

Minutes of VLBA recorder group meeting held 15 March 1983 at 1430 EST.

Attendees: B. Clark - NRAO  
H. Hinteregger - Haystack  
J. Webber - Haystack  
A. Rogers - Haystack  
M. Ewing - Caltech  
A. Yen - Toronto  
C. Walker - NRAO  
K. Kellermann - NRAO  
R. Escoffier - NRAO

The meeting started with a brief review of high density recording development. Ray Escoffier reported that he is making good progress on the 12 Mbit/sec VCR. Design work is done and construction is well underway. Alan Yen offered to provide some analog boards if needed. Ray has planned to purchase a new Panasonic 2 head recorder and later a 4 head machine. Hans reported that the Japanese have now agreed to supply "gapped" bars provided we place a sufficiently large order. A more complete demonstration of the narrow track MK III developed by the Haystack group is planned for early April in California.

These followed some discussion of the recorder interface and the following points were generally thought acceptable:

1) The Astronomy format up to 16 Mbits/sec should be an augmented version of the MK III. The major addition being channel identification. At data rates higher than 16 Mbits/sec the data from one video channel will be split into multiple recorder channels. For example 2 level 16 MHz bandwidth data would be formatted into 2 recorder channels, the first containing the even samples and the second the odd samples.

2) Recorder control would be through a high level ASCII protocol. Multiple VCR's should accept a similar (or better the same) protocol via a microcomputer which supervises all VCR's.

Alan Rogers promised to work on a draft report for circulation to the group. The report will contain details and cost estimates for both the VCR and MK III (high density version) recorders. Ray Escoffier agreed to provide material on the VCR system.