

**VLBA ACQUISITION MEMO #392**  
**MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY**  
**WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886**  
**21 December 1995**

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To: VLBA Data Acquisition Group

From: Alan E.E. Rogers

Subject: Minutes of Telecon held 20 December 1995 at 1:00 P.M. EST

Attendees: National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
Bill Brundage            Craig Walker  
George Peck             Ron Weimer  
Marcello Rosales  
Haystack Observatory  
Hans Hinteregger  
Alan Rogers  
Alan Whitney

Tape Speed

The VLBA changes tape speed by a small amount between MkIII and VLBA formats. George Peck will send Alan Whitney the details so that these speeds can be incorporated in the MkIV field system.

Recorder firmware

NRAO has made some minor changes in the recorder firmware and will send a copy of the latest update to Roger Cappallo (who still maintains an e-mail account at Haystack).

Formatter firmware

There is an update to the VLBA formatter firmware to fix problems with loss of barrel roll sync.

VLBA tape density

The VLBA is planning to increase the longitudinal density from 33 Kbpi to 56 Kbpi sometime in 1996. The change will require new equalizers in the playback drives. The current equalizers have been trimmed to work well with both thick and thin tapes.

Self-packing reels

A small fraction of the latest VLBA procurement of glass reels which have flanges that are near the lower specification limit produce bumps and voids in the tape pack. Flange separation in the range of 0.977 to 0.981 show the problem while separations greater than 0.982 are OK. This suggests that the specified minimum flange separation should be increased to 0.982. George will send Hans a problem reel for his evaluation of the problem.

Telecons in 1996

Alan Rogers agreed to arrange recorder telecons in 1996 at about 2-month intervals. It is suggested that we invite other groups (EVN, USNO, Bonn, Greenbank) to join. Alan Rogers will try to arrange for a commercial telecon service with convenient worldwide dial-in.