

Programme:

1. Array status & Observatory update – *R. Fallows*
2. The CEP3 computing cluster, usage and policies – *M. Iacobelli*
3. The role of LOFAR in the era of gravitational wave astronomy – *A. Rowlinson*
4. AOB

International LOFAR Telescope (ILT)

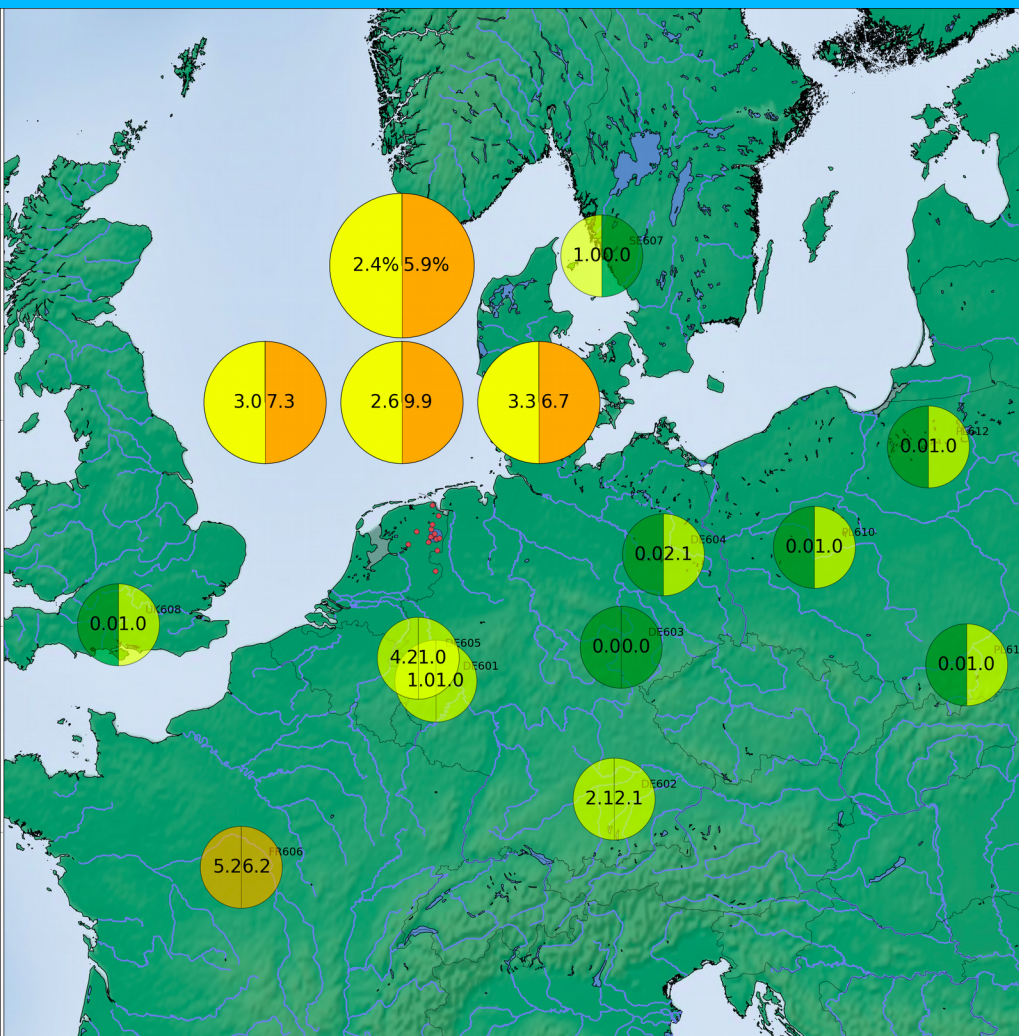
- 50 operational stations: 24 CS, 14 RS, 12 IS
- New Polish stations not yet in regular use (more later).
 - New station to be built in Ireland.

RS210: RSP driver issue; RS406: StationControl cannot be set to active; CS101: SPU2 broken; DE609: Air conditioning problem.

Various stations: Oscillating tiles and noisy elements detected and deactivated. Maintenance season underway.

Station Status

see https://proxy.lofar.eu/array_status/



- All operational
- >95% operational
- >85% operational: CS001, CS002, CS004, CS005, CS006, CS021, CS032(LBA), CS101, CS103(LBA), CS301(LBA), CS401(LBA), RS106(LBA), RS205, RS306(LBA), RS307, RS310, RS409(LBA), FR606
- <85% operational: CS017, CS030, CS032, CS301, CS302, CS401, CS501, RS306, RS503

Station numbers are HBA unless indicated otherwise.



- Station calibration:

- Polish stations completed, except mode 3 on PL610
- Reduction for LBA_SPARSE_ODD has completed, but manual corrections for every element are necessary. Reduction for EVEN is ongoing.

Overview available at:

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/astronomers/current-status>



Observing System News – Station Sensitivities



- It had appeared that the inclusion of the Polish stations in HBA_DUAL observations lead to an issue with sensitivity in some, seemingly random, baselines.
- Issue since discovered to be one of station sensitivity, affecting some HBA1 stations, and in most HBA_DUAL observations regardless of stations included.
- Culprit now thought to be bug in BeamServer/RSP software.
- Possible solution now being trialled.



CEP News

Boletus edulis
(English: cep, porcino or porcini)

CEP4:

- Observation and pipeline testing underway. Now expected that full commissioning can start end May or so.

CEP2:

- Often rather full. Locus096,99 used for spare parts. Casacore bug leading to some random data loss when writing MS's; these losses are within the limits of RO policy.

CEP3:

- CEP3 info and users schedule available at:

<http://www.lofar.org/operations/doku.php?id=cep3:start>

New policy regulating access to CEP3 and data handling available at:

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/observing-capabilities/depth-technical-information/cycle-1-observing-and-processin>

- Many requests of extensions to access CEP3: monitoring of node usage during allocated time is ongoing. The evaluation of future requests will be based on such statistics.

Time allocations have now been made and PIs informed of the outcome. Awarded allocations for Cycle 6 and long-term awards for Cycles 7 and 8 are available online.

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/cycles-allocations-and-observing-schedules/cycles-allocations-and-observing-schedu>

Cycle 6 – Processing Resource Limitations

During PC deliberations, processing time proved a limiting factor and was fully allocated while observing time still remained. An over-allocation of processing time was agreed, BUT with the associated observing time being given with low priority. In the schedule, observations are labelled as priority “A” or “B”:

- A: Observations will be scheduled as normal, assuming there are no major issues to prevent this;
- B: Observations will only be scheduled if processing and data ingest can be accommodated at the time. If not, they will be moved to later in the Cycle, but will not carry on to the next Cycle.

LTA storage allocations are agreed with LTA partners on an annual basis, based on what can be provided and a forecast of the expected needs.

Space is limited!

Cycle 6 allocations will be accommodated, but some projects may find their data split over LTA locations.

Therefore, **please be reasonable in your processing and data storage requests!**

Cycle 5/6 Observations

Week 19		UT	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Approximate LST			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
May	9	Mon	TBB + tests	DDT5_003 - J1552 - 10 min HBA	TBB + tests				System tests	LT5_004 - LOTAAS - 4hrs HBA; all international stations to ILT mode at 9 UT				Mercury rising						Commissioning2015 - A team - Vir A						
	10	Tue	Commissioning2015 - A team - Vir A	TBB + tests					STOP DAY							System tests	TBB + tests									
	11	Wed	TBB + tests					STOP DAY							System tests	LT5_004 - LOTAAS - 2hrs HBA		LT5_004 - LOTAAS - 2hrs HBA		Validation runs						
	12	Thu	TBB + tests					LT5_003 - J2053+17 - 10mins HBA	TBB + tests	Station sensitivity tests				LT5_004 - LOTAAS - 4hrs HBA			TBB + tests	B: LC6_02 8 - B0834+ 06 15min HBA	TBB + tests		Station test					
	13	Fri	TBB + tests						System tests; all international stations to local mode at 9 UT					TBB + tests			A: LC6_020 - FRB - 2hrs - DO NOT MOVE!			TBB + tests						
	14	Sat	TBB + tests																	A: LC6_020 - FRB - 2hrs - DO NOT MOVE!			TBB + tests			
	15	Sun	A: LC6_030 - B1908+28 - 0.5hrs HBA	TBB			A: LC6_030 - B1919+21 B1937+21 B2016+28/B2020+28 B2111+46 118 - 6hrs HBA					A: LC6_030 - B0114+58 J0218+423 2 B0329+54- 3hrs HBA					TBB			A: LC6_020 - FRB - 2hrs - DO NOT MOVE!			TBB + tests			

Detailed Cycle 6 schedule available here: <http://www.tiny.cc/LC6>

Changes can be applied on daily base: in case of questions/issues contact Science Support

Always cc sciencesupport@astron.nl and include the proposal code in the subject line

- Next LSM : 25 May 2016 (volunteers)
- LOFAR Ionospheric Workshop : 2-3 June 2016, Warsaw
- Long-Baseline Busy Week : 13-17 June 2016
- LOFAR Data Processing School : 5-9 September 2016

Full calendar available at:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=2jkmjaro6ek0kh7tmf9brpf8pk%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Europe/Amsterdam>

LOFAR Papers:

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/lofar-science/lofar-papers/lofar-papers>

Subscribe to lofar-news and LSM mailing lists:

<http://www.astron.nl/radio-observatory/subscribe-lofar-news-and-lsm-mailing-lists/subscribe-lofar-news-and-lsm-mailing-li>

LSM presentations:

http://www.lofar.org/wiki/doku.php?id=public:lsm_new:start