

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

Charlottesville, Virginia

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To: VLBA Members

From: S. Weinreb

Subject: Front-End Schedule

In order to reduce VLBA peak manpower requirements, I propose that we plan to have 6 to 8 of the 10 front-end frequencies operational on all antennas when the antennas are all complete - mid-1988 on the present schedule. The additional 2 to 4 frequencies would be complete by the end of 1989. It may be possible to improve on this schedule by making prudent use of industry contracts or fortuitous sources of manpower; however, I would not like to see this compromise the cost or quality of the front-ends. The demand upon our engineering resources from other facilities or new projects of NRAO must also be considered.

The question then arises as to which frequencies to defer. Some suggested choices are described in the following table where an X denotes deferment:

	A	B	C
.327	X		X
.610	X		X
1.5			
2.3			X
5.5			
8.3			
10.7	X		X
15	X		
22		X	
43		X	

Option A would allow incorporation of lower noise, high frequency FET's which may become available. Option B leaves open the choice of maser or SIS receivers for another 1½ years.

A decision on this question would be useful by November 1983.