

Westerbork VLBI station report for the EVN TOG meeting,  
OAN, Madrid, Spain, February 9th, 2016

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New hardware for the WSRT:

The WSRT is now in the process of being equipped with the APERTIF receivers and backends. Therefore, the Wb VLBI TADUmax era ended by switching off the DZB correlator, MFFE receivers and backends on June 24 2015.

As of September 15 2015, Wb contributed to VLBI projects with a single dish, equipped with a modified MFFE and a DBBC backend.

Tied array capability at L-band, using the Apertif frontends, will be added at a later stage.

DBBC:

Our DBBC, was delivered in Januari 2015. (8 BBC's, 2Cores and VSI input)

One telescope (RT1) is equipped with a modified MFFE that is connected to the IF1 inputs of the DBBC.

We had to install an extra mixer, to meet the requirements of the DBBC IF inputs

Our Mark5B (preveously connected to the TADUmax) is now connected to the DBBC (VSI).

First fringes:

The first fringes of good quality were detected during the eVLBI session of September 15 2015. After that we joined all eVLBI sessions, EVN session 2015-3, and from December 2015 on the Radio Astron projects.

Field System:

We installed FSL9 on our FS computer with version 9.11.6

For session 2016-1 we will upgrade to 9.11.7

The Antab software is also installed on it.

New site specific software was written to enable telescope and receiver steering + monitoring.

Mark5B:

We used SDK8.2 + Firmware version 12.13

All sessions worked fine with this firmware. Both pata and sata disks were used. (packs ranging from 1.6TB - 16TB)

Linux : Etch 2.6.18-6-686:(Debian 2.6.18.dfsg.1-26etch2)

Current JIVE software : jive5ab-2.5.1-ETCH-SDK82-i386

Diskpack purchase:

In 2015 we purchased several 4 TB diskpacks. They were placed in the containers (with 4x2TB) that we purchased in previous years.

Session Participation:

Westerbork participated in the M, C, X, and L-band experiments of sessions 2015-3. Unfortunately we could not contribute to the M band projects due to a faulty cryo compressor. (The 5cm receiver warmed up). Furthermore the WSRT participated successfully in e-VLBI observations. We missed part of the November 17/18 2015 run, due to a storm.

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