

Notes of the ILT TO Telephone conference 2015-04-23

Distribution list:

	Organization:	Date:
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1 Attendees

Chair	R. F. Pizzo
Notes	R. F. Pizzo
Participants	DE601: Andreas Horneffer DE602: - DE603: Matthias Hoeft DE604: Christian Vocks DE605: - FR606: Jean-Mathias Griessmeier SE607: Tobia Carozzi UK608: Alan Doo DE609: Dieter Dengels KAIRA: Ilkka Virtanen POLFAR: - NL: Bianca Bult, Roberto Pizzo, K. Stuurwold

2 Minutes of the Previous Telephone Conference

- From A. Horneffer - The action-item 21/2 should better read "Make usage and error statistics of station switches available on a web-page." *RP: Done.*

3 Announcements

- A reconfiguration of the LOFAR network is planned from May 18 till May 29 2015. The activities include:
 - Rearrange the LOFAR core network at the Central Processing (CEP) facility in Groningen,
 - Replace glass-fibre optics of 17 stations <100km from the Superterp, and
 - Rearrange the fibre connections in the LOFAR Concentrator Node (CN) at the Superterp, which routes data from most LOFAR stations to CEP.
 - What are the implications for the international stations? *From Jan David Mol: 'We will need the international stations for testing the network infrastructure only. The stations themselves remain unchanged. We need to test connectivity due to the special settings they require in our switches. We need to test their individual and combined performance (data loss) as well as the performance of a fully operational LOFAR, including data from international stations.'*

During the network reconfiguration, access to/functionality of any system in the LOFAR domain is not guaranteed.

- 2nd LOFAR Users Meeting + LOFAR Science Collaboration Meeting: 1-3 June, Assen. Meetings web page:

<http://www.astron.nl/lofarscience2015/>

Registration and abstract submission deadline: 1 May.

4 Action Items

Nr	Description	Assigned to	Due date	Status
17/4	Derek will add info on the wiki about "Hunting" for RFI caused by a controller card	Ilkka Virtanen	29/01	Open
17/5	Plan maintenance date for FR606	Laurent / Henri	29/01	Open
18/4	In order to run the station test locally, Menno will send a path with the script and documentation. Jean-Matthias will check this and get back to Menno	M. Norden/ J-M. Griessmeier	29/01	Closed
18/8	Evaluation of local resource availability to run int. stations in single-mode during ILT time	R. Pizzo	Cycle 5	Closed
19/1	Henri will send LBA spare parts to FR606 (Laurent)	H. Meulman	26/02	Open
19/2	Jean-Matthias will contact Klaas for practical network issues regarding "data-cloning"	J-M. Griessmeier	26/02	Open
19/4	Henri will send LBA (DE602)+ LBA repair sets (UK608)	H. Meulman	26/2	Open
19/6	Check if it is possible to make PVSS data on broken/flagged antennas available for a script running on the LCU in local mode.	W. Frieswijk	26/02	Open
20/1	Wilfred/Menno to provide instructions on how to read the results of the station test available at https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML	W. Frieswijk/ M. Norden	26/03	Closed
20/4	Share with Laurent document on how to repair LOFAR antennas	H. Meulman	26/03	Open
20/5	Look into OoB (Out of Band) intranet connection issue at DE604 reported by K. Stuurwold	C. Vocks	26/03	Open
21/1	Get in contact with M. Serylak regarding availability of local resources to support LC4_025	DE601,3,5, FR606, UK608	23/04	Open
21/2	Make usage and error statistics of station switches available on a web-page	K. Stuurwold	23/04	Open
21/3	Check if somebody is available to work with M. Brentjens on adapting station calibration procedure to be able to take care of polarization leakage for international stations.	A. Horneffer	23/04	Open
21/4	Put link on the Wiki to document for repairing the LBA antennas	H. Meulman	23/04	Open
21/5	Send to W. Frieswijk list of tiles to switch off at FR606	J.-M. Griessmeier	23/04	Closed
22/1	Clarify whether station test results from local and ILT mode end up on the same place	M. Norden	21/05	Open
22/2	Check	All station	21/05	Open

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https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html and send any comments to W. Frieswijk	managers		
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Comments

17/4: Derek will put some general notes together and will make them available to the others. Since this wasn't done yet, Ilkka Virtanen will contact Derek asap. => *Action remains open and is assigned to Ilkka Virtanen.*

17/5: Maintenance for this station still needs to be planned. => *Action remains open.*

18/4: Menno tested a local version of the stationtest, and it seems to work. Jean-Mathias performed the test on his side on April 21st. *Action closed.*

Question from Jean-Mathias: Is the result of this test written to the webpage, too? *M. Norden 's answer needed. -> Action 22/1 open*

18/8: As far as the Cycle 4 proposal round is concerned, this procedure worked well and we concluded that we should adopt it for next Cycles as well. *Action closed.*

19/1: The parts will be taken along during the maintenance visit. *Action remains open.*

19/4: DE602 needs 3 LBA's – Menno and Henri should know. Also UK608 is still waiting. *Action remains open.*

19/6: W. Frieswijk mentioned that this should be possible. The current script is extracting this info from the main database, but it can be adapted to read the local one. Wilfred is working on this. => *Action remains open.*

20/1: The station status, including the latest station test results are now automatically updated. Added is some text and help information concerning the abbreviations used in the test results.

https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html

Action closed.

All international station managers should look at the page and send any comments to W. Frieswijk. *Action 22/2 open.*

20/4: A document for repairing the LBA antenna is available (*Henri will put link on the Wiki - Action 21/4*). A Document for the HBA needs to be made. Because Henri needs images

for that, these images need to be taken during maintenance. Henri can do this together with Laurent during the maintenance visit and explain the actions. *Action remains open.*

20/5: Christian has received some more information on this from Klaas Stuurwold and he forwarded it to Andre Saar who is in charge of their IT issues. *Action remains open.*

21/1: Done by DE601, FR606, and UK608. Still Open for DE603 and DE605. *Action remains open.*

21/2: from K. Stuurwold: ‘we now have a logging system running for the "zero measuring" before the network reconfiguration starts. So we know how the system behaves before the reconfiguration will take place. Andreas asked me a couple of months ago that they wanted access to their switches so they can get information about incoming and outgoing traffic and errors during GLOW mode. I told him(in a later stage) that it should be possible that we use the developed logging system for this purpose too. We can put the information they want on a web page which they are allowed to access. This will be done after the reconfiguration and maybe the summer holiday season. I will go on holiday a week after we have finished the network reconfiguration.’

21/3: Andreas is still looking for somebody who could help. *Action remains open.*

21/5: Jean-Mathias thinks there is currently no need to switch off antennas. From Jean-Mathias: ‘Are we talking about local or international mode? For local mode, I guess we have to take care of this on our side, is this correct?’ *W. Frieswijk: according to us, the station is performing nominally; therefore there is no need to disable elements. On the other hand, if Jean-Matthias notes in his local tests that there is the need to check and disable some elements, he should let us know and we will investigate and take action. The comment concerns ILT mode. Action closed.*

Nr.	Resolution / Decision	Meeting
1	The director ILT will require a written request for data cloning. A permission from the ILT operations is required prior to each data cloning observation.	2014-12-11
2	For proposals requesting the use of the international stations in single-station mode during ILT time, it is the PI’s responsibility to verify – before submitting the proposal - that local resources are available to run such projects at the international stations. In its deliberations, the LOFAR Program Committee will assume that the submission of such projects are indicating that local resources will be available to accommodate it.	2014-12-11
3	DE601, Rubidium/ Maser switchover: As long as we switch back to the Rubidium after using the Maser, this will not affect ILT operations. We will use the Maser only very infrequently, so Menno agreed that we will probably manage to remember to switch back to the Rubidium whenever we use the Maser.	2015-01-29
4	Aircro unit require a complete overhaul every year including a check on the coolant level	2015-01-29

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5 Station Roll Out

POLFAR (B. Bult)

- Containers in progress. 1st container to go to Poland in August
- Only 2 fields have been started. 'Lazy' is experiencing delays. However, preparations for the 3rd container will continue as planned.

6 Station statuses

6.1 Dutch Stations (Menno Norden & Henri Meulman)

- Things are progressing normally. Maintenance season has started.

6.2 DE601 Effelsberg (Andreas Horneffer)

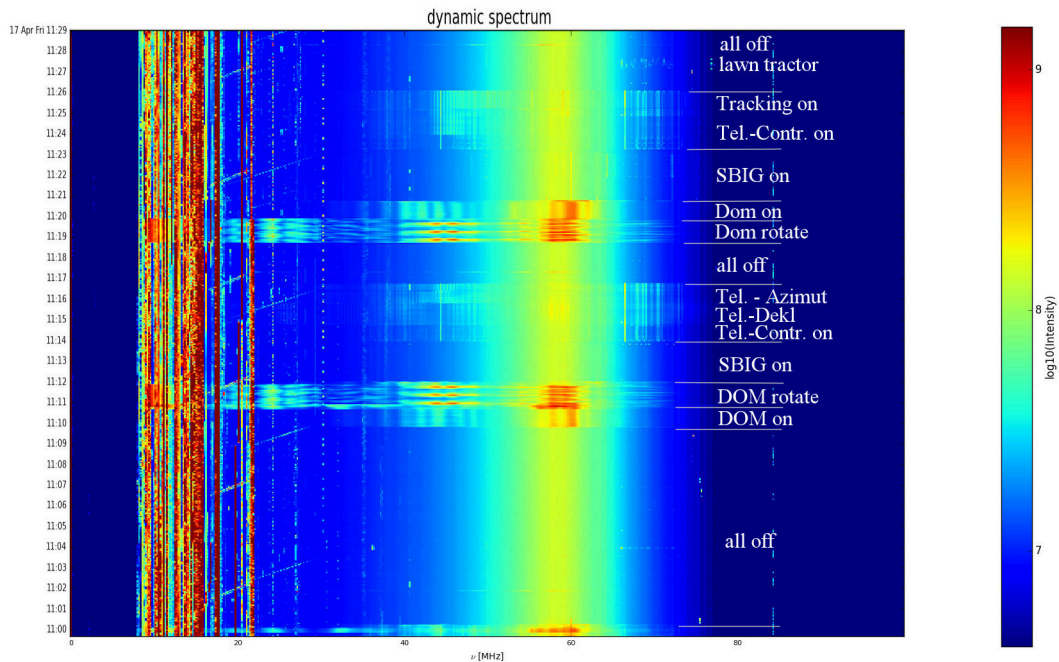
- General Performance
 - No major issues came up, the stations seems to work as usual.
- GLOW Observing Network
 - All 6 stations are regularly switched to GLOW mode. The connectivity between the interface computer and the LCU in DE604 still needs to be fixed.

6.3 DE602 Unterweilenbach/Garching (Ado Arnolds)

- Nothing to report, everything runs smoothly from our point of view.

6.4 DE603 Tautenburg (Matthias Hoeft)

- No incident or event to report from our side.
- Concerning a possible upcoming RFI source: we made measurements while operating the TEST-telescope, see below. I suggest that we present and discuss that after the maintenance visit.



6.5 DE604 Potsdam (Christian Vocks)

- On Thursday, 16 April, we had yet another airco failure, one week after the system had been replaced. It was repaired over the weekend, and it turned out that one of the new hoses on the outside part had a crack, which led to coolant loss on the timescale of days. The station was working again on Monday, with a slightly too high cabinet temperature. We have reduced the temperature setting by 2 degrees on Monday afternoon, and it is OK now.

6.6 DE605 Jülich (Arpad Miskolczi)

- Replaced 1 LBA antenna. Otherwise the station works fine.

6.7 FR606 Nançay (Jean-Mathias Griessmeier)

- Nothing to report.

6.8 SE607 Onsala (Henrik Olofsson, Tobia Carozzi)

- UPS purchased, should be installed in container at the time of telecon. Not sure when operational.

- Now many big piles of logs outside the fence to the west and south west. A guess is that it restricts the view from the nearest LBA antennae up to 10-15 deg elevation. The timber has already been sold so we don't expect it to remain on site for long.
- Maintenance visit went well.

6.9 UK608 Chilbolton (Alan Doo)

- Nothing to report.

6.10 DE609 Hamburg/Bielefeld Station (Joern Kuensemoeller)

- RFI issues still pending. Observations are made only with the HBAs.
- Switching of neighboring electric fences and pump stations will be made at fixed time intervals on April 29, 12am – 3 pm. This may identify RFI due to improper installation of electric fences, and may identify the 24/7 continuous source in 120° direction.
- Regular maintenance by ASTRON is scheduled for 4./5. May 2015

6.11 KAIRA (Ilkka Virtanen)

- Nothing to report.

7 Questions, Issues, Remarks

- DE601:
 - We will remove the switch in the Faraday room in Effelsberg in the next few weeks.
 - There are measurements of the RFI from the 100m planned for next Friday.

- FR606:
 - What will happen during the network reconfiguration (18-29.5.)? It is possible to have the stations in local mode part of that time? *RP: The planning of activities during the network reconfiguration has been finalized. In particular, it is now clear that it will be possible to release the intl stations to local mode for the first week of the reconfig, including the Pentecost weekend following it. That means we need the intl stations only from Tue May 26th to Fri May 29th. A correction to the stand alone schedule for May has been circulated.*

 - When switching swlevels 0->2,3, one of the RSP boards does not do anything till a 48v reset is applied. *Jean-Mathias will report this to Menno offline.*

- UK608:
 - There is a request to install a new system at the station. What's the policy about data cloning? *RP: please check 'Decision' table in minutes: a formal request should be sent to R. Vermeulen.*

8 AOB

- None

9 Date of next conference

Schedule for ILT telephone conferences in 2015:

- Thursday, May 21
- Thursday, June 25
- Thursday, July 23
- Thursday, August 27
- Thursday, September 24
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, November 26

- Thursday, December 17