

Notes of the ILT TO Telephone conference 2015-08-27

Distribution list:

	Organization:	Date:
Author(s): R. F. Pizzo	ASTRON	August 28, 2015
Approval:	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: - DE604: - DE605: Arpad Miskolczi FR606: Jean-Mathias Griessmeier SE607: - UK608: Alan Doo DE609: Dieter Engels KAIRA: Ilkka Virtanen POLFAR: Hanna Rothkaehl NL: Henri Meulman, Menno Norden, Roberto Pizzo

2 Minutes of the Previous Telephone Conference

- From A. Horneffer: 'About the AOB point on the GLOW recording computers: the important /interesting issue is that the new computers will be bought by Bielefeld and placed at Juelich.'

3 Announcements

- The Cycle 5 proposal call was issued on July 15th. Proposals submission deadline is Wednesday, September 9th, 12 UT.

4 Action Items

Nr	Description	Assigned to	Due date	Status
19/2	Jean-Matthias will contact Klaas for practical network issues regarding “data-cloning”	J-M. Griessmeier	26/02	Open
20/5	Look into OoB (Out of Band) intranet connection issue at DE604 reported by K. Stuurwold	C. Vocks	26/03	Closed
21/2	Make usage and error statistics of station switches available on a web-page	K. Stuurwold	23/04	Open
24/1	Implement comments/remarks from FR606 and DE609 to web page https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/STATIONS/HTML/index.html	S. ter Veen	27/08	Open
24/2	Make logfile history on the LCU longer than 7 days	M. Norden / A. Schoenmakers	27/08	Closed
24/3	Document DAB issue at DE609	J. Kuensemoeller	27/08	Open
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	Closed
25/1	Contact Andre Saar to arrange trouble shooting time for OoB (Out of Band) intranet connection issue at DE604 + to fix the connectivity between the interface computer and the LCU.	K. Stuurwold	22/09	Open
25/2	Check timeline NenuFAR	J-M. Griessmeier	22/09	Open

Comments

19/2: No progress.

Action remains open.

20/5: Klaas tested the suggestion from the IT administrator at DE604 (Andre Saar) - using the external address and port or sending the logs of an ssh command to our station – without any success. Klaas will contact him again to arrange some trouble shooting time.

Action closed. New action for Klaas open -> 25/1

21/2: Klaas needs to talk to a few people to understand how this information can be gathered and made available to our partners. Klaas has a long "todo" list and this point has not the highest ranking at the moment. It will be picked up asap.

Action remains open.

24/1: Comments not received by DE609 yet. Jean-Mathias (FR606) sent many detailed comments about the station test itself, which should still be answered. Sander is still looking into that. For future reference, Sander added a line to the STATIONS and station test webpage:

'If you are the owner of this international station and you have any questions about actions to be taken based on the results presented here, please contact the ASTRON engineers and observer'

Action remains open.

24/2: Arno mentioned to Jean-Mathias that a time window of 7 days was originally chosen *'to prevent the logdir from filling up; when that happens, processes start to crash, etc. So this is an empirically determined safety limit. We plan to store all logfiles for a longer time on another system, but that is not in place yet. For the moment we want to keep this limit in place.'*

Action closed.

24/3: Joern Künsemöller is still working on the document. Olaf Wucknitz (Bonn) has created a detailed documentation of the whole RFI investigation, to be consulted at: https://astro.uni-bonn.de/~wucknitz/wiki/doku.php/lbg:de609_2015_apr_29:start

Action remains open.

24/4: Sander added this line to the station test plots of international stations: *'If you are the owner of this international station and you have any questions about actions to be taken based on the results presented here, please contact the ASTRON engineers.'*

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	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)

- Station Baldy (PL612) is working. Last week Henri, Menno and Klaas paid a visit to the station and checked/repared the open points. For LBA, everything was working fine. Only one X/Y swap was found on the LBA.
Also the HBA array was working very good. Two elements with wrong polarisation connection and one low RF element were found. The RFI level is very low at this station. Klaas has a running OOB connection with the station. Currently waiting for remote control/data connection with the station.
- Station Borowiec (PL610) is in the construction phase – in particular, cabling of the HBA field is on going. The station should be ready by the end of September.
- This week the last container will be sent to Lazy (PL611). The station WILL BE completed by the end of the year.

6 Station statuses

6.1 Dutch Stations (Menno Norden)

- The second round of maintenance is on going.
- Power damage experienced at RS208. In the remote power box the cable was found melted (lightning?).
- A few days with high temperature were experienced during the summer. These caused some stations to trip (temperature >38 deg C inside the cabinet). Mostly, the stations could be used again in the evenings for observations.

6.2 DE601 Effelsberg (Andreas Horneffer)

- A site visit on Monday revealed that two of the seven 48V power-supply modules are failing. According to Menno this is probably due to broken fans. Menno sent us some replacement fans, when they arrive we will replace the fans. The station needs at least four or five modules to work, so this has not yet affected the station performance but there is no more redundancy.
- Several LBAs are failing. I plan to replace the heads sometime in the next few weeks.
- All 6 stations are regularly switched to GLOW mode. The connectivity between the interface computer and the LCU in DE604 still needs fixing (*Action 25/1 now open*).

6.3 DE602 Unterweilenbach/Garching (Ado Arnolds)

- Nothing relevant to report, everything runs smoothly from our point of view.
- Minor issues:
 - 1 LBA needs repair – to be done during the next few days
 - The airco did not manage very well the high temperature weather of the past days, but station kept running.

6.4 DE603 Tautenburg (Matthias Hoeft)

- Nothing to report.

6.5 DE604 Potsdam (Christian Vocks)

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

6.6 DE605 Jülich (Arpad Miskolczi)

- Nothing to report.
- Minor item: two fans need replacement. They will be replaced once received.

6.7 FR606 Nançay (Jean-Mathias Griessmeier)

- Still having occasional problems with RSPBoards. It seems it is not the same RSPBoard number every time. We keep an eye on this. We are surprised to see this more often than other stations. We have not yet implemented the recommended solution to automatically reset the 48 V in case of problems. *Menno: A. Schoenmakers is thinking about implementing a more general solution for this kind of issues.*
- Nançay staff is very busy with NenuFAR, and had no time to fix broken antennas. Roberto: what's the current timeline for NenuFAR? Jean-Mathias will check (*Action 25/2 now open*).

6.8 SE607 Onsala (Tobia Carozzi)

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

6.9 UK608 Chilbolton (Alan Doo)

- A couple of HBA tiles showed high noise in station test. To be looked into. In case assistance from ASTRON is needed, Menno/Henri should be contacted.

6.10 DE609 Hamburg/Bielefeld Station (Dieter Engels)

- New power meter installed by Stadtwerke Norderstedt on 28.7. (UPS kept rubidium running, no known issues.)
- New public display boards were set up in front of station entrance.
- New RFI measurements by ASTRON were made on 19.8. The emissions in the LBA frequency range are pretty the same as in 2014 February, but in the HBA range a new strong DAB emitter at 220 MHz appeared. Discussions how to mitigate the DAB emissions are underway.
- 9.9.2015: Inauguration ceremony in Norderstedt.
- A new observing system to be deployed in Juelich is now in procurement.

6.11 KAIRA (Ilkka Virtanen)

- Ilkka Virtanen will leave his role as KAIRA support scientist and will start in another project from September 1st. SGO has not yet made final decisions about KAIRA support in the future. Derek will let us know about any interim solution that might be found.

7 Questions, Issues, Remarks

- **DE601:**
 - IIRC no regular maintenance visit was planned for this year. Is that correct? *Menno: correct. Remote maintenance could be arranged in case is needed.*
 - Menno mentioned that he can monitor the status of the power-supply modules remotely. Is that something that we could / should add to iStnMonitor? *Menno sent zip file containing SNMP information to access the +48V Power One Power supply unit to Andreas, who will follow up with the next steps.*

8 AOB

- R. Pizzo unavailable on September 24th. Next ILT TO telecon on *Tuesday*, September 22nd, 1:30 pm (Amsterdam time).
- Jean-Mathias: will a face-to-face meeting take place this year? *Roberto: given the effort required by the POLFAR project till the end of the year, it is proposed to have the f2f meeting next year, possibly following the next LOFAR Science collaboration workshop. Expected time frame is March – April 2016. More news about this will be distributed by the end of the year.*

9 Date of next conference

Schedule for ILT telephone conferences in 2015:

- Tuesday, September 22, 1:30 pm
- Thursday, October 22
- Thursday, November 26
- Thursday, December 17