

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Charlottesville, Virginia

1984 Sept 15

Memorandum

To: Hein Hvatum

From: P. Sebring

Subject: Notes from VLBA Coordination Meeting, 1984 Sept 14.

These notes are not deemed sufficiently accurate to qualify as minutes. We hope to do better in the future.

Participants

Location

H. Hvatum, moderator	NRAO - CV
C. Walker	NRAO - CV
W. Porter	NRAO - CV
J. Romney	NRAO - CV
A. R. Thompson	NRAO - CV
B. Cotton	NRAO - CV
P. Sebring	NRAO - CV
K. Kellermann	NRAO - GB
B. Peery	NRAO - GB
P. Napier	NRAO - VLA
B. Clark	NRAO - VLA
A. Rogers	Haystack
M. Ewing	Caltech

1. Action List, 13 Sep 84

1.1. Caltech Contract (Correlator). Hein indicates this contract has gone to NSF for review, and should be approved within a few weeks.

1.2. Budget Allocation. \$300 k will be made available to VLBA as a specific item (to cover the deficit due to stretchout to 85 April 1 for new funds), but NSF took it from NRAO's overall budget. Small comfort!

1.3. Select communication protocol. Clark indicates (interpreted by Hein) that another two weeks will be required for this.

1.4. Select Antenna Computer. Marty Ewing reports that VAX is being selected to run the correlator, and pointed out that, since it was decided some time ago that there would be only two types in the VLBA system, a similar choice might be appropriate for the antenna control application. Much rapid discussion followed this, and it was our (my) impression that resolution of this item will also require additional time. (Clark).

(At this point Hein indicated that minutes should be kept of these meetings and nodded toward Porter and Sebring, both of whom registered dismay).

1.5. RFI tests, Pie Town and Los Alamos. At Pie Town, higher frequencies must be done again. Apparently intermodulation in front ends of test receivers made all higher frequencies look bad. Do again, with filters (Dick Thompson suggests a length of waveguide ahead of the front end). Can do in 2-3 weeks. Bad problems also at Los Alamos. Much interference below 400 MHz (TV). Redesign of the VHF receivers from straight-thru configuration was mentioned, as was moving the Los Alamos site. There is reluctance to move site because sites there are more simple to obtain since it's government land. Los Alamos also offers some security and nearby support services. A course of action is needed. (Napier).

1.6. First cooldown of 1.5 GHz. Dick had no news. Will know more next meeting.

2. Antenna Contract

Hein reported that critical question/answer sessions with both RSi and TIW on their separate proposals are complete. Negotiating team has been chosen. Negotiations should result in "best and final" proposals from each vendor, plus contracts ready to sign. Selection should be made by October 31, and we hope for a contract in November.

3. A/E Contractor Selection

Buck Peery reports negotiations with Stevens, Mallory, Pearl and Campbell. First phase will include Pie Town site plan, site control building and foundation design.

4. Project Schedules

Hein commented that events have repeatedly forced revision and extrapolations of the existing schedules to the point that

a new start should be made. He asked Paul Sebring, who has just joined VLBA, to undertake this, commenting that the task will require a few weeks time and much discussion with those responsible for different facets of the project. (Paul comments quietly that he's going to need a lot of help!) Since, as Ken Kellermann commented, the schedule will be strongly influenced by the antenna contract, Paul is currently studying both antenna proposals.

Dick provided some data on plans and budget for the electronics and expressed the hope that the funding pattern arrived at after the funding delay to 85 April 1 would persist in the face of antenna budget plans.

5. Future Meetings

Alan Rogers was asked to report on data recording progress at next week's meeting.

There is a NASA VLBI meeting at JPL on September 26. Someone from here should go.

A design review for the Project is due. Scheduling same will be on the coordination meeting agenda for next week. Suggestions?