EVLA Weekly Meeting Notes

Meeting Date	2006August16
Meeting Participants	
Penticton	Amy, Dave DR, Dave F, Donna, Mark, Sonja, Zhang, Zoran
Socorro	Bill, Bruce, Kevin, Martin
Jodrell Bank	Simon

Software Focus

Sonja Vrcic	• Updating the schema for VCI.
	→ Links have been added to the Software page of the WIDAR website.
	→ VCI schema has been loaded into CVS.
	→ There will be more changes; if you are thinking of writing code, please contact Sonja first.
	• Making changes to the config mapper and log-in code.
	• Downloaded Java V6.0; not yet using it, just looking at capabilities and what's new.
Kevin	→ Kevin doesn't agree with using Jdom as it is not part of the Sun package and may not be supported in future versions of Java.
Sonja	→ Sun recommends Jdom for short xml documents that contain data. API is so simple that it can be replaced if necessary. It is a good idea to introduce our own interface.
Action	• Sonja to forward an email to Bill, Bryan and Simon re: a list for On-the-Sky testing, asap.
	• Bryan Butler is out of the office until August 23.
Dave Del Rizzo	• The RFS for the Real-time Data Display software should be completed today.
Action	→ Dave to forward to Sonja, Dave F. and Brent for initial review.
	→ Dave will check in items in CVS by August 18.
Kevin Ryan	• Working on the GUI programmer's guide; it is taking longer than expected.
	• The NRAO software conference last week was very intensive.
	→ Kevin did a presentation re: GUIs.
	→ There is an NRAO consensus to migrate from CVS to Subversion which is a completely new format.
	→ Subversion appears to be easier and nicer to work with.
Action	→ Kevin to investigate re: will EVLA move over to Subversion, abandoning CVS?
Sonja	→ We have a copy of the WIDAR repository at DRAO.
Bruce Rowen	• Has had only 1 day of productivity due to preparing for and attending the NRAO software conference.
	→ Expects to be able to manage to work on EVLA for 4-5 days for the balance of August. The rest of the time, Bruce will be working on VLA tasks.
	• Getting close to finishing the Real-time software RFS.

- The next task will be to work on software for the Baseline Board.

Martin Pokorny
- The order for the replacement cluster is in progress.
- Investigating optimization of code; getting good results so far.
- Looking at cluster tools fort the backend.
  → Thinking re: requirements of CVS on CBE.

Bill Sahr
- The next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for October, 2006.
- A Monitor Control CDR for EVLA is being planned for sometime mid-November, 2006, in Socorro.
  → No topics or agenda are available yet but the focus will be on the transition system.
  → Sonja should probably consider attending.
  → Waiting for Bryan to return next week to get things rolling.

Summary of Software Action Items

Action	• Sonja to summarize and forward an email to Bill, Bryan Butler and Simon re: more clearly defined list of software needed for On-the-Sky testing and suggest a new target date.
Action	→ Kevin to investigate re: will EVLA move over to Subversion, abandoning CVS.

Software Action Items Resulting from External Inputs

Action	• Bryan B to produce report on Station Board data products; which ones go to the Monitor Archive (MA) and which go to the Science Data Model (SDM). This report will also treat data rate estimates in some detail, including examples for particular observing scenarios (2006Jun30 first draft).
Action	• Michael to release report on where the ALMA Binary Data Format (ABDF) is insufficient for WIDAR output products (2006May19).
Action	• Michael and Martin to release report on final Binary Data Format for EVLA. Hopefully in agreement (and after consultation and iteration with) ALMA (2006Aug31).
Action	• Sonja, Bryan, Bill to produce report on software integration test plan for the Prototype Correlator (PTC) tests (2006Aug31 Draft).
Action	• Michael, Frazer, Rick to produce report on science test plan for the Prototype Correlator (PTC) tests (2006Oct31 Draft).
Action	• Brent, Bryan, Michael to determine whether UVFITS is sufficient for all Prototype Correlator (PTC) tests (2006Dec31?).
Action	• Sonja, Brent to network throughput and routing analysis of the 3 separate networks within the correlator subsystem (2006Oct31?).

Hardware Focus

Dave Fort
- Station Board is ready for fabrication; recent delay was due to a glitch in the software.
- The Station Board and Fanout Board Manufacturer's Packages were forwarded to BMS 15August.

	→ Now waiting for a quote for the Fanout Board.
	→ Also waiting for a quote for another DFM for the Station Board; to date, no reply.
Zoran Ljusic	• Fixed an error in the Station Board file and generated a new file which was forwarded to Morley at BMS.
	→ Konrad Lewinski (BMS) will be at DRAO on Wednesday, August 23.
	• Probably going to switch to a second source (Artysen) for the power supply due to Vicor's long leadtime.
	• Working on the Output Chip design and RFS.
Zhang Heng	• Fanout Board design files have been forwarded to BMS.
	→ Updating the Fanout Board RFS this week.
	• The Baseline Board is ready for the next iteration at the fab shop and should be done by 18August.
	→ Zhang made the design changes to the layer with the problem.
	→ The recent delay with the Baseline Board was a result of an FTP issue at BMS end.
	→ BMS to run another DFM.
	→ It may be possible to have the board to BMS by end of September for assembly.
	→ Population should be complete by December.
	• Working on the RFPs for the Cables and the Power Plant; clarifying requirements, etc.
	• Zhang to be on vacation August 21 to September 5, 2006.
Mark Halman	• Working on the Fanout Board – Timecode Assembly.
	• BMS is having problems with the thermal pocket in the Baseline Board.
	→ Mark is sorting through this problem in email communication with Brent who is on vacation.
	• Investigating the BGA socket under higher loads with Paragon elastomer.
	• Ordered another 5-shelf cabinet from Uline; the first one arrived damaged.
	→ Mark to assemble cabinet when it arrives and put a lock on it.
	→ The cabinet is needed now for storing spare inventory.

Project Management

Amy Fink	• There is a possibility that Vicor parts (power supplies) will not be used as they have an 8-month leadtime.
	→ Amy is sourcing alternate vendors.
	• A work order has been issued for flying probe testing at BMS.
	• Amy's next task is to work on the parts inventory.
Simon Garrington	• Going through Sonja's schema.
	• Waiting for Brent to return from vacation.