

Interoffice

National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Very Large Array

17th October 1984

To: Addressee
From: Gareth Hunt *GCH*
Subject: Summary of today's COG meeting

Present by phone were Bob Burns and Gene Runion in Charlottesville and Chuck Broadwell, Fred Dunn, Gareth Hunt, and Don Retallack at the VLA site.

General

1. Burns is pursuing the possibility of connecting NRAO on to the BITNET network and thence onto ARPANET and CSNET. BITNET will make European observatories accessible to NRAO. The connection is via a leased line to the nearest node, which in this case will be the University of Virginia.

The Codex system

2. A printer attached to a modem will be placed in the CV computer room and the VLA control room and to be used as a communications status log. All problems concerning the Codex system and any of the VAX systems on the DECNET network will be logged on these terminals. Anyone may ask for this information by calling the appropriate operator. This is a pilot system to test the feasibility of a more complex automatic system.

3. A dedicated line between Pasadena and Tucson will be leased to connect CalTech and the NRAO DECNET network. In addition, a dial-up facility to Vector Productions in Los Angeles may be needed as part of the long range computer planning effort. The computer connection will require additional communication hardware, possibly a Codex installation in Pasadena. Burns and Hunt will provide an initial specification of both these requirements next week.

4. To provide better error monitoring, Broadwell and Runion would like to install personal computers (PCs) in the Codex rooms in CV and at the VLA site.

Digital Data Switch

5. The VLA switch should be sufficiently complete for software development to begin by the end of November. Broadwell will develop the handshaking to provide correct disconnection between a user and his

job after hang-up. This should be complete by February 1985. The software will be debugged at the VLA and then retrofitted into the CV switch.

6. Broadwell and Runion would like to provide all future development of the switch capabilities on PCs. This allows the use of advanced software aids instead of a cross-assembler, a ROM burner, and an oscilloscope.

Target Dates

84 Oct 31	Communications monitor stations available (2)
84 Oct 31	Preliminary specs. for CalTech connection (3)
84 Nov 15	Cables pulled between control building and SLOB (5)
84 Nov 30	Hardware for DDS rack complete (5)
85 Jan 31	DDS cabling complete (5)
85 Feb 28	New firmware for DDS complete (5)

Capital Budget 1985

		\$k
		--
PCs for Codex error logging	5	
Printers and modems for error logging	2	
	==	7
PCs for DDS		5
Modems for CalTech connection		6
Codex for Pasadena		5
		==
		23

Distribution:

- Al Braun
- Chuck Broadwell
- Bob Burns
- Fred Dunn
- Philip Hicks
- Don Retallack
- Gene Runion