

# Transients KSP – interferometric mode

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on behalf of the LOFAR TKP

## \* Proposal submission

- Northstar fairly straightforward to use – some improvements in Cycle 1 vs. Cycle 0.
- Some things missing/hidden in submitted cover sheet (e.g. integration timestep).
- Confusion over data volume calculations (Northstar vs. online calculator).
- Plenty of in-depth information on the webpages, but perhaps some sort of observational setup flowchart is needed as well?

## \* P/O ratios

- Better characterisation needed, especially for 8-bit mode (488 sub-bands).
- CEP2 computing time allocation – is the Observatory strict about this?
- Can/should feedback from Science Support be provided in the middle of an observing program concerning how many CEP2 processing hours are left (especially if the allocation is running out rapidly)?

## \* Interaction with Science Support

- Very helpful; in particular we thank Carmen Toribio and Michiel Brentjens for setting up our observations. Email communication always prompt.
- Occasional problems with observations and/or pre-processing, but important to recognise that it is still early days for LOFAR. Appreciate the fact that some observations were able to be repeated, or data kept in the staging areas until minor problems resolved.
- Flexibility in modifying observing programs – e.g. trialling simultaneous beamformed observations, or switching to 8 bit mode for some Cycle 0 runs.

## \* MoM

- For non-straightforward observational setups (e.g. the TKP radio sky monitor), the current interface makes it challenging to make sure that all the settings have been entered correctly; too many settings are hidden by default.
- Introduce some sort of easily accessible summary of the most crucial settings?

## \* LTA

- If our end goal is to process and image data in near real-time, then clearly we cannot wait ~several days or more for the data to reach the LTA, as we often do now. Will it be possible in the future to retrieve the data from CEP2 directly?
- Problems retrieving Cycle 1 data.
- Somewhat tedious process to retrieve all the data from our 24h runs. Perhaps there should be a button you can click on to download everything from a given run?
- Some datasets ended up in wrong areas (e.g. unspecified process instead of calibration pipeline).
- Sub-bands occasionally not copied across from CEP to the LTA.
- Quite often the data transfer from the LTA to our local clusters will fail for a small number of sub-bands.
- Option to link programs that are ongoing over several semesters?
- Logout button?

LC1_033	Add	Detail	active	Wide field searches for image-plane radio transients
PanSTARRS	Add	Detail		
HBA Zenith IF test	Add	Detail		Radio Sky Monitor zenith strip 2014-01-15
HBA Zenith BF test	Add	Detail		Radio Sky Monitor zenith strip 2014-01-15
HBA Zenith 20140115	Add	Detail		Radio Sky Monitor zenith strip 2014-01-15
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POINTING12_20140115	Add	Detail		Preprocessing-POINTING12_20140115
POINTING13_20140115	Add	Detail		Preprocessing-POINTING13_20140115
POINTING14_20140115	Add	Detail		Preprocessing-POINTING14_20140115
POINTING15_20140115	Add	Detail		Preprocessing-POINTING15_20140115
P150115/3C295/1/CO	Restart	Detail	successful	198875 P150115/3C295/1/CO (Calibration Observation)
P150115/3C295/1/CPC	Restart	Detail	finished	199115 P150115/3C295/1/CPC (Preprocessing)
P150115/BEAM0/1/TO	Restart	Detail	successful	198876 P150115/BEAM0/1/TO (Target Observation)
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BEAM2	Detail	Detail	successful	BEAM2
BEAM3	Detail	Detail	successful	BEAM3
BEAM4	Detail	Detail	successful	BEAM4
BEAM5	Detail	Detail	successful	BEAM5
BEAM6	Detail	Detail	successful	BEAM6
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