

Notes of the ILT TO Telephone conference 2015-12-17

Distribution list:

	Organization:	Date:
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1 Attendees

Chair	R. F. Pizzo
Notes	R. F. Pizzo
Participants	DE601: Andreas Horneffer DE602: - DE603: - DE604: Christian Vocks DE605: - FR606: Jean-Mathias Griessmeier SE607: Henrik Olofsson UK608: Alan Doo DE609: Joern Kuensemoeller KAIRA: - POLFAR: Andrzej Krankowski, Leszek Blaszkiewicz NL: Roberto Pizzo, Marco Drost, Menno Norden

2 Minutes of the Previous Telephone Conference

- J.-M. Griessmeier: Sect. 7, bullet point 1: 'Menno suggested to not include the RCUs of that list in the beamctl command.'

3 Announcements

- The first announcement of 'The 2016 LOFAR Community Science Workshop' and 'The Third LOFAR Users meeting' was circulated on December 7th 2015. The meetings will take place on 4-6 April 2016 and will be held in Zandvoort aan Zee, nearby Amsterdam. The second announcement will be distributed in January, when the web page and registration procedure will be open. *We solicit all station managers to attend these meetings.*
- The next 'ILT Single Station owners and Technical Operations meeting' will take place in Zandvoort aan Zee on 7 April 2016. The first announcement will be circulated early next year.
- Marco Drost (from ASTRON R&D) is the new head of O&M. He will take over the organization of the ILT TO telecons as of January 2016.
- We kindly ask the station managers to upgrade their **local LOFAR-MAC software** version to version 2.14 before end **Januari 2016**. We see many different versions that are sometimes more than two years old. This causes not only problems in local observations but also degrade the station hardware. From version 2.12 onwards we have a gentler handling of the station hardware that can now also switch from LBA to HBA mode in one second!

Full release notes are on the Wiki:

http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php?id=engineering:release_notes_lofar_2.14

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
21/2	Make usage and error statistics of station switches available on a web-page	K. Stuurwold	23/04	Closed
26/1	Compile document on practical guidelines on how to mitigate/deal with DAB issues at DE609	M. Norden	22/10	Closed
27/1	Integrate to stationtest webpage answer given to J.-M. Griessmeier about how to decide whether additional elements need to be switched off in local mode	S. ter Veen	26/11	Open
28/1	Upload on the Wiki scripts by R. Fallows that generate beamlet statistics plots	M. Norden	17/12	Closed
29/1	Configure in Zabbix info on usage and error statistics of station switches	T. Grit	28/01	Open
29/2	Upload on the Wiki the document on practical guidelines on how to mitigate/deal with DAB issues at DE609	M. Norden	28/01	Open

Comments

19/2: No progress.

Action remains open.

21/2: The needed info will be configured within Zabbix and can be obtained under a personal Zabbix login account (*action 29/1 open for T. Grit*).

Action closed.

26/1: A first version of the document has been sent to the group for review. Comments from Joern have been implemented. The final version of the document will be uploaded on the Document server and on the Wiki (*Action 29/2 open*).

Action closed.

27/1: No progress.

Action remains open.

28/1: The scripts have been uploaded on the Wiki. A brief explanation is also given there.

http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=singlestation:start&#beamlet_statistics_plots

Action closed.

29/1: Just opened.

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 (Andrzej Krankowski / Leszek Blaszkiewicz)

- Data connection: the part Poland – Amsterdam seems to be in place. The part Amsterdam – Groningen in progress.
- On December 9th, POLFAR officially joined the ILT.

6 Station statuses

6.1 Dutch Stations (Menno Norden)

- The LBA and HBA arrays are checked after the November storm and ready for the Christmas period.
- We had two stations with a short in the GPS coax cables. This only happens on Dutch stations because the cable is placed too tight to the cabinet.
- Also one Rubidium was replaced on RS508 because of broken power supply unit.

6.2 DE601 Effelsberg (Andreas Horneffer)

- No major issues came up, the stations seems to work as usual.
- GLOW Observing Network: 6 stations are regularly switched to GLOW mode.
- The connectivity between the interface computer and the LCU in DE604 has been fixed now.

6.3 DE602 Unterweilenbach/Garching (Ado Arnolds)

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

6.4 DE603 Tautenburg (Matthias Hoefft)

- During the past weeks, issues were experienced with the network connection. They have now been resolved.

6.5 DE604 Potsdam (Christian Vocks)

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

6.6 DE605 Jülich (Arpad Miskolczi)

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

6.7 FR606 Nançay (Jean-Mathias Griessmeier)

- Station is performing well.
- Due to human error during NenuFAR installation, FR606 was switched off on 2015-12-15 from ~9-10h UT. The system seems operational again, but more tests are ongoing.
- An update to the latest software release was performed on 2015-12-16.

6.8 SE607 Onsala (Henrik Olofsson)

- The storm “Gorm” (in Swedish) on 29 November did not cause any visible damage to the station
- Upgraded lofar_local to LOFAR software release 2.13.1

6.9 UK608 Chilbolton (Alan Doo)

- Stormy weather in UK during the past period – the station seems to have dealt well with it.
- From the last station test it appears that a few LBA have issues – to be looked into in the coming days.
- There is now funding available to buy rubber sleeves to protect station components against animal damage.

6.10 DE609 Hamburg/Bielefeld Station (Joern Kuensemoeller)

- Station hardware seems fine.
- Investigation of extra attenuation to deal with DAB-related RFI still ongoing (using TBB dumps to gain a mapping of beam direction to feasible att. levels, then we can evaluate how much it affects our science case).
- There are plans for some additional cabinet environment monitoring/sensors. Menno will be kept in the loop.
- GLOW observing cluster still waiting for setup in Jülich.

- Menno reported that broadband pulsed RFI are seen in LBA and HBA on DE609. Personnel at DE609 is investigating the issue.

6.11 KAIRA (-)

- No input received.

7 Questions, Issues, Remarks

- DE601 and DE609:
 - According to the schedule the international stations are to be switched to ILT mode on the 28.12. and back to local mode on the 30.12. Is there an observation planned that needs the international stations in these two days? If not is it possible to keep the stations in local mode? *R. Pizzo: unfortunately, this is not possible; during those two days we will run observations for which the international stations are needed.*

8 AOB

- DE601:
 - According to Talayeh Hezareh, the spectrum manager in Bonn, at the World Radio Conference this year there was the proposal by the amateur radio to get the 50- 54 MHz band assigned to them. As LOFAR 2.0 will probably focus on strengthening the low band, the interests of LOFAR should be represented in this process. Andreas asked whom to contact at ASTRON to get into contact with Talayeh. *Menno suggested H. van de Marel.*

9 Date of next conference

Proposed schedule for ILT telephone conferences in 2016:

- Thursday, January 28
- Thursday, February 25
- Thursday, March 17
- Thursday, April 7 -> face to face meeting, Zandvoort

- Thursday, May 19
- Thursday, June 30
- Thursday, August 25
- Thursday, September 29
- Thursday, October 27
- Thursday, November 24
- Thursday, December 15