ASTRON

Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy

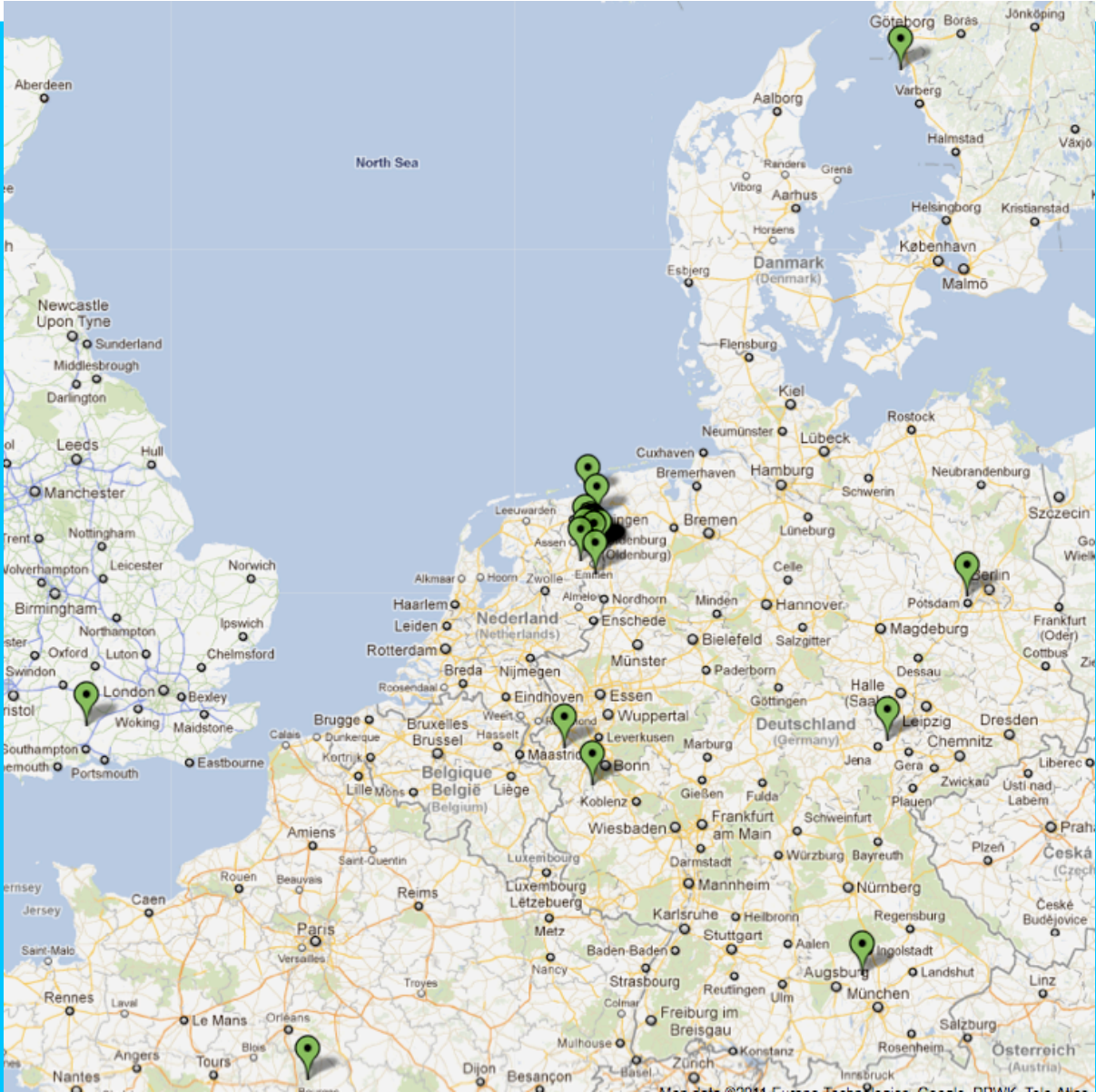## Programme:

1) Observatory update - Roberto Pizzo
2) MSSS update - Roberto Pizzo
3) Software update– Harm Munk
4) Phasing up the Superterp – notes on calibration and S/N
   improvement – Olaf Wuckitz
5) Musings on Beam Profiles and Scintillation – Richard Fallows

Observatory Status

Current Status:

33 operational NL stations

24 core + 9 remote

8 Intern. stations part of the array.

RS305 (soon in operations)RS407,409 (waiting for network connections) + RS310 and RS210

www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/ astronomers/current-status

News regarding the observing system

- Several stations suffered from extreme weather conditions due to the heat

- DE605: installation of an Artemis offline storage/processing system at the beginning of August

- Installation of new optical splitter at CS401 – performance tested with beam-mapping observations and delay calibration tests. New parts ordered for the other stations

- Further work performed on the calibrator-target-imaging pipelines. A few bugs were solved and tests are currently performed

News regarding the observing system : Archive

- Julich maintenance this week – general software update

- Archiving of raw visibilities successfully performed from MoM – processed data still archived through scripts, but changes being made to allow the archiving from MoM

News regarding observations and commissioning

- During the week: monitoring runs, system validation runs, pipeline testing

- Commissioning runs performed every week-end. List of priorities at

  http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?
  id=commissioning:commissioning_observations

Recent observations: 3C295 and NCP (de Bruyn et al.), RRL (Oonk et al.), 3C48 - LB (Wucknitz), 3C sources (Stroe et al.)

- TBB observations performed for the rest of the time

- Commissioning: characterization efforts during the last 3 weeks

CEP news:

- All locus nodes are up and running

- CEP2 overview :

http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php
id=operator:current_station_overview#state_of_locus_nodes

- Locus 002, 024, 088 used for MSSS commissioning

- Various locus nodes used for system characterization till the end of last week

- Users running processes on CEP2 have been warned to monitor the memory consumption of their runs – heavy processing affects observations. A policy to regulate the memory resources of CEP is being worked on

CEP news:

- Stress test performed on Friday 17 August to determine the maximum recording speed of the LOFAR online system – CEP2 closed to commissioners and pipelines

- The lse nodes are being cleaned up of old untouched datasets

- CEP2 will be cleaned up from raw data that do not have associated VIC trees

CEP STOP DAY: September 10 2012 – *second Monday of Sep.*

CALENDAR of requested busy weeks and other LOFAR activities

http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/astronomers/commissioning/commisioning-plan

- 6 September : Busy Thursday

Organization of Science Support group

- The Radio Observatory is preparing for the start of the first full operations semester of LOFAR/ILT. Production observing must be supported in parallel to vigorous ongoing software development and commissioning

- Antonis Polatidis, as a member of the LCCG, will be able to devote more attention to providing astronomical input and feedback to the LOFAR software development cycles ('sprints')

- Roberto Pizzo will take the supervision and coordination of the Science Support Group with regard to their activities for LOFAR operational observing and commissioning