

EVLA Weekly Meeting Notes

Meeting Date 2006December20

Meeting Participants

Penticton	Amy, Brent, Donna, Mark, Peter, Sonja, Zoran
Socorro	Bryan B, Jon, Kevin, Martin, Michael
Jodrell Bank	Bryan A, Simon

Software Focus

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|-----------------------|---|
| Sonja Vrcic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on Station Board GUIs.• CRC changes are not yet done. |
| Brent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have had productive conversations with Bruce and Dave F.<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ It has been good to have Bruce at DRAO.→ It is the first time for Bruce to test his software.→ The date for Bruce's next visit will be determined in January 2007.• Sonja intends to distribute an email re: the use of acronyms. She will start a list of acronyms to be used (at least for the interface). |
| Brent Carlson | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The lag-frame utility software has been installed. |
| Kevin Ryan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on System level GUIs with a rack of 16 boards.• Supporting Dave F and Bruce at DRAO in testing.• Reminder to Peter D. re: copyright issues for software still need to be sorted out. |
| Martin Pokorny | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on the RFS for the binary data format. |
| Brent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brent is unable to use Martin's script.<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Martin will modify the script to provide the option of specifying Ethernet 1 or Ethernet 2. |
| Bryan Butler | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sorting out bug tracking issues using JIRA with Stephan Woods.<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Accounts have been created for Sonja, Dave DelRizzo, Dave Fort, Martin, Kevin, Bruce and Brent.→ Sonja will most likely have manager privileges. |
| Brent | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Both hardware and software bugs will need to be tracked.• Attended meeting last Tuesday re: risk management.<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ EVLA related issues include power requirements, UPS, generators, etc.→ Mark and Gene will distribute a report mid-January 2007. |
| Michael Rupen | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended the Binary Data Format meeting at NRAO.<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Will revise draft Memo and distribute to CASA by the end of this week. |
| Sonja | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Should we allow the user to specify different integration times for different sub-bands in the same sub-arrays? |
| Michael | <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Yes, this can be used to do some interesting stuff in CBE. |

- Bryan B
 - Want to retain flexibility within the correlator.
 - Note: Integration times for different sub-bands must have the same common denominator.
- Attended the On-the-Sky Test Plan meeting at NRAO.
 - Jon and Michael are looking at Brent's set of critical tests that will be used before signing off on full production.
- Jon
 - Some tests cover a multitude of differing cases; will probably split some tests and apply priorities.
- Brent
 - Happy to see NRAO doing some refinement to the tests.
 - Mark M and Peter D will need to discuss sign off requirements.
- Performing the second official EVLA test for CASA this week.
 - There are some user interface and calibration issues.
 - Converting the data format into AIPS and reading it again.
 - Still no agreement re: SDM. Currently, there is only one (ALMA) SDM, which is not useful.
 - Reading and writing is much slower than using AIPS.
 - This is recognized as an issue by CASA; more work is expected in Q1 2007.
 - The number of files as a result of writing all files from integration times is slowing the process.
 - A sub-set of CASA is working on sorting this out.
- Peter
 - CASA throughput issues are left over from ALMA and are still influencing performance. Why don't we use direct access files?
- Bryan B
 - It was expected that ALMA would have progressed further so that EVLA would be able to use their work. It looks like EVLA will have to figure out the SDM and then tell ALMA.

New Software Action Items

- There are no new Software Action Items from this meeting.

Continuing Software Action Items

- Sonja to create a directory for Brent's utility software and forward details to everyone.
- Brian to investigate standard introductory letter for travellers in use at NRAO.
- NRAO to discuss internally the implications and requirements re: receiving first prototype boards.
- Bruce to update Real Time Software RFS to describe delay tracking and other Station Board functionality.

Hardware Update

- Brent Carlson**
 - Baseline Board testing with Zhang.
 - Getting the Gbit Ethernet Chip to generate frames.
 - Trying to figure out how to get data through the SFP module.
 - Sorting through the low frequency jitter problem.
 - The BGA socket for the correlator chip is installed but no IO voltage is getting to the chip. Zhang is in contact with Jeff B at iSine.

- The Correlator Chip Test Board is scheduled to be shipped from BMS on December 22. Once it arrives, the correlator chips can be tested independently.
- Action** → Amy to check with Morely re: confirmation of ship date for the Correlator Chip Test Board.
- Fanout Board requires a re-spin; this will be on the back burner for now.
- Zoran Ljusic**
 - The joint design and manufacturer's package review is scheduled for 9:30 am, Thursday, December 21 in the Upstairs Meeting Room.
 - Mark made the drawings and Amy will make the BOM notes. Zoran will generate the design data.
 - Working on Station Board testing.
 - The Revnell cards are responding and the clocks tick.
 - It has been helpful to have Bruce at DRAO; Dave, Bruce, Sonja and I have had discussions re: RAW register access using Dave's code.
 - The GUIs are not yet ready for testing.
- Zhang Heng**
 - Testing the Baseline Board.
 - Trying to sort out the no voltage to the correlator chip problem.
- Ralph Webber**
 - Working on Station Board front panel re-design.
- Mark Halman**
 - Changes to the 6U and 12U rack drawings are complete.
 - Removed the proprietary bits and forwarded the files to Triple E for approval. Triple E is happy, they recommended a change to the bend radius which Mark has since implemented.
 - In the process of renaming files.
 - Files will be ready by January 5.
- Action** → Mark to distribute drawings before the review.
- Worked on the drawings for Delaly Module V2.0.
- Picked up the new retention plate from the machinist in Kelowna.
- Brent** → It looks like socketing chips in production will not be reasonable.

Project Management

- Amy Fink**
 - Completed updating the budget.
 - Working on parts inventory.
 - Preparing for invoicing review with BMS telecon today.
- Brent**
 - The power plant installation may not be ready by March 31, 2007 due to hold ups at PWGSC.
 - May be able to transfer the \$30K consulting engineer fee to the next fiscal year.
 - Amy is in communication with Christine Cunningham and will know by January 5 if this is possible.
- Peter Dewdney**
 - Peter is pleased that the budget is done.
 - It will be necessary to train Christine C. re: EVLA budget processes.