

=====
Astro Space Center
RadioAstron Newsletter
Number 15
September 17, 2012
=====

RadioAstron Announcement of Opportunity - 1
for observations from July 2013 to June 2014 inclusive

The space VLBI mission RadioAstron, led by the Astro Space Center (ASC) of Lebedev Physical Institute, provides a range of specific and unique capabilities for detecting and imaging sources of cosmic radio emission at highest angular resolution. The optimal utilization of these capabilities relies on the construction and execution of a balanced scientific program for the Mission.

The scientific program of the RadioAstron will consist of three major parts: the Early Science Program (ESP), Key Science Program (KSP), and General Observing Time (GOT) projects. The Early Science Program, currently underway and planned to continue through 2012 until the middle of 2013, explores the main scientific capabilities of the RadioAstron observations and paves the way to subsequent engagement in the KSP and GOT programs.

Following the completion of the ESP observations, the RadioAstron KSP will commence in July 2013. The KSP is aimed specifically at bringing the focus on the areas of strongest scientific impact of RadioAstron and ensuring a long-lasting scientific impact of the Mission. The KSP observations within the AO-1 period will be carried out between July 2013 and June 2014 inclusive and will have a shared-risk nature since a number of observing modes have not yet been fully tested by the ASC.

Proposals are now invited for the RadioAstron Key Science Program experiments. The KSP application is a two-stage process. An initial Letter of Intent (LoI) should be directed to the Mission by 17 October 2012. Each team submitting a LoI is expected to participate in the KSP consortia organization meeting that will be held at the Max-Planck-Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn on 3-4 December 2012. Based on the positive feedback from the Mission and discussions with other potential KSP proposers during the December meeting, the resulting KSP consortia are expected to prepare full KSP proposals to be submitted by 1 February 2013 to the Mission and to the respective ground radio telescopes required for the specific observations.

For details, please consult RadioAstron AO-1 related documents available from <http://www.asc.rssi.ru/radioastron/ao-1/ao1.html>

With best regards,
Nikolai Kardashev (nkardash@asc.rssi.ru)
Yuri Kovalev (yyk@asc.rssi.ru)

To subscribe or un-subscribe to the Newsletter, use:
<http://asc-lebedev.ru/index2.php?engdep=22>