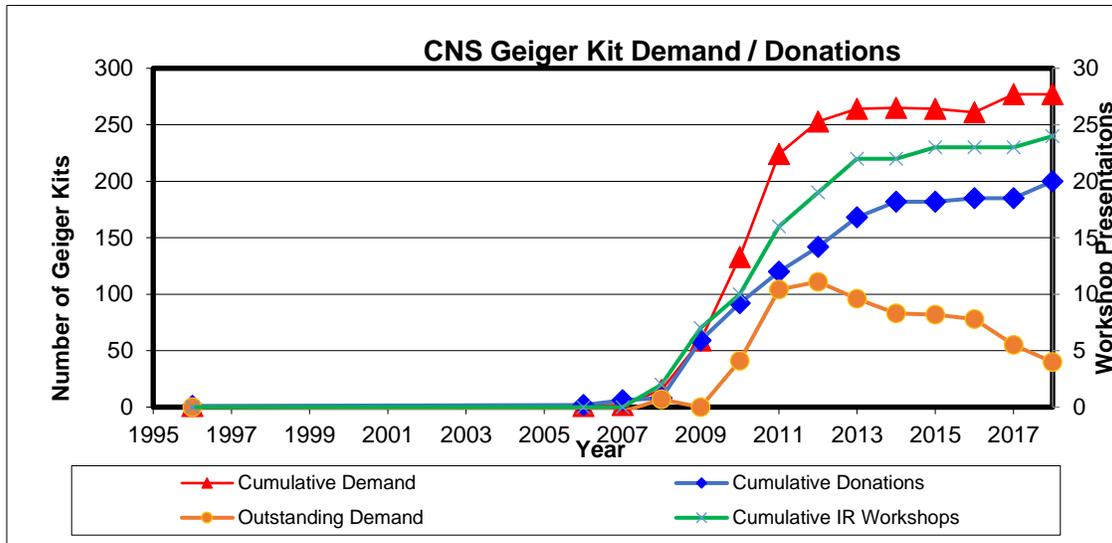


CNS Education & Communication Committee
CNS Geiger Kits



The ECC program of donating CNS Geiger Kits to Canadian high school science teachers began in earnest in 2007. The majority of the Kits donated included an Aware Electronics RM-80 detector, PC software and 3+ different types of interfaces over time as PC technology changed. In 2018 3 of the Kits donated included a Black Cat Systems GM-45 detector / interface and software for both PC and Mac computers. The program donations were limited by funding from 2014 through 2017. Support provided by the CNSC made it possible to resume donations in 2018.

An attempt to order more Kit components in the spring of 2018 was unsuccessful – neither Aware Electronics or Black Cat Systems responded to our requests for quotations. A search for new suppliers revealed that Vernier Technology & Software had introduced two Geiger-based instruments. The Vernier “Go Direct™ Radiation Monitor” supports both Bluetooth™ and USB connection to a wide variety of computers and tablets. Moreover, their software supports many languages providing an opportunity for the CNS to develop French language Kits. A Vernier GDX-RAD was purchased for evaluation.

The Vernier instruments use an LND 712 detector that has a “0.5 inch” diameter thin mica window. All of the existing CNS Kits use an LND 7313 detector that has a “2 inch” diameter window. The larger window provides higher count rates that are especially important to using NORM sources in the classroom – an essential requirement for this program. Discussions with Vernier to develop another model of their product were unsuccessful. The ECC developed a simple modification to apply their instrument with the larger detector. A proposal has been made to Council to support providing Kits based on this prototype.

