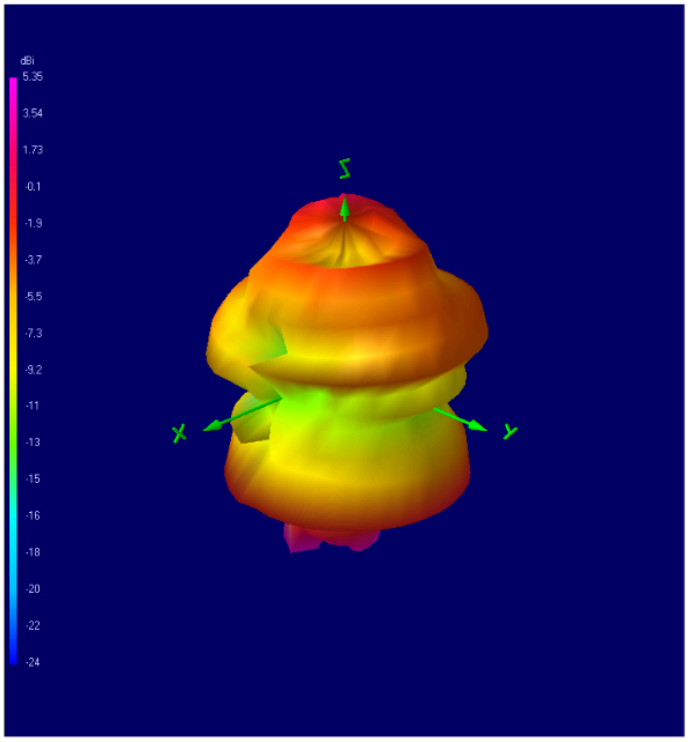
1440 MHz XY XZ YZ







We can see from the two vertical cuts that the maximum radiation is better than displayed in the XY Horizontal plot. The 2 vertical cuts, in themselves, may also miss points that have better radiation at different angles. The 2D standard antenna plots only give a general indication of total performance and many plots are required to gain some insight into the overall performance. They are, however, more useful in determining values at specific points than the 3D plots.



The 3D plot shows the shape better and is easier to comprehend, especially the higher and lower energy radiation points.

It is harder to define exactly what the higher radiation energy values are though. What areas in orange, red and pink correspond to the scale?

The combination of the two different types of radiation plot allow for a more complete understanding of how the antenna performs. For each frequency band of interest, that your device will operate on, review the plots to ascertain if the particular antenna will work for you.

Key Take-aways:

1. That 2D XY Horizontal plot does not necessarily show the highest radiated energy.
The standard laboratory cuts do not always show the highest radiated energy, they are indicative of the overall pattern. However, they
are better for obtaining more accurate radiation levels than the 3D plot.
2. The 3D Plots are good for overall visualisation but more difficult to get exact radiation figures.
Use a combination of the two plot types, 2D and 3D, to obtain a better performance overview
3. There are other key parameters to consider like, VSWR / Return Loss and Radiation Efficiency.

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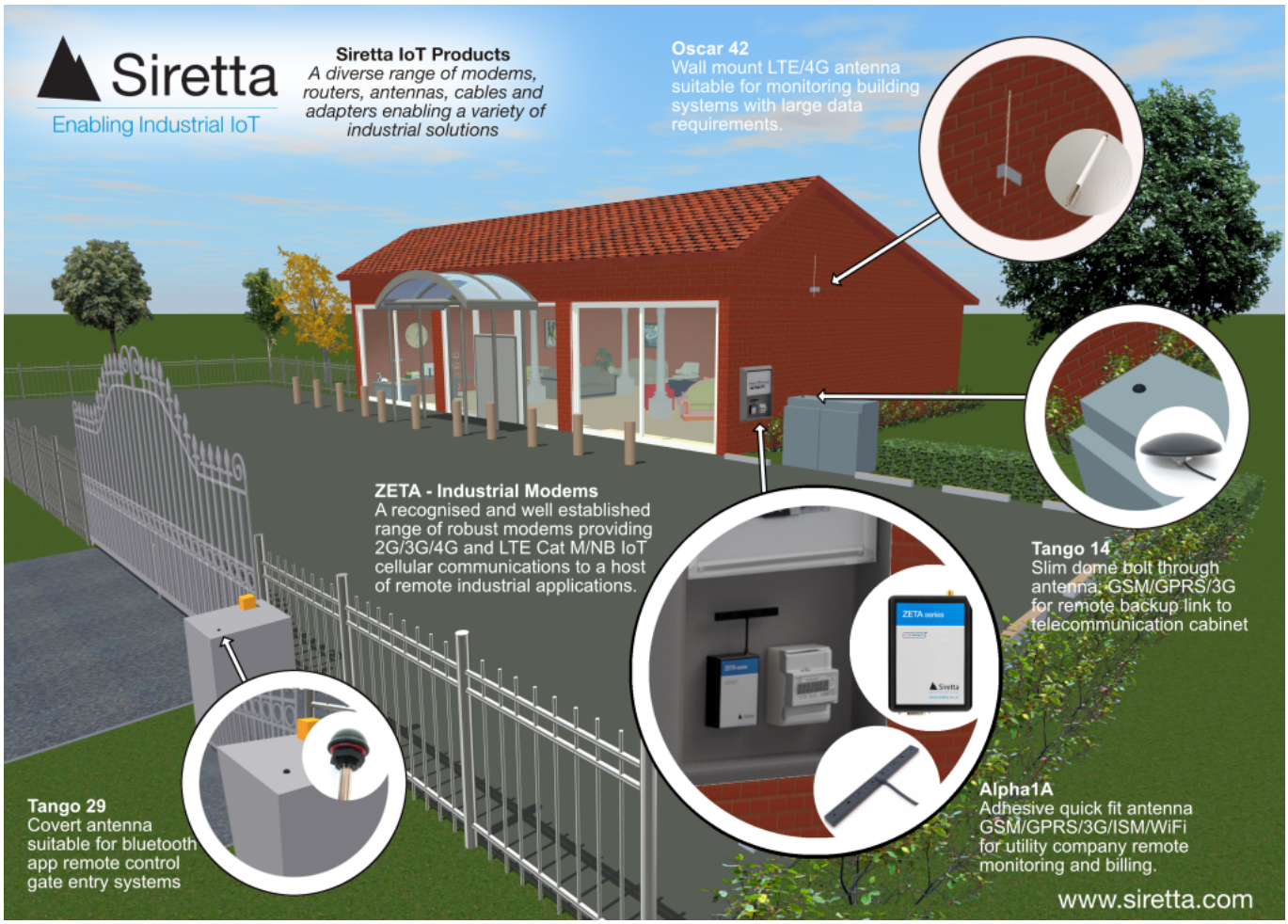
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