
V L B A O P E R A T I O N S M E M O R A N D U M N U M B E R 1 9

Title : Notes from the VLBA Operations Meeting of 1998 January 14
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ONGOING ACTION ITEMS:

- * Default use of autoallocate in all vlba(+y) projects. Target Mar98.
 / Clark et al.
- * Migration of zia IS to soc, vla, vlba web pages. Progress stalled
 until Witz available. Target Mar98. / Wrobel et al.

REPORTS OR ISSUES:

* AUTOALLOCATE USE BY AOCers. No major known problems but we lack documented feedback from from initial testers Kemball & Claussen. Operations wants more experience with autoallocate. Expand use to all AOCers. When mix of 2- and 1-drive stations in use, sched needs ability to force tape changes at 1-drive stations.

* STATUS OF CALIBRATION TRANSFER.

- vlba only : BM049D seems to be close.
- vlba+y : Does adding y break vlba calibration transfer?
 Use Ulvestad's BU009 to answer.
- vlba+ForSt: Ryan has prototype cal transfer system ready.
 We expect non-vlba info as ANTAB/TSM files.
 Foreign stations to make these, using log2ant
 in FS9 case.

* PROPOSAL COVERSHEET CHANGES. Replace logos with vlba, etc, as appropriate. Add query re suitability for dynamic scheduling.

* STATUS OF EVN TAPE TRANSFERS. 160 done 5dec97. All but 6 now at Bonn or in transit to Bonn. 6 were defective and will be replaced by vendor. EVN well stocked for Feb98 session. We are committed to doing 240 more for EVN, for a total of 400. (In post-meeting emails, Walker reports that a geodetic order of 165 will be transferred at Haystack.)

* HEADSTACK ISSUES. 1 head down on array. 7 PBDs waiting for heads. RDV06 is trapped at correlator. Some concerns about big Feb98 session projects; eg, V061C has 18 GRTs plus HALCA. Head supply is not a problem but head contouring is. Peck finds that, even at high humidity, contouring takes days of shuttling. Could vendors preshape heads? Probably. Could we contour using lone NSA drive? Little AOC experience contouring triple-cap heads.

* AZIMUTH MOTOR FUSES. Do some observing styles trigger these to blow? CDP projects seem to. 7mm phase-referencing to SgrA* might; Wrobel to give Rhodes project codes and dates. Blown azimuth fuses must be changed by a field technician. This can cause significant downtime if the field techs have left for the day. Is this downtime serious enough to warrant retrofit to vla style, with circuit breakers that can be electronically (=remotely) reset? Array operators should record *all* fuse blowings, so we can do better correlation with observing styles.

* SHIPPING TAPES FROM ARRAY TO CORRELATOR. Slowest tape for vlba(+y) project arrives at correlator in 1 week or less. This is not adversely impacting correlator queue. So save shipping money by avoiding overnight service at any vlba station. If overnight service is needed for special test project or target-of-opportunity project, please ask for it in advance.
