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Operations Overview

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Updates from last meeting (ATUC requests)

Matters arising:

- #1 MOPS/Mopra mapping – Edwards
- #2 CABB – Edwards CABB
- #4 Mopra webcam – Aiming for next winter
- #5 Parkes continuum/polarisation software – Edwards
- #6 Proposal abstracts – No longer password protected on OPAL
- #7 Email – Bock

Updates from last meeting (ATUC requests)

Recommendations:

- #2 Microphones – Sorry, not for this meeting, but soon
- #3 Mopra cycle time – Edwards
- #4 VLBI data backlog and information on web page – cleared & done
- #5 Duplication of Mopra survey and other observations – Edwards
- #6 ATCA pointings – Edwards
- #7 Antenna pointing – Edwards
- #8 Calibrator database – Edwards
- #9 DA manual – done
- #10 Information on Tidbinbilla capabilities – Edwards
- #12 Tidbinbilla OTF mapping – Edwards
- #13 Survey archives – Rathborne/Brooks
- #14 Data transfer protocols – USB drives available, but no routine high-bandwidth transfer
- #15 Miriad task updates – Edwards

Operations staffing

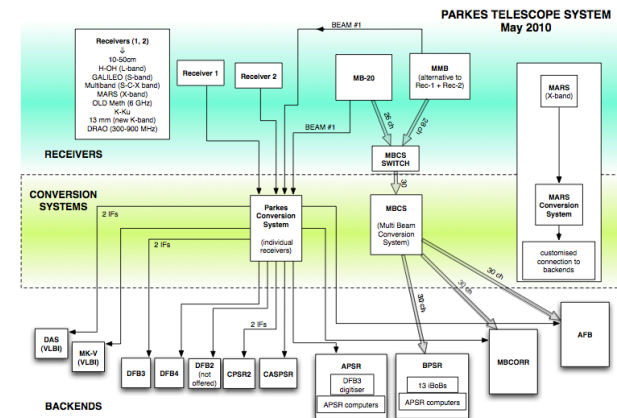
- Vicki Drazenovic returned from maternity leave (VSG)
- David McConnell returned from long service leave
- Geoff Freeman retired; Laura Black replaced him
- Ian McRobert (electronics engineer) started at Parkes
- Narrabri Lodge will generally not be staffed on Sundays

Parkes Instrumentation

- Backend rationalisation
 - Started with a “blue sky” astronomers desire (Hobbs presentation)
 - Awaiting the result of Staveley-Smith proposal for new backend configuration
- CPSR-2 decommissioned in August (DFB-3)
- DFB-2 moved to 12m in July (DFB-4)
- Analog filter bank decommissioning within next 12 months (hoped replacement with BPSR and DFB3/4)
- New timing distribution system (timeframe, 1pps, 5 MHz & 10 MHz references) expected in March. Reliability and fanout.
- Methonal multibeam receiver unserviceable and may be sent to Effelsberg (no proposals this semester)

Guest/PI instrumentation

- Most existing arrangements are informal
 - Desire to provide “National Facility” support for some instruments – assuredness of availability
 - Support and space is limited
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- Currently most are Parkes backends, but Parkes DRAO receiver, WVR, MOPS
 - CASPSR installed this winter
 - Staveley-Smith proposal (affects BPSR, which is the nominal replacement for the analog filter bank).



Guest/PI instrumentation guidelines (update)

Intent is to have “guiding principles”. Individual written agreements will generally be needed.

- CSIRO resources estimated in advance
- “National Facility” instruments
 - Criteria for adoption in advance
 - More support
 - Higher level of documentation and change control
- Data obtained must be made publicly available, in appropriately documented formats, at the end of the normal proprietary period
 - Could impose costs
- Any exclusive use period will be limited and agreed in advance.
 - Relationship to “collaboration”, “available but not supported”?
- Sunset clause. Continued competitive proposals.

Future operations planning

- Planning to operate ASKAP in addition to Parkes, ATCA, Mopra, LBA
 - ASKAP construction funding
 - Seeking additional operating funds in the upcoming budget cycle
- Parkes remote operation
 - Drive control
 - Backend/frontend switch matrix
 - Power reliability
- Science Operations Centre (people, procedures) - Marsfield
 - SOC pilot project (Brooks/Rathborne talk)
 - SOC requirements and specifications this year
- Engineering operations
 - Maintenance and staffing models
 - Cost of power (funding for alternative energy and energy efficiency)

