

PARKES

ATUC Status Update

Jimi Green 06 June 2017

CSIRO ASTRONOMY AND SPACE SCIENCE



Overview

- Maintenance Shutdown
- Front-ends
- Back-ends
- Breakthrough Listen
 - Telescope time
- User Support

- PULSE@Parkes -> OPTIMUS on PRIME



Credit: John Sarkissian

May Maintenance Shutdown

- 4 week shutdown
- Power switchboard replacement
- Master Equatorial fixes
- Maser hydronic unit drained & refreshed
- Focus cabin air conditioning unit overhauled
- Tower air conditioning switchboard underwent major clean up
- Further asbestos removal/decontamination













Front-ends

- Ultra-Wideband Receiver
 - Quadridge structure with dielectric spear, 0.7—4.2 GHz
 - Partly funded through Australian Research Council LIEF grant
 - Potential on-dish testing of prototype in July, full installation late 2017
 - Commissioning 2017OCT semester for national facility 2018APR semester
- Ultra-Wideband Mid/High Frequency Single Pixel Feed(s) in planning
 - One or two feeds to cover 4 GHz up to 25 GHz, with wideband feeds sharing one 'pan'





Front-ends

- Cryo-PAF
 - Cryogenically cooled 'Rocket' Phased Array Feed (third generation CSIRO PAF)
 - Prototype on dish testing (plus aperture tests) May 2016 very encouraging for purpose built version
 - 700MHz 2GHz, 3 x MB field of view, sub-20K Tsys
 - LIEF proposal submitted, decision expected late 2017







Back-ends

- HIPSR capability moved to GPU cluster ('PKBE')
- Original HIPSR GPUs removed from racks
- General GPU development ('PKBE')
- UWB Digitiser prototype to be installed ~June used with existing 'legacy' receiver fleet for testing





Breakthrough Listen

- Installed single beam system in September & December 2016
- Multibeam system installation scheduled for next week (14th June – 20th June)
- Started time allocation on 4th October, officially 'kicked off' 8th November with Proxima B observation & press release
- ~4-5 hr observing blocks per day, varying in time (LST) for 2016OCT semester
- 10hr observing blocks per day, varying in time (LST) for 2017APR semester
- Higher allocation this semester to meet annual contract, with impact due to installation and multibeam timescales on last semester allocation

BREAKTHROUGH LISTEN









Breakthrough Listen

- Data to be stored at Pawsey, initial allocation made, multibeam data first
- Pointed observations to date (nearby stars, Proxima B monitoring)
- Galactic plane survey (step and stare, ~15mins) to commence with Multibeam usage
- Commensal FRB searches proposed
 - Swinburne running BPSR simultaneously with Breakthrough multibeam observations
 - BPSR detection triggering ~20s of raw voltage data dump
 - Long term future potential for ring buffer for Berkeley to run during other observations for raw voltage capture

BREAKTHROUGH LISTEN









Telescope Time

- Breakthrough Foundation purchased 25% of Parkes time across 5 years (average of ~750hrs per semester)
- Call put out for additional 25% for sale (i.e. max 50% of total time available for purchase)
 - Some interest, not yet finalised, may impact 2017OCT semester
- Scenario of 50% sold, plus continuing large projects dominating allocations, could present need to apportion dedicated 'small project' time – item for consideration for next ATUC meeting



User Support

- Training videos under development
- New Portal / FROG under development
 - FROG incorporated into Portal
 - Features include: Sleeker interface; Options to show planets, Galactic Plane, satellites; On focus Rx (+pointing params), dynamic wind limits, lightning counts (far/near/overhead) new additions; Direct MoniCA access; Observer in Charge simplified, only require contact phone as input; simplified booking system; Sub-bookings within an observing block possible (ATUC request)
 - Online 12-monthly "refresher" questionnaire may return in the future?
- New structure of ATNF Science has 'Team Parkes'
 - led by George Hobbs, featuring Shi Dai, Jo Dawson, Simon Johnston, John Sarkissian, Lawrence Toomey – aiming to work on support activities, first meeting set for 19th June





PULSE@Parkes -> OPTIMUS on PRIME

- PULSE@Parkes programme
 - Pulsar focused, secondary-level education programme with real-time access to, and control of, Parkes Telescope
 - ~1500 high school students to date, ~130 schools, sessions across Australia, plus Canada, China, England, Japan, South Africa & Wales
- Undergraduate Extension to the programme
 - Observing with Parkes, Training and Introduction, Module for University Science: OPTIMUS
 - Part of CSIRO's 'ON PRIME' development scheme
 - Undergraduate level training package including Parkes telescope time
 - Extending/varying science to include other aspects
 - We'd love your input on developing this please contact Rob Hollow, George Hobbs or myself!





Thank you

CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science Jimi Green

- t +61 2 9372 4577
- e james.green@csiro.au
- w www.atnf.csiro.au

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www.csiro.au

