

SPACE VLBI MISSION “RADIOASTRON”

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY — 1 *for the period July 2013 – 30 June 2014*

Key Science Program (KSP)

Final Notes



Proposals Due: 8 February 2013, 23:59 UT

RadioAstron KSP meeting follow-up

Based on the fruitful discussions, questions and suggestions from the RadioAstron Key Science program meeting in Bonn (December 3-4, 2012), we would like to emphasize the following specific aspects for the preparation of the AO-1 KSP proposals:

Data sharing between proposals:

Groups can suggest data sharing in the full KSP AO-1 proposal(s) and/or the RadioAstron Program Evaluation Committee (RPEC) may recommend it.

Multi-year KSPs:

KSP proposals can present and discuss a multi-year program if desired while applying for a one year of observations for the AO-1. Continuation of a successful program will require another proposal to be submitted for AO-2.

Guaranteed minimum amount of time per approved proposal:

There will be no formal guaranteed minimum amount of time per approved proposal. However, the RPEC will have the option to comment on this as well as priorities of different objects or tasks within a KSP proposal, if found appropriate. Teams can comment on priorities within their proposal, if desired.

Ground Radio Telescopes observing requests

As discussed in the RadioAstron AO-1 announcement, separate proposal(s) for required ground support need to be submitted by KSP teams to appropriate ground facilities. At the same time, the RadioAstron Mission has reached a special agreement with a number of telescopes which can be requested directly within RadioAstron AO-1 proposal(s). These are: Svetloe 32-m (Sv), Badary 32-m (Bd), Zelenchukskaya 32-m (Zc), Evpatoria 70-m (Ev), Usuda 64-m (Ud), Robledo 70-m (Ro), Yebes 40-m (Ys), Noto 32-m (Nt), Medicina 32-m (Mc), Torun 32-m (Tr).

All of these telescopes perform various experiments during the year and will accommodate observing with RadioAstron following successful RadioAstron KSP proposals within their local constraints. Technical details for these telescopes can be found on their web sites and in the EVN status table http://www.evlbi.org/user_guide/EVNstatus.txt. Specific notes regarding these telescopes include:

Svetloe 32-m (Sv), Badary 32-m (Bd), Zelenchukskaya 32-m (Zc): Available observing bands: L, C, K.

Evpatoria 70-m (Ev): Available observing bands: P, L, C.

Usuda 64-m (Us): Available observing bands: L, C. Primarily a satellite tracking facility but can be used for RadioAstron experiments for a minor fraction of time.

Robledo 70-m (Us): Available observing bands: L, K. Primarily a satellite tracking facility but can be used for RadioAstron experiments within the Spanish host country time option *if a proposal has a Spanish Co-I*. L-band is only available in LHC polarization.

Yebes 40-m (Ys): Available observing bands: C, K.

Noto 32-m (Nt): Available observing bands: L, C, K.

Medicina 32-m (Mc): Available observing bands: L, C. K-band is expected to become available for the AO-1 period.

Torun 32-m (Tr): Available observing bands: L, C, K.

RadioAstron data correlation

The default correlator for RadioAstron data is the ASC correlator. However, KSP teams can propose to correlate RadioAstron data on another correlator facility (e.g., DiFX-based) if such a request is confirmed by the requested correlator. This will reduce the load of the ASC correlator and will be seen as a contribution to the mission operations.