

Westerbork VLBI station report for the TOG in Onsala, June 28 2012

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Regular Session Participation:

Westerbork participated in the M,C,P and L-band experiments of session 2011-3, 2012-1 and 2012-2. Observing was successful. FTP fringe files were produced by the system, and fringes were found on all occasions.

In Januari, March, April, May and June 2012 Wb also participated in P-band, L-band and C-band fringe find sessions for the RadioAstron space VLBI project, led by the Astro Space Center in Moscow. Fringes were confirmed for all the bands.

e-VLBI:

In general Westerbork performed well. e-VLBI was also used as part of session 2011-3 and 2012-2. The transition from diskpack recording mode to eVLBI, and back, gave no problems. During 2 eVLBI sessions on L-band we had some issues with pols swaps in the upperside bands of TADUMax. On Januari 11 2012, we lost 5 hours 16 minutes due to a shortcut in the main power circuit of the network switch in our backend.

WSRT Backend:

Our digital vlbi backend (TADUmax) worked fine. It was used both for single dish (RT7), and the tied array (RT01234.6789abcd). We had some issues with correlator power supplies.

Field System:

For both sessions we used FSL8 (Lenny)+ FS-9.10.4 . At 2011.152.00:23 UT our FieldSystem time jumped to 2010.020.21:57. This happened although the system was rebooted 2 weeks before. We lost more than one hour observing time because of this.

Mark5B:

We upgraded the firmware to 12.13 on request of JIVE. All sessions worked ok with this firmware. For session 2011-3 and 2012-2 both pata and sata diskpacks were used. For session 2012-1 only pata diskpacks were used.

Current versions:

DIMINO : Mark5B DIM : 2007y222d04h : 1 : mark5-XX : 1 : 1 : 2.7x : 0x1b : 0x5bdb

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

Firmware : 12.13

Other:

We developed some bash scripts to switch from eVLBI mode to recording mode and vice versa. Also a python script was developed to subtract ftp data from a diskpack.

NEXPreS:

It might be possible for Wb to participate in the tests but first we need to define all the steps needed, to feed the schedule (vex file) automatically into our Telescope Management System software. This software does not run on the field system computer, but on different systems.

Diskpack purchase:

It was decided to order hardware for 4 packs of 8TB. Probably available for session 2012-3.

Geert Kuper. June 19 2012.