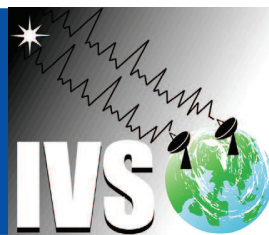


IVS Newsletter

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VLBI2010 Technical Specifications Workshop Held

– Dirk Behrend, NVI, Inc./NASA GSFC



Participants at the VLBI2010 Workshop on Technical Specifications held in Bad Kötzing, Germany.

It was in early March that the misty mountains of the Bavarian Forest saw the beginning of a new dawn. At the venue of the 1st IVS General Meeting in Bad Kötzing/Wetzell, BKG and TU Munich played host to a crowd of almost 100 people attending the VLBI2010 Workshop on Technical Specifications (TecSpec). The workshop was organized by the VLBI2010 Project Executive Group (V2PEG) and the VLBI2010 Committee (V2C) on 1–2 March 2012. TecSpec was tailored towards the station side of VLBI2010 and thus focused almost exclusively on the station specifications and hardware. Items covered went from the fast-slewing antennas to wideband feeds and front-ends to back-ends and recorders. Additional topics included e-transfer and e-VLBI, monitor and control, and clock distribution.

TecSpec brought together experts in VLBI2010 technology with station managers and engineers in order to provide a better understanding of the VLBI2010 concept from the technical point of view. The workshop was timed in conjunction with the 7th IVS General Meeting, which was held the subsequent week in Madrid, Spain (see pages 4+5). This allowed participants coming from overseas or the antipodes to Europe to attend both events in rapid succession. The choice of venue also allowed a visit to the newly constructed Twin Telescope Wetzell (TTW) providing a glimpse of what the future of geodetic VLBI may look like.

The program of the workshop consisted of a number of invited lectures (about 20) by VLBI2010 experts as well as contributed poster presentations (about 25) by the experts, station managers, and commercial suppliers. The lectures were given

over the first 1.5 days and included an allowance for questions and comments from the audience. The poster session augmented the first day of lectures and was an excellent forum of exchanging experience in a more informal manner. The final half-day was reserved for the station visit. The entire lecture material plus about half of the poster presentations as well as additional information are available on the meeting Web page at <http://www.fs.wetzell.de/veranstaltungen/vlbi/tecspec2012/> and the VLBI2010 pages of the IVS Web site at <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/technology/vlbi2010-general.html>.

The general response to the workshop was very positive, first of all manifesting itself in the large attendance number, but also based on the feedback given on site. The collaborative spirit and the enthusiasm for moving forward were almost tangible. Of course, nothing is perfect and there were some concerns and requests. The foremost concern was with regards to RFI, which resulted in the action item to review the RFI environment at station locations to determine, for instance, whether the inclusion of the S-band frequencies in the broadband VLBI2010 system is realistic. A plan is being developed to measure and monitor the RFI environment at all station locations.

The big success of the TecSpec workshop was not least due to the organizational skills of our Bavarian hosts. Hence, a big thank-you goes to the Wetzell crew for giving us hospitality and *gemuetlichkeit*.



The shroud of mist gave the newly constructed TTW a venerable ambience. The participants paused in awe once the fast slewing telescopes appeared out of the mist on their approach up the hill.

