

# Notes of the ILT TO Telephone conference 2015-06-25

**Distribution list:**

---

	Organization:	Date:
<b>Author(s):</b> R. F. Pizzo	ASTRON	July 1, 2015
<b>Approval:</b>	ASTRON	

© ASTRON 2011  
All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is  
prohibited without written consent of the copyright owner.

## 1 Attendees

Chair	R. F. Pizzo
Notes	R. F. Pizzo
Participants	DE601: Andreas Horneffer DE602: Ado Arnolds DE603: Matthias Hoeft DE604: Christian Vocks DE605: - FR606: Jean-Mathias Griessmeier SE607: Tobia Carozzi UK608: - DE609: Joern Kuensemoeller KAIRA: - POLFAR: - NL: Bianca Bult, Menno Norden, Roberto Pizzo

## 2 Minutes of the Previous Telephone Conference

- No comments.

## 3 Announcements

- In the period 18-29 May, a successful reconfiguration of the LOFAR network infrastructure was performed. With this, the LOFAR network is prepared for the future by allowing the extension of LOFAR with new compute systems, such as DRAGNET and CEP4, as well as new LOFAR stations, such as the Polish stations.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> LOFAR Users Meeting and the 2015 LOFAR Science Community workshop took place in Assen on June 1-3 2015. The meetings brought together 90 members of the LOFAR science community. The presentations given at these events are available on the [meetings website](#).

## 4 Action Items

Nr	Description	Assigned to	Due date	Status
19/1	Henri will send LBA spare parts to FR606 (Laurent)	H. Meulman	26/02	Closed
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	Closed
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	Closed
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	Closed
21/2	Make usage and error statistics of station switches available on a web-page	K. Stuurwold	23/04	Open
21/4	Put link on the Wiki to document for repairing the LBA antennas	H. Meulman	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	Closed
22/2	Check <a href="https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html">https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html</a> and send any comments to S. ter Veen (veen@astron.nl)	All station managers	21/05	Closed
23/1	Put on the Wiki document on how to repair HBA antennas	M. Norden	25/06	Closed
23/2	Send link to Joern (DE609) with info/documentation on UPS system at FR606	J.M. Griessmeier	25/06	Closed
23/3	Check who is the contact person for EMBRACE	B. Bult	25/06	Closed
24/1	Implement comments/remarks from FR606 and DE609 to web page <a href="https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html">https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html</a>	S. ter Veen	27/08	Open
24/2	Make logfile history on the LCU longer than 7 days	M. Norden / A. Schoenmakers	27/08	Open
24/3	Document DAB issue at DE609	J. Kuensemoeller	27/08	Open

ASTRON-EO-018.2.0

24/4	Write on page showing results stationtest that station owners should contact ASTRON engineers in case of questions about actions to be taken based on such results	S. ter Veen	27/08	Open
------	--	-------------	-------	------

## Comments

19/1: Done. *Action can be closed.*

19/2: No progress. *Action remains open.*

19/4: DE602 and UK608 received the parts. *Action can be closed.*

19/6: W. Frieswijk: 'Currently there is no way to directly read this information locally from the PVSS database because these are not active in local mode. This may be made available in the future, also combined with stand-alone Navigator functionality. The solution for now is, that the information will be dumped in a file in a /localhome directory every day. Such a file can be used in local mode to get the desired information.'

On the international stations, there are now three files in /localhome/stationtest/DISABLED :

disabled-mode1.txt  
disabled-mode3.txt  
disabled-mode5.txt

These contain the RCU numbers for each mode that are disabled in our operational system. These are updated every morning.'

*Action can be closed.*

20/5: No progress. *Action remains open.*

21/1: LC4\_025 is on going since several weeks already. It is assumed that the contact with the PI has happened by now and, in any case, that all station owners are informed. *Action can be closed.*

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.' Action remains open.*

21/4: The document has been uploaded and is available at

[http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=maintenance:maintenance&#lofar\\_lba\\_repair\\_document](http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=maintenance:maintenance&#lofar_lba_repair_document)

*Action can be closed.*

22/1: Both ILT and LOCAL station test results are stored in the same directory (/localhome/stationtest/data)

*Action closed.*

22/2: done for FR606 and for DE609 – suggestions will be implemented by S. ter Veen (new action 24/1 open). Action 22/2 can be closed.

23/1: The document has been uploaded and is available at

[http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=maintenance:maintenance#lofar\\_hba\\_repair\\_document](http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=maintenance:maintenance#lofar_hba_repair_document)

*Action can be closed.*

23/2: Done. Action closed.

23/3: The contact person for EMBRACE is Pieter Benthem, [benthem@astron.nl](mailto:benthem@astron.nl)

*Action can be 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	Airco unit require a complete overhaul every year including a check on the coolant level	2015-01-29

## 5 Station Roll Out

### POLFAR (Menno Norden)

- The subracks (18) are assembled/flushed/tested and ready to be build into the ILT containers. We work in parallel on all three containers.. This Friday (26 June) we hope to send the first container to Baldy.
- RFI measurements and site visit performed last week by Ebbendorf/Drost
- Ground and cable work is started this week in Baldy

## 6 Station statuses

### 6.1 Dutch Stations (Menno Norden)

- The first direct lightning stroke on an LBA antenna was discovered. The damage is limited to LBA and a few RCU's. The LOFAR backend and all coax cables survived the impact. This is good news! The bad news is that we had to replace 50+ LBA's and 5 RCU's. We hope that this only happens once every few years. The statistics are 1 direct/indirect per year.
  - *RP: suggestion to Menno to submit an ASTRON daily image about this.*

### 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 form our point of view.

### 6.4 DE603 Tautenburg (Matthias Hoeft)

- Nothing to report.

### 6.5 DE604 Potsdam (Christian Vocks)

- Nothing to report.

### 6.6 DE605 Jülich (Arpad Miskolczi)

- Nothing to report.

## 6.7 FR606 Nançay (Jean-Mathias Griessmeier)

- We had a problem with RSPBoard 18 last weekend. Usually, resetting the 48V solved the problem, but the error remained unnoticed during the weekend. We have some RSPBoard failing every 5 weeks, which usually costs us one day of observing time. I tried to find in our logfiles whether it is the same RSPBoard every time, but it seems that logfiles on the LCU are kept only for 7 days. I've sent an email to Menno and Arno, hoping they have other idea how to check whether the RSPBoard is degrading and should be replaced.
  - *Menno: logfile history can be made longer (new action 24/2 open); Jean-Mathias is advised to make a script that checks the station before observations start, that verifies that everything is properly functioning and, in case it's not, performs a few station resets automatically.*

## 6.8 SE607 Onsala (Tobia Carozzi)

- UPS is now working and has triggered on some events.
- No more logging activity outside our field.

## 6.9 UK608 Chilbolton (Alan Doo)

- The PVSS status page shows that we have a number of problems with HBA tiles. I shall contact Menno concerning this next week.

## 6.10 DE609 Hamburg/Bielefeld Station (Joern Kuensemoeller)

- UPS for clock arrived and tested, ready to deploy
- RFI ongoing, Spectrum analyzer arrived, trying to solve fence + power line  
DAB needs further attention / solutions discussion. *New action item (24/3) for Joern to summarize the status of the issue.*
- Inauguration ceremony on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 6.11 KAIRA (Ilkka Virtanen)

- Nothing to report.

## 7 Questions, Issues, Remarks

- **ASTRON:**

- At the last ILT Board meeting, Ralf Dettmar mentioned a rumour that Unterweilenbach would be afflicted with nearby windmill construction quite soon – is this correct?
  - *A. Arnolds: 'Indeed, 6 windmills are planned at a distance between 2 and 4 km apart from our station... We are watching the project as close as possible and have contacted the responsible public authorities. Until now the construction didn't start and there is no date announced when the construction will start. We still hope that the nearest windmill will be placed >> 2km apart.*
    - R. Vermeulen will soon compose a letter of concern from ILT, and check with A. Arnolds and also S. White for appropriate content.

- **FR606:**

- Having the LBA and HBA repair documents is great! However, we have to know how to translate the output from the stationtest into repair instructions. I know this is partially covered by action 22/2, but the repair documents will be much more useful once this translation table exists.
  - *Menno: in case of doubts about the need to take action after consulting the results of the stationtest, the international stations managers should get in contact with ASTRON (Menno/Henri) to get guidance. S. ter Veen will put this info on the webpage showing the results of the stationtest (Action 24/4). In general, ASTRON is proactive and contacts the international stations owners when a specific repair/action needs to take place.*

## 8 AOB

- R. Pizzo will not be available from middle of July till middle of August. Most likely, this will be a holiday period for more people. We will skip the telecon of July 23<sup>rd</sup> and meet again on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- DE601: a meeting took place about getting new recording computers for GLOW.



## 9 Date of next conference

Schedule for ILT telephone conferences in 2015:

- Thursday, August 27
- Thursday, September 24
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, November 26
- Thursday, December 17