

Overflow Session Summary

Chair: Mike Pearlman/CfA

Andrew Dmytrotsa gave a paper on the recent upgrading of the Simiez SLR Station. Software and optics upgrades have improved data yield. The laser power supply was replaced with a loaner from the Katzively station after the on-site system failed. Upgrades continue with new servo drivers for the stepper motors.

Julie Horvath reported that the TLRs-4 system has been refurbished, upgraded, and transferred to a new site at Haleakala in Maui. The collocation with Moblas-7 at GSFC achieved closure to 1 - 2 mm and demonstrated full capability on both low satellites and LAGEOS. Operations are anticipated by the end of the year.

Nobuo Kudo gave a paper on "Using SLR, the GPS accuracy verification experiment of ALOS". Twelve selected stations from the ILRS network supported the GPS-SLR validation campaign from August 14 to 31, 2006. The satellite had a payload vulnerable to laser light and this campaign used the new restricted tracking procedures implemented by the ILRS network last year. The campaign showed that the offset between the GPS and the SLR orbits was within a few centimeters RMS, well within the mission requirement.

Hyung Chul Lim presented the "Korean Plan for SLR system development". He described the structure and activities of the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASSI). KASSI is building two satellites STSAT-2 and KOMPSAT-5 to be launched in 2007 and 2009 respectively. Both will carry retroreflector arrays for POD. Korea now has about 80 GPS stations and three VLBI stations and plans to build a mobile SLR station and a Fundamental Station that would include a permanent SLR. The development period for these systems will be about 2 years for the mobile system and 5 years for the Fundamental Station. In the meantime, the Chinese will provide a mobile system for use at a site in Korea for some period starting in 2007 to support the STSAT-2 satellites and ILRS requirements.

You Zhao reported on the "Fulfillment of the SLR daylight tracking of Changchun Station". The main thrust of the program is to improve orbit predictions, provide better filtering of sky noise, increase the alignment of the transmitting and receiving beams, and reduce stray light. The plan includes improved spatial, timing, and spectral filtering. The hardware and software improvements are nearly ready for testing. Work had been delayed because the Changchun Station was selected as the main Chinese tracking support for GIOVE-A, and tracking on this satellite took highest priority, but system testing is anticipated by early 2007.

Vladimir Glotov presented "GLONASS status updates; MCC activity in GLONASS Program". The paper reviewed the background and mission of the GLONASS Program which is building toward a 24 satellite complex in the 2009 timeframe. The International GLONASS - Pilot Project (IGLOS-PP) is a pilot service of the IGS to track and analyze data from the satellite constellation. The ILRS provides very important support for GLONASS by tracking three of the constellation satellites as designated by IGLOS. The need will continue and hopefully the tracking will increase. GLONASS provides a "collocation in space", a key tool to strengthening the reference frame. IGLOS-PP demonstrates the ability of IGS to accommodate other microwave satellite systems.