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RadioAstron Newsletter  
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Spectr-R space radio telescope first light!

On September 27, 2011, the first light from Cassiopeia A was detected with the space radio telescope Spektr-R of the Radioastron mission. The telescope scanned across the supernova remnant in two perpendicular directions. Signal in two bands of 92 and 18 cm (two circular polarization per band) was successfully detected in the total power mode. Enjoy the first light picture attached. The following space radio telescope key characteristics were preliminary determined:

92 cm:  
effective area is 28 m<sup>2</sup> (pre-launch estimates on the ground: 25 m<sup>2</sup>),  
Full width at half maximum is 6.1 degrees (pre-launch: 6.1 degrees);

18 cm:  
effective area is 46 m<sup>2</sup> (pre-launch estimates on the ground: 40 m<sup>2</sup>),  
Full width at half maximum is 72 angular minutes (pre-launch: 75').

Next step -- 6 and 1.3 cm. Stay tuned.

With best regards,  
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