

VLBA ACQUISITION MEMO #295

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HAYSTACK OBSERVATORY

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13 February 1992

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To: VLBA Data Acquisition Group
From: Alan E.E. Rogers
Subject: Minutes of Recorder Group Telecon held 12 February 1992
at 1300 EDT

Attendees: NRAO Socorro: D. Bagri, J. Campbell, P. Napier, G. Peck,
J. Ruff, K. Stetten, C. Walker
NRAO Charlottesville: R. Escoffier, R. Gonzalez, J. Romney
Haystack: H. Hinteregger, A. Rogers

Mechanical modifications needed to handle thin tapes: Hans Hinteregger and Alan Rogers reviewed the modifications needed to handle thin tapes with the least chance of damage to the tape. The modifications are described in a recent VLBA Acquisition Memo (#290). It was decided to limit the upgrade to the transports at Pie Town and Los Alamos, allowing a little more time to study the modifications and test some alternates like a crowned I/O roller. Jim Ruff agreed to send some I/O sleeves with a crowned contour to Haystack for evaluation. The project has set aside about \$5,000 per transport for the upgrade which should be adequate if the proposed modifications are satisfactory.

Draft tape procurement specification: Peter Napier expressed the need for the project to procure approximately \$1,000,000 of tape this year. Haystack agreed to prepare a draft procurement specifications to 16-micron D1 or SVHS tapes, including special winding and edge quality acceptance tests.

Better feedback from correlators: While Barry Clark's group continues to work on providing more software for checking recordings at the sites, there is a general need for more feedback on problems. Alan Rogers, on behalf of Haystack, agreed to try exercising a computerized maintenance request system. This system will allow friends and operators of the Haystack correlator to enter specific problems into a data base in Socorro. This will help ensure that the reported problems are addressed as the project goes through all the maintenance requests and assigns appropriate action items to the right people.

Fixed pass locations: In order to simplify tape checking at the sites, Barry Clark proposes that the tapes all be written in VLBA Mode A track format with 14 passes per tape. Mode B experiments will waste tape by not recording all tracks on the tape.