

office

National Radio Astronomy Observatory
Green Bank, West Virginia

February 2, 1983

To: R. Burns

From: K. I. Kellermann

Subject: VLBA Computing Plan

I want to clarify and comment on Item (3) of CPG Memo No. 1.

Although the VLBA is not yet funded and the location of the Processing Center is not decided, neither of these considerations should reduce the consideration given to the VLBA needs in the overall NRAO Computing Plan.

Regarding the time scale, we are working on the assumption that design funding will be available in FY 1984, procurement and construction will occur in 1985-1987, partial operation will begin in 1987, and full operation in 1988. Any NRAO Computing Plan must reflect these needs and, in fact, along with the VLA, the VLBA will be a major driver of the overall Observatory Computing Plan.

The "current VLBA plan" allows for full support of VLBA computing entirely from VLBA construction funds, and does not depend on other NRAO post-processing facilities being available for use with VLBA data. The "plan", however, does recognize that it may be inappropriate to artificially separate the hardware and software needs of the two instruments, and that a combined VLA/VLBA Post-Processing Center(s) may be needed, with VLBA construction funds supporting its fraction of the throughput, but without identifiable VLBA Post-Processing hardware or software. The present uncertainty in the location of the VLBA Processing Center does not lessen the need to consider a combined solution; rather, the choice of location will be influenced by the desire for a combined Processing Center.

I suggest that the first crack at describing VLBA needs, as well as the combined VLA/VLBA processing facility, should be made by Ekers and Clark, rather than by Burns, Kellermann, and Ekers.

KIK/bbs