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Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy

Programme:

1. *Observatory Update – Richard Fallows*
2. *Status of MSSS "automatic" processing – Emmanuela Orru*
3. *Update from Imaging Busy Week 15 – Emmanuela Orru*
4. *Follow up on full core tied-array observations using the single clock extension – Jason Hessels*
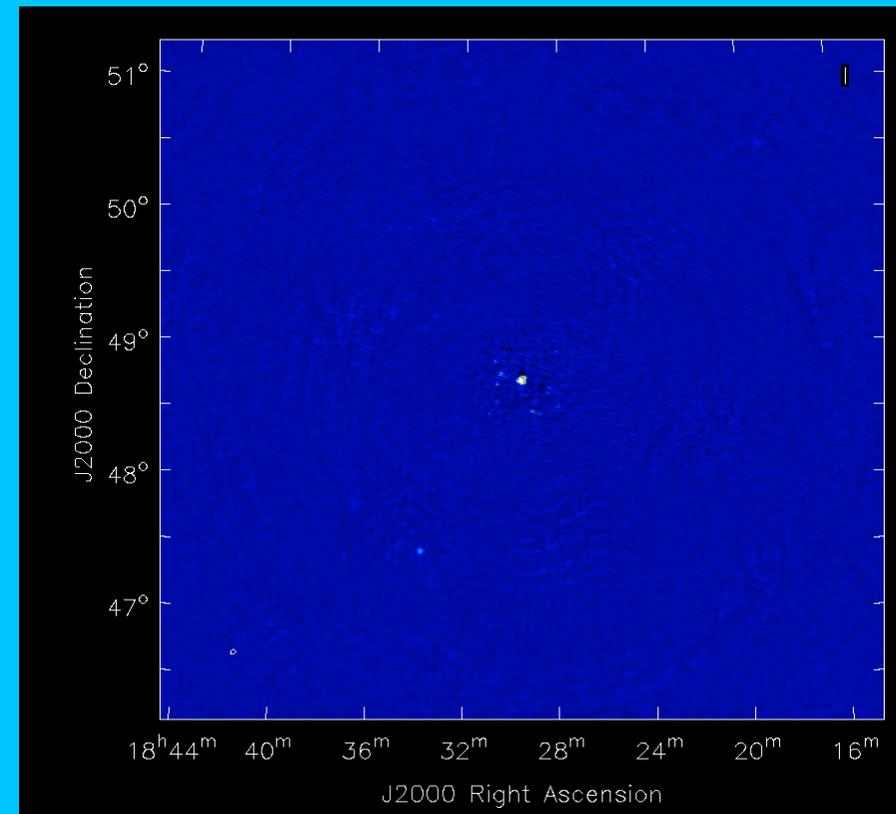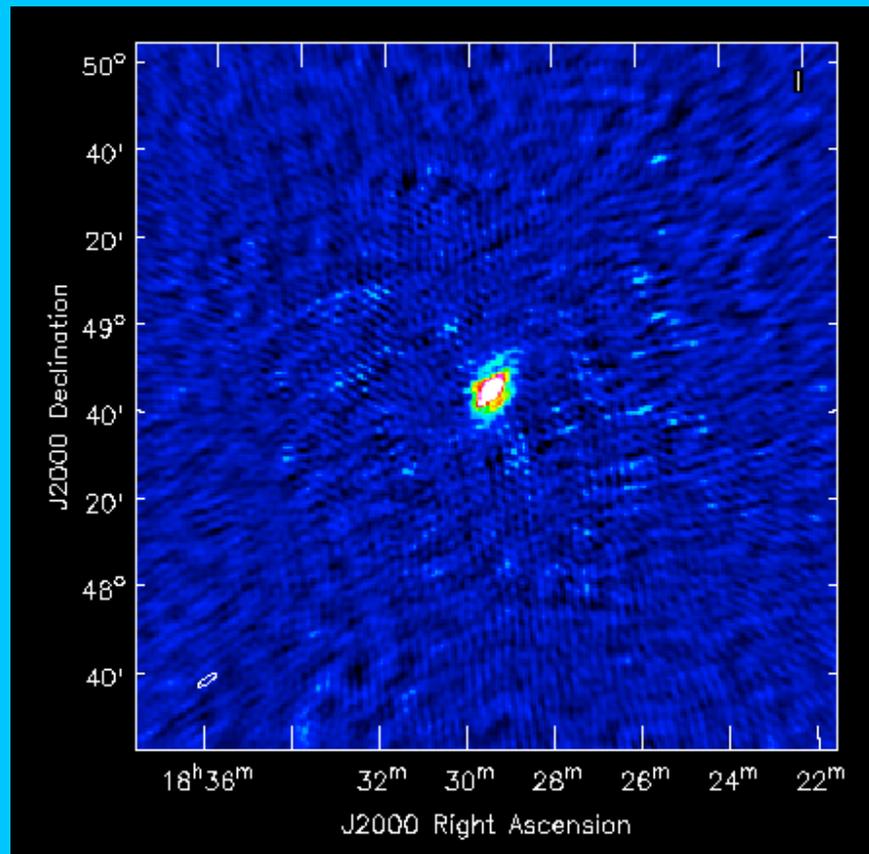5. *LOFAR Source Finders Working Group – Chiara Ferrari*

Observatory Status

Current Status:

34 operational NL stations
24 core + 10 remote
8 International stations

CS001: Flagging ~50% of data – under investigation
CS101/301: Updated position files
RS305: Now part of array
RS310/409: Now online, testing to start.
RS407: Under test
DE601: Many issues resolved in maintenance trip
FR606: Faulty air-con unit – cannot be used currently

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

News regarding the observing system

- Problems with data flagging from all international stations solved: Traced to cable issue: cable at DE601.

- The RFI situation at DE604 is being monitored yesterday and today.

- International station local mode time now Monday 09UT to Wednesday 09UT.

- Software version 1.8 has been rolled out to the observing system and most stations.

- Stations are now running Version 6 firmware, allowing 8-bit mode, by default.

News regarding the observing system

- Cycle 0 strategy testing is well underway: Successful LBA tests performed; First successful HBA test yesterday.

News regarding the observing system : Archive

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- Archiving of raw and processed data is progressing:

  - Raw MSSS data from March and most of February now archived.

  - Expect remaining MSSS raw data to be archived in the next few weeks.

  - Raw and processed data from Commissioning observations are being archived to Julich, if requested by users.

- All commissioners: Please state clearly in any new proposals which data you wish to be archived.

News regarding observations and commissioning

- EoR 8-bit tests have continued.

- Pulsar observations, 8-bit, Complex Voltages and single clock tests.

- Solar observations.

- Long-baseline commissioning observations involving all international stations carried out.

- System monitoring and validation runs.

- Block scheduling of observations tested.

- MSSS pipelines being run on LBA data.

CEP news:

- CEP-2: Situation is now stable: Observations can be recorded without data drops due to overload on individual nodes.

- We are fast reducing the quantity of raw data remaining on CEP-2 ready for the start of Cycle 0:
    - Old datasets are being removed as soon as practicable.
    - New datasets are removed from CEP-2 as soon as processing and any archiving is complete.
    - We remind commissioners that CEP-2 will not be used for long-term storage of raw or processed data.

- CEP-1: Reconfiguration of storage on CEP-1 is now complete. We thank all users with large datasets for taking the action requested to reduce them.

CALENDAR of requested busy weeks and other LOFAR activities

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

- 29th November 2012 : Busy Thursday, Dwingeloo
- 14-19 January 2012 : Imaging busy week, Leiden