

VLBA ACQUISITION MEMO #386

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To: VLBA Data Acquisition Group

From: Alan E.E. Rogers

Subject: Minutes of Recorder Telecon held 21 December 1994 at 1300 EDT

Attendees: National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Carl Bignell Marcelo Rosales

Barry Clark Craig Walker

George Peck Ron Weimer

Jon Romney

Haystack

Roger Cappallo

Hans Hintefegger

Alan Rogers

VLBA Recorder and DAR documentation and updates

The agreement between NRAO and various manufacturers and organizations is fairly informal. However, there is ftp (Haystack for the recorder and NRAO for the DAR) access to most documentation, but in general, anyone planning to build recorders or DARs should ask about changes and updates. Most major changes are described in the memos which are distributed to all those organization which have an agreement. George Peck will try to keep all informed of major firmware updates.

Loop dropping and recorder firmware

One cause of infrequent loop dropping has recently been due to a bug in the recorder firmware which is now fixed and will be distributed in the next major update of the firmware. The next update will also include some requested changes and new features.

VLBA acquisition readback checks

Barry Clark reports that all the VLBA sites now perform readback checks and, in general, the error rates are satisfactory.

Larger vacuum ratios for thick and thin tape

Hans reports that very satisfactory error rates are now being obtained on the playback thin tapes written with high density (56 kfc) and the standard density (33 kfc) thick tapes. The enhanced performance is achieved by increasing the vacuum ratio to 5" for thin and 15" for thick tape. Hans has agreed to write up a detailed report.