

JIVE Newsletter number -3-

-----+===== The JIVE Newsletter, Year 1998, Number 3 =====+-----

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NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

1) The EVN MkIV Correlator at JIVE

Just three weeks before the official opening, all necessary hardware to construct a 16 station data processor has arrived at JIVE. Whilst some equipment needs further fine-tuning, it was already a magnificent sight to see the complete row of data playback units for the first time. From the absence of cables, once very abundant in the basement, it is obvious that the assembly phase of the EVN MkIV data processor is nearing completion. Almost all of the final cabling is now in use, neatly tucked away under the floor. This includes a new network, shielded from the Ethernet traffic in the rest of the building. The complete four crate correlator resides in its own, separate room. Also, the air conditioning for the complete processor is operational and in use.

Tests have been concentrating on issues involving the correlator model, after having verified a number of MkIV and VLBA modes earlier this year. First, some time was spent on understanding the residual phase rates still present in the data after correlation. This was part of the attempt to get fringes on a global, thin tape experiment observed at 6cm. After this problem was understood, we achieved intercontinental detections between the VLBA and EVN. Following this, the long-planned major revision of the processor's internal format for transferring the correlator model was necessary to make further progress. This is now completed and it is a major step in the process that will lead to the first image, which is scheduled for the end of this year.

However, we have concentrated in the last couple of weeks on reliability issues. While updating the software, firmware and hardware necessary for the model, several patches were put in that make the entire data processor run more smoothly. With the addition of a user interface, the correlator can now be started by almost anybody, which is of course precisely what is required for the opening ceremony on October 22.

2) EVN/JIVE Symposium

The EVN/JIVE Symposium will be held on October 22-24, in Dwingeloo, the Netherlands. The symposium will coincide with the formal inauguration of the EVN MkIV Data Processor at JIVE. With the registration deadline now past, we can report that around 120 people from over 19 different countries are now expected to attend the symposium. The number of participants wishing to contribute to the scientific programme has been much greater than we anticipated, posters presentations will form a major part of the proceedings. We intend to publish both oral and poster presentations in a special edition of New Astronomy Reviews.

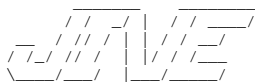
3) Departure of Scott Aaron

After serving 2 years as JIVE Support Scientist in Bonn, Scott Aaron has resigned from his position and taken up a new job with a software company in Minnesota, USA. During his time in Bonn, Scott supervised the successful correlation of many EVN projects during a period of heightened observing activity. During his time in Bonn he continued his study of CSS objects and misaligned sources. As part of his own research he also made a substantial contribution to our understanding of the EVN's performance, particularly in terms of instrumental polarisation effects. We wish Scott and his family all the best for the future.

This newsletter was prepared by Harro Verkouter, offline software scientist at JIVE, Dwingeloo.

I would appreciate your suggestions, comments, additions and any other form of feedback, especially if you plan to have a symposium (or the like). Please <mailto:verkouter@jive.nfra.nl>.

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