

**VLB ARRAY MEMO No. 135**

Minutes of VLBA recorder group telecon meeting held 19 Oct 82 at 1430 EDT.

Attendees: A.E.E. Rogers - Haystack  
H.F. Hinteregger - Haystack  
A.R. Whitney - Haystack  
M. Ewing - Caltech  
R. Escoffier - NRAO  
R. Lacasse - NRAO  
H. Hvatum - NRAO

Ray Escoffier reported on his visit to Alan Yen in Toronto, Canada. Ray reported that Alan has achieved reliable recording at 12 Mbits/sec digital recording using a VCR. To complement Alan's work Ray is continuing his work on the evaluation of various coding methods. In addition Ray expressed his desire to examine speeding up the VCR to achieve higher data recording rates. Ray has already examined a moderate speed increase (50 to 72 Hz) but expects that an improved rotary transformer will be needed for further increases.

Hans Hinteregger reported that work on machining down of standard wide track heads to form narrow track heads is proceeding well and he hopes to receive the heads back for testing within 2 weeks. 40 production VHS gapped bars are also expected shortly for evaluation and experimental headstacks.

The group discussed the possibility of implementing 12 Mbit/sec VCRs at several observatories to provide some field reliability experience. Marty Ewing and Alan Rogers advocated making the recorders compatible with MK III so the data can be processed at Caltech and Haystack. Hein Hvatum indicated that NRAO might be willing to do most of the design work needed to make the VCR MK III compatible.

Hein Hvatum reminded the group of the urgent need for a recorder interface definition. Several group members, including Marty Ewing and Alan Rogers expressed their intentions to submit written proposals.