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RadioAstron Newsletter
Number 2
June 22, 2011
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1. RadioAstron Spacecraft Status

We are happy to report that all the tests of the RadioAstron spacecraft are successfully finished. The satellite with the 10-meter space radio telescope is planned to be shipped from Moscow to Baikonur on June 24. The launch is scheduled for July 18, 2011, 2am UTC, on the Zenit-2 rocket. For the case of bad weather, a few other days for launching are available until the end of July.

You can enjoy a few nice photos of the space radio telescope at the Lavochkin web site:

<http://www.laspacespace.ru/images/Spektr193.jpg>

<http://www.laspacespace.ru/images/Spektrsverx.jpg>

<http://www.laspacespace.ru/images/spectrrr11.jpg>

2. Ground support

The spacecraft will be controlled from two sites in Russia, Bear Lakes and Ussuriisk. The tracking station in Pushchino is tested successfully and ready for operations. The following radio telescopes are planned to participate in the first interferometric observations -- fringe search -- after successful engineering in-orbit-checkout phase: Arecibo, Badary, Effelsberg, GBT, Medicina, Noto, Svetloe, Zelenchukskaya.

More details could be found in the RadioAstron User Handbook
<http://www.asc.rssi.ru/radioastron/documents/rauh/en/rauh.pdf>
which will be updated soon with the most recent orbit.

Nikolai Kardashev (nkardash@asc.rssi.ru)

Yuri Kovalev (yyk@asc.rssi.ru)