

**VLBA ACQUISITION MEMO #197**  
**MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY**  
*WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01886*

*15 February 1990*

*Area Code 508  
692-4764*

To: VLBA Data Acquisition and Recording Group  
From: Alan E.E. Rogers  
Subject: Minutes of VLBA Telecon held 14 February 1990

Attendees: National Radio Astronomy Observatory  
Durga Baghri            George Peck  
John Benson            Jon Romney  
Barry Clark            Ken Stetten  
Ray Escoffier           Craig Walker  
  
Haystack Observatory  
Roger Cappallo        Alan Rogers  
Jim Levine             Alan Whitney

VLBA Format

The group discussed the proposed VLBA format. The only serious objection to the proposal was the dropping of the parity bits in the time field, thereby allowing a long string of zeroes. It was suggested that the time field continue to be BCD with parity and a CRC code, but that room for more precision be obtained by moving the day and year (or Julian day) to the AUX field.

Penny and Giles

Penny and Giles of Wells, England, formerly Thorn EMI, have a contract to build two playback transports for the Bonn processor. They plan to use their transport and headstacks. If their attempts to build compatible headstacks runs into difficulties they plan to use Honeywell headstacks. At this time, they are concentrating on playback compatibility by using active tracking. We hope to get some data on intermachine tracking signatures (Model 96/Penny & Giles) in the near future. Penny and Giles are very enthusiastic about longitudinal recording technology.

Production Headstacks

The first production headstacks from Honeywell are now being evaluated.