

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
 HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY
 WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886

15 September 1988

Area Code 617
 692-4765

To: VLBA Data Acquisition/Recorder Group
 From: Alan E.E. Rogers
 Subject: Minutes of VLBA Recorder Group Telecon Held
 14 September 1988 at 1300 EDT

Attendees: Ken Kellermann - NRAO, Charlottesville
 John Benson - NRAO, Charlottesville
 John Romney - NRAO, Dulles Airport
 Ken Stetton - NRAO, Socorro
 Barry Clark - NRAO, VLA
 George Peck - NRAO, VLA
 George Seilstad - NRAO, VLA
 Alan Rogers - Haystack
 Roger Cappallo - Haystack
 Viet Tran - Haystack

Tape Reels:

There was some discussion of Hans Hinteregger's tests of metal reels which show satisfactory results on 13 micron tape provided:

- a) Hubs are reduced in width (from the standard),
- b) flanges are "inverted" (any curvature results in smaller separation at the rim), and
- c) there are no viewing cut-outs in the flanges.

No mylar liners were used and the pack was inspected by the 2-part "finger" test as follows:

- 1) With reel rotating there is no sensation of vibration when a finger or a Q-tip is pressed against the tape pack.
- 2) The tape pack feels solid when a finger is pressed against the pack.

Testing of new Tape:

So far only small quantities of new formulation tapes (D1 and D2) have been received (at no cost) and tested.

Barry Clark suggested, and others agreed, that some experience must be obtained with significant quantities of tape well before the processor is ready for operations. John Romney said that tests could

start on the "subset" processor when four transports are available sometime in early 1990. The dilemma is that it is thought that the procurement of sample tapes might cost a significant fraction of the tape budget. Alan Rogers agreed to find out more about the cost. (Hans reports that we could possibly buy sample D1 tapes from Ampex for about \$400 per 9000 feet.)

Tape Recorder Computer Crash Problem:

Roger Cappallo will investigate the effect of rapid multiple MCB accesses to the recorder to see if there are any conditions for which the MCB interrupts might not be handled in a "bullet-proof" manner. Roger Cappallo and Alan Rogers will come out to Pie Town the week of 26 September 1988 to work on software problems and to take a look at the intermittent mechanical correction problem in the formatter.