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Astro Space Center
RadioAstron Newsletter
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Spektr-R status and RadioAstron science program

Starting from 10 January 2019 Lavochkin association is unable to establish communication with the Spektr-R satellite. Within organized control sessions using the deep space network communication stations in Bear Lakes and Ussurijsk, the onboard transmitter of low-gain antennas was not activated.

In the same time, there are good news. The RadioAstron tracking stations in Pushchino (Russia) and Green Bank (USA) continue to detect a tone signal at 8.4 GHz from the Spektr-R 1.5-meter high-gain antenna. Moreover, the closed-loop system locks in case if the 7.2 GHz tone signal is sent from the ground to the space telescope. This indirectly indicates that there is power on board the satellite, and the necessary conditions for maintaining the service and scientific equipment are provided.

Preliminary estimates indicate that there is a hope to re-establish the communication. The colleagues from Lavochkin association continue their efforts.

Astronomical observations of RadioAstron within the AO6 science program will continue as soon as communication is restored.

The mission collects new proposals for the AO7 time period by 21 January 2019 in order to form a strong science program of the RadioAstron interferometer.

<http://www.asc.rssi.ru/radioastron/ao-7/ao7.html>

Nikolai Kardashev (nkardash@asc.rssi.ru)

Yuri Kovalev (yyk@asc.rssi.ru)

The RadioAstron project is led by the Astro Space Center of the Lebedev Physical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Lavochkin Scientific and Production Association under a contract with the Russian Federal Space Agency, in collaboration with partner organizations in Russia and other countries.

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