FP7- Grant Agreement no. 283393 – *RadioNet3*

Project name: Advanced Radio Astronomy in Europe

Funding scheme: Combination of CP & CSA

Start date: 01 January 2012 Duration: 48 month

Deliverable D16.2

Providing access of 117 hours to the LOFAR infrastructure

Due date of deliverable: 2014-06-30

Actual submission date: 2014-07-04

Deliverable Leading Partner: STICHTING INTERNATIONAL LOFAR TELESCOPE (ILT), the Netherlands

An European project supported within the 7th framework programme

1 Document information

Document name:	Providing access of 206.3 hours to the TNA LOFAR in the period 01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014
Type	Other
WP	16
Authors	Antonis Polatidis (ASTRON)

1.1 Dissemination Level

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

1.2 Content

2 TNA – LOFAR deliverable

2.1 Information about the TNA – LOFAR

The Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) is the most powerful radio telescope operating at low frequencies, 10—240 MHz, for studies ranging from the Sun to the early universe, with a sensitivity order of magnitudes better than previous telescopes. LOFAR is an array of 38 antenna stations in the Netherlands and currently 8 stations in France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. All stations are connected by fibre to the high-performance central data processing and archive facilities in Groningen, The Netherlands and further distributed systems. Dedicated LOFAR software has been developed to process and analyse the data for specific astronomical applications.

The International LOFAR Telescope (ILT) a foundation under Netherlands is the access provider for LOFAR.

Proposals are submitted via a dedicated version of the web-based tool NorthStar with Support scientists and software engineers at hand in the time leading to the submission deadline to provide expert information to proposers. The ILT Programme Committee (PC) members then grade each proposal on its scientific merit, and its technical feasibility and in a face-to-face meeting.

During this reporting period, observations of the first, shared-risks, operational cycle, named LOFAR Cycle 0 (LC0) (which lasted 11 months) were completed. (37 projects amounting to 2320 hours of observations were completed). Furthermore, 55 proposals for following operational cycle, LOFAR Cycle 1 (LC1) were submitted with a deadline in September 6, 2013. Observing time was awarded to 44 of them.

In addition during this reporting period, development commissioning and installation of the new LOFAR correlator, a computer cluster with the associated software, called COBALT took place. COBALT replaced the previous correlator an IBM Blue Gene/P supercomputer on 16 May 2014.

Proposals for LOFAR Cycle 2 (LC2) were submitted for the deadline of March 7, 2014 and 45 projects were awarded observing and processing time. Observations of Cycle 3 started on May 15, 2014.

2.2 Report on access in the period 01/07/2013 - 30/06/2014

The table below offers information on projects that were eligible for TNA support during the 2nd reporting period.

Project Acronym	Name (Institute, Country) of the TNA user group leader	Number of eligible TNA users	Provided Access (Hours)
LC1_001	J. Eisloeffel (Thüringer Landessternwarte, DE)	4	17
LC1_002	I. Browne (University of Manchester, UK)	2	8
LC1_003	T. Hassall (University of Southampton, UK)	10	64
LC1_021	E. Middelberg (University of Bochum, DE)	9	9,5
LC1_032	P. Zarka (Obs. De Paris, Meudon, FR)	10	17
LC1_037	E. Varenius (OSO, SE)	12	9,2
LC1_038	D. Mulcahy (MPIfR, DE)	10	9,6
LC1_033	R. Fender (University of Oxford, UK)	4	60
LC1_055	G. White (The Open University, UK)	20	12
Total: 9		Total: 81	Total: 206.3

A total of 9 projects with 81 users have been offered TNA support and were provided with a total of 206.3hours for the reporting period.

The detailed information about the committee providing access, projects and selection is given in the TNA database of the 2nd periodic report.

2.3 Information about the EC financial contribution to the travel

During this reporting period, TNA travel funds were used to fund the participation of members of the ILT Programme Committee meeting that took place on October 23-24, 2013 in ASTRON, Dwingeloo, the Netherlands. The travel budget is allocated by the RadioNet3 beneficiary No. 5 (JIVE). Therefore, the exact numbers will be presented at the periodic report.

Project acronym	Person name
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Isabela Prandoni (IRA, Bologna, IT)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Karl Manheim (University of Würzburg, Würzburg, DE)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Andrea Possenti (Cagliary Observatory INAF, Cagliary,IT)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Graham Woan (University of Glascow, Glascow, UK)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Karl-Ludwig Klein (Observatoire de Paris & CNRS, Paris, FR)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Thijs van der Hulst (University of Groningen, Groningen, NL)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Mark Birkinshaw (University of Bristol, Bristol, UK)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Wim Hermsen (SRON, Utrecht, NL)
ILT PC Oct. 2013	Oranisational costs

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