



Express Production Real-time e-VLBI Service

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Monthly Report- March/April 2007

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Section 1.0- Introduction

On 17 April 2007, the EXPRoS Project completed its first periodic review in Brussels, Belgium. The annual report was presented to the Commission prior to the face to face meeting. In Brussels, EXPRoS members presented updates on each of the activities, covering the past 12 months as well as the next 18 month plan.

The Annual Report was completed during what would have been the time that the March report was generated. Due to the additional requirements of the annual review (and the mid-month date), we are submitting this abbreviated report in the place of a full April report.

Section 2.0- Network Activities

Through March and much of April, the primary NA activity was the preparation of the Annual Report (collecting text, financials and related materials) and preparation for the First Period Review (presentations, organization, logistics). Copies of all these materials are available on the EXPRoS wiki.

There are a few non-review items. Most importantly, Andrzej Kus from Torun indicated that Andrzej Marecki will be taking over as Torun's contact person. Marecki will assume the role of primary contact. The project office is currently working with Torun to update project records.

Over the past 3 weeks, the eVSAG (NA3) mailing list has been extremely active. An initial proposal to discuss a new ToO (target of opportunity) procedure ballooned into a longer and wider ranging discussion. The discussions touch upon some sensitivities, but have been extremely valuable. The result of this round of discussion will probably not be the final solution, but it is important to note that without EXPRoS, the reason to start this discussion would not have existed.

Section 3.0- Service Activities

SA1 continues to provide e-VLBI service to the community. The schedule for remainder of 2007 was posted at the end of the month. The schedule is available at via the EVN's e-VLBI call for proposals website <http://www.evlbi.org/evlbi/call_evlbi.html>.

In another show of support for e-VLBI, the directors at Bonn have confirmed that Effelsberg twill participate in e-VLBI runs. The expectation is that Effelsberg will have its first test in November of this year.

An e-VLBI science experiment was concluded on 28 Mar 2007, involving Jb (MarkII), Cm, On, Wb, Tr and Mc, at a data rate of 256Mbps. This was the first science run in the L-band, and the first to be



completely conducted by an operator and a support scientist, without the direct supervision of the technical staff. This illustrates the increase in robustness and user-friendliness of the system over the past few months.

As reported earlier, MIT Haystack observatory has been contracted to complete some work related to the Mk 5 system. Their work continues and has made regular progress. A more detailed report on their activities will be made next month.

There has been good progress with the lightpath to China. The lightpath has been set up and is now being tested. As expected, the first tests ran into some logistics issues. The engineers on both sides are now working to optimize the connection.

SA2 has reported additional discussions of connectivity to South Africa. Documents and discussions are slowly appearing that indicate realistic possibilities for new connectivity. However, none of the discussions are both public and finalized; until that point, the project can only track the discussions.

Section 4.0- Joint Research Activities

JRA1 has organized a communications meeting at JIVE. The agenda covers issues relating to software correlator design, workflow and network topics. Materials are currently not on the wiki, but will be uploaded. The purpose of the meeting is not only to share information, but to ensure that the various teams are working on the same items at the same speed. Additionally, the meeting will be used to help address several items that were not completed in the past period.

Another face-to-face meeting is planned for September. This date is to coincide with the e-VLBI workshop in Bonn, Germany where many astronomers and FABRIC people will be attending. Additional details on the FABRIC meeting will be released as it is available. Information on the e-VLBI workshop has been distributed to a variety of mailing lists and via word of mouth.