



Remote Access to the Parkes Telescope

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RAPT

To implement the remaining components in the system to allows remote access to the Parkes Telescope for scientific use.

Project Aims

1. To allow safe operation of the telescope with only one person on “close call” but not in the tower.
2. To protect the telescope and its systems automatically.
3. To allow the operator to control the telescope via an internet connection.
4. To allow the operator to receive advice and support from CSIRO staff, not necessarily co-located.

What to expect?

- The project will proceed in two threads:
 - Design and construction of the Telescope Protection System (TPS)
 - Built on elements already in place
 - Analogous to the Narrabri PMON and to MAPS
 - Establish computer interfaces and software for remote observing
 - Follow methods used for ATCA and Mopra (VNC)
 - Develop scientific and technical support procedures
 - Run trials as soon as possible and in advance of an operating TPS, with personnel present in the Telescope to guard telescope safety.

Progress

- Design and construction of the Telescope Protection System (TPS)
 - Logical design is close to complete
 - Most sensory inputs are now available
 - Drives UPS has been ordered; installation expected around April
 - Automated detection of telescope drive instabilities being investigated.
- Establish computer interfaces and software for remote observing
 - Work underway to establish requirements
 - A focus on simplifying the user interfaces as much as possible
 - The feasibility of web browser-based interfaces is being considered
 - Expect some trials with CASS users over the next month
- Procedures
 - First draft of procedures for operation and user support due end February.