

Space VLBI

Richard Schilizzi
University of Manchester

Arnold van Ardenne Symposium, 29 May 2013

The history books now tell you that Space VLBI is all about the two missions, VSOP and RadioAstron, but there's much more to it than that.....

But let's start with how VLBI got going in Europe and in the Netherlands.

The early days of VLBI in Europe

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- 1975 June MPIfR cafeteria in Bonn
(Miley, Booth, Pauliny-Toth, Preuss)
- Sept first meeting of interested astronomers, Bonn
(including Casse, Baud, Brouw, Habing)
- 1976 Second and third meetings in Bonn (+AvA)
and Onsala (+RTS)

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“ODE to October 1976”

- ODE: the first purely European VLBI observations
 - Onsala-Dwingeloo-Effelsberg
- 18 cm
- Primary targets: 3C236, NML Cygnus
- Main players:
 - Arnold, George Miley, Baudewijn Baud, RTS,
all under the benevolent eye of Jean Casse

ODE: the observations

ODE EXPERIMENT

OCTOBER 1, 2

[A] CONTINUUM. F = 1610. MHz. BW = 2. MHz. STATION B = EFFELSBERG, C =

SOURCE	SCAN #	START			STOP	TAPES			SCAN TIMES		
		B	C	A		B	C	A	B-C	A-C	A-B
3C273	275-1530	15 02 32	14 59 55	15 00 00	15 30	MPI-151	MPI-76	OSO-1	27½	30	27½
3C315	-1600	15 36 45	15 35 55	15 33 10	16 00	"	"	"	23½	24	23½
4C39.25	276-0230	02 02 00	02 00 00	02 01 00	02 30	MPI-041	MPI-018	OSO-7	28	29	28
A00235	-0300	02 35 00	02 38 06	02 35 18	03 00	"	"	"	22	22	25
3C22	-0330	03 04 30	03 04 40	03 03 07	03 30	"	"	"	25½	25½	25½
3C84	-0400	03 35 00	03 35 15	03 33 15	04 00	"	"	"	25	25	25
3C263	-0430	04 07 06	04 08 05	04 06 20	04 30	MPI-042	MPI-019	OSO-8	22	22	23
4C39.25	-0500	04 40 15	04 34 33	04 32 15	05 00	"	"	"	20	25½	20
3C236	-0600	05 02 30	05 04 11	05 01 14	06 00	"	"	"	56	56	57½
-	-0700	06 06 10	06 07 46	06 05 42	07 00	MPI-043	MPI-025	OSO-9	52½	52½	54
"	-0800	07 02 10	07 02 33	07 00 27	08 00	"	"	"	57½	57½	58
"	-0900	08 05 00	08 08 25	08 05 18	09 00	MPI-053	MPI-012	OSO-10	51½	51½	55
"	-1000	09 00 00	09 02 39	09 00 25	10 00	"	"	"	57½	57½	59½
"	-1100	10 06 30	10 09 33	10 05 00	11 00	MPI-055	MPI-013	OSO-11	50½	50½	53½
"	-1200	11 00 00	11 03 44	11 00 48	12 00	"	"	"	56½	56½	59½
"	-1300	12 05 30	12 07 00	12 06 07	13 00	MPI-056	MPI-014	OSO-12	53	53	54

ODE: the observations



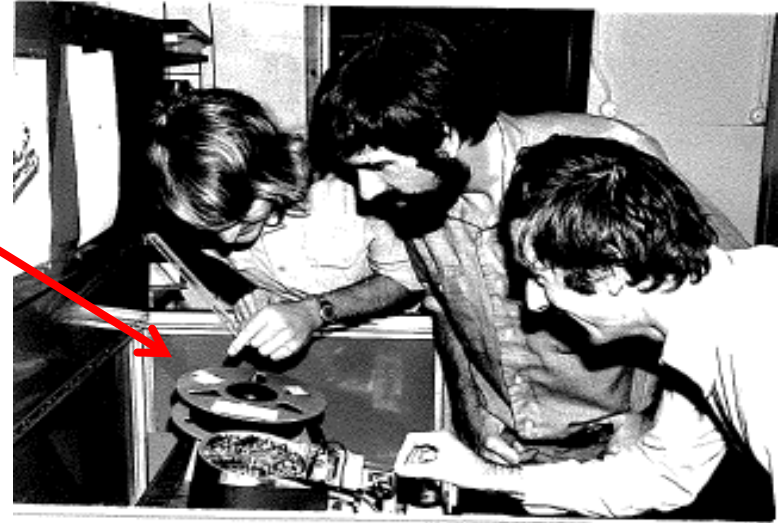
ODE: the observations

Who is this person?
Arnold or Baudewijn



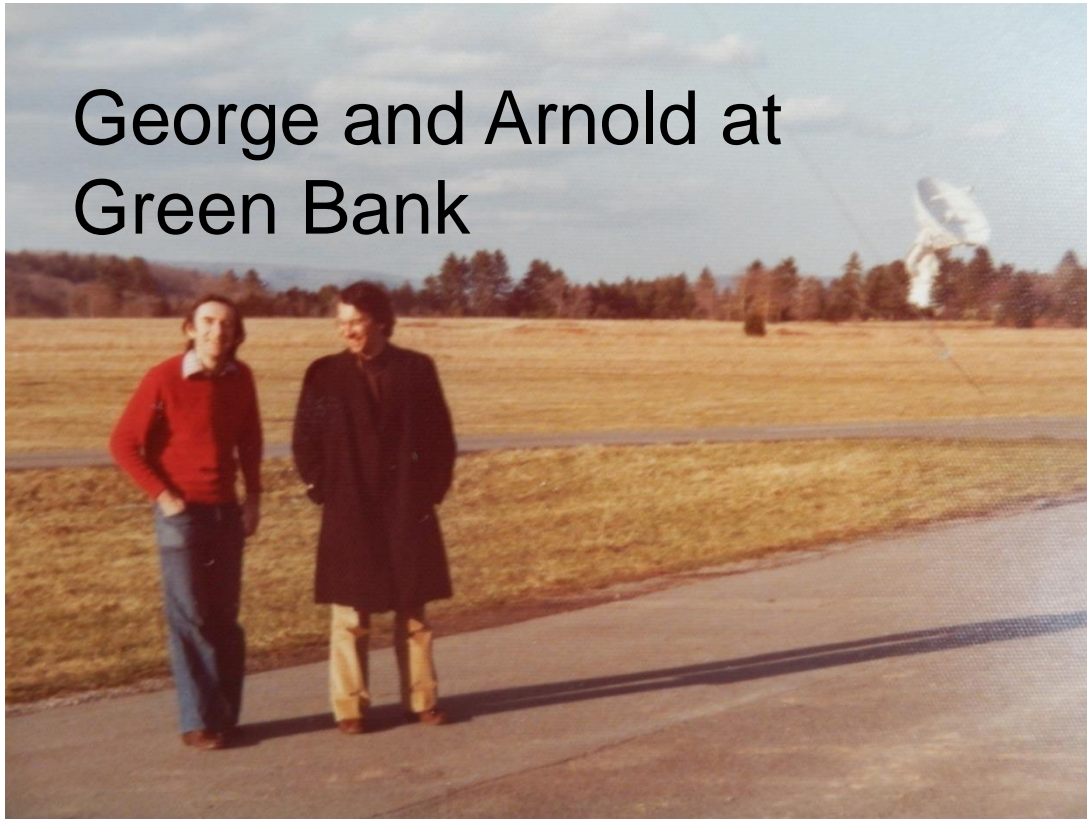
ODE: the observations

Ampex 2-inch tape recorder from Onsala



ODE: the correlation

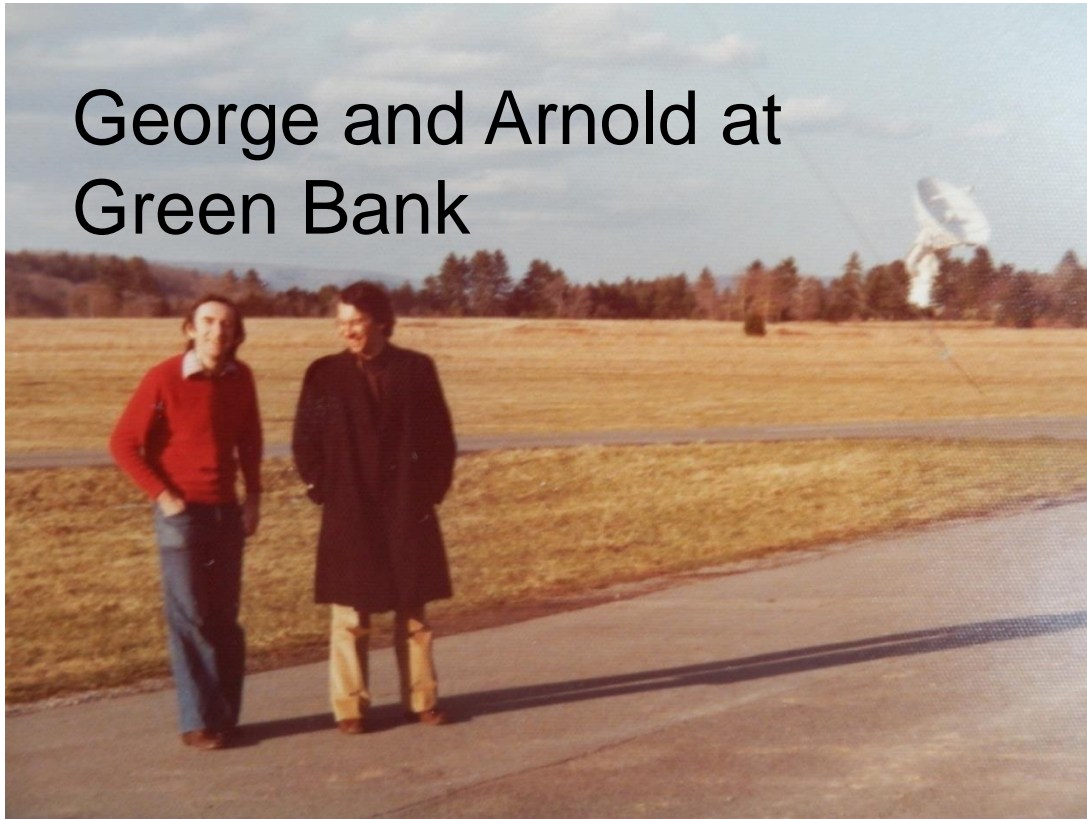
George and Arnold at
Green Bank



Some people took it
easy

ODE: the correlation

George and Arnold at
Green Bank



Some people took it
easy

while others did
the work in
Charlottesville....



Astron. Astrophys. 77, 1–6 (1979)

ASTRONOMY
AND
ASTROPHYSICS

High Resolution Observations of the Compact Central Component in the Giant Radio Source 3C 236

R. T. Schilizzi¹, G. K. Miley², A. van Ardenne¹, B. Baud^{2,*}, L. Bååth³, B. O. Rönnäng³, and I. I. K. Pauliny-Toth⁴

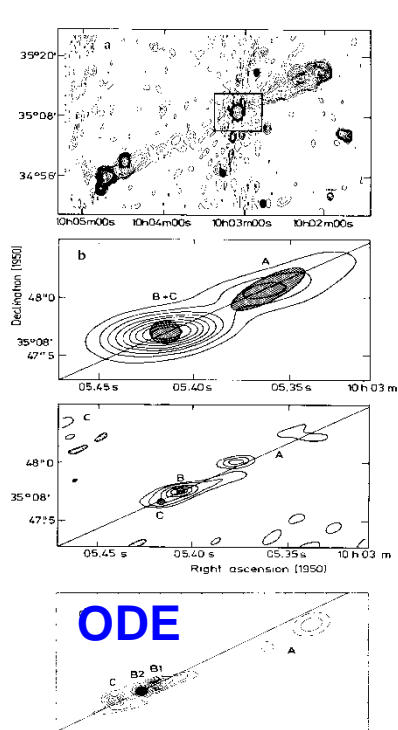
¹ Netherlands Foundation for Radio Astronomy, Radiosterrenwacht, Dwingeloo, The Netherlands

² Sterrewacht, Huygens Laboratorium, Leiden, The Netherlands

³ Onsala Space Observatory, Onsala, Sweden

⁴ Max Planck Institut für Radioastronomie, Auf dem Hügel 69, D-5300 Bonn 1, Federal Republic of Germany

Received October 16, 1978



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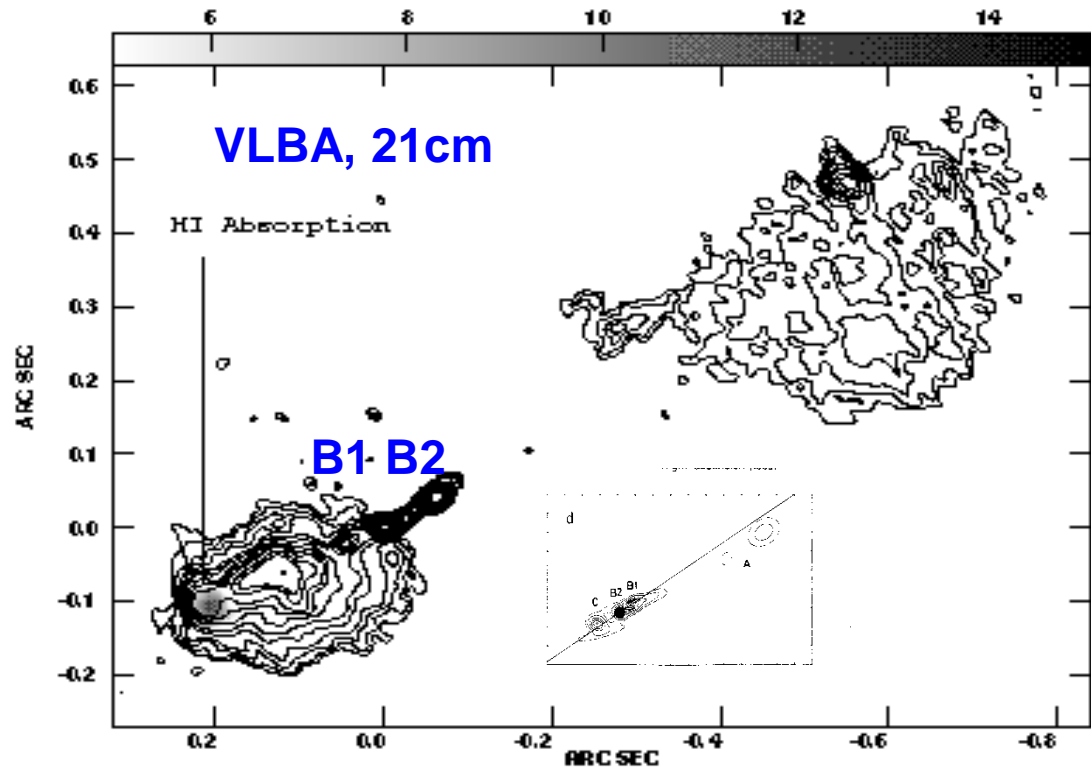
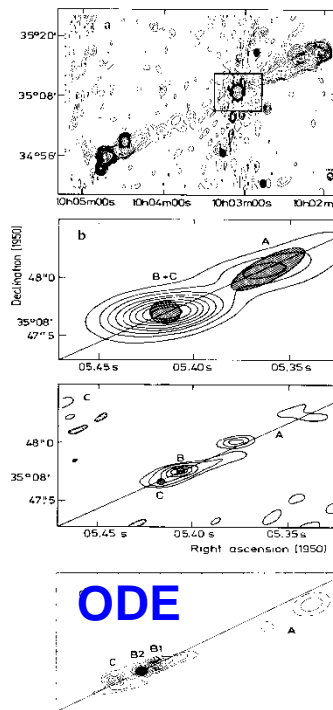
¹ Netherlands Foundation for

² Sterrewacht, Huygens Labc

³ Onsala Space Observatory,

⁴ Max Planck Institut für Ra

Received October 16, 1978



VLBI in Europe: the early days

1977 Fourth meeting in Jodrell Bank:
European VLBI Network discussed

Study of satellite linked VLBI using L-SAT
(Olympus) initiated

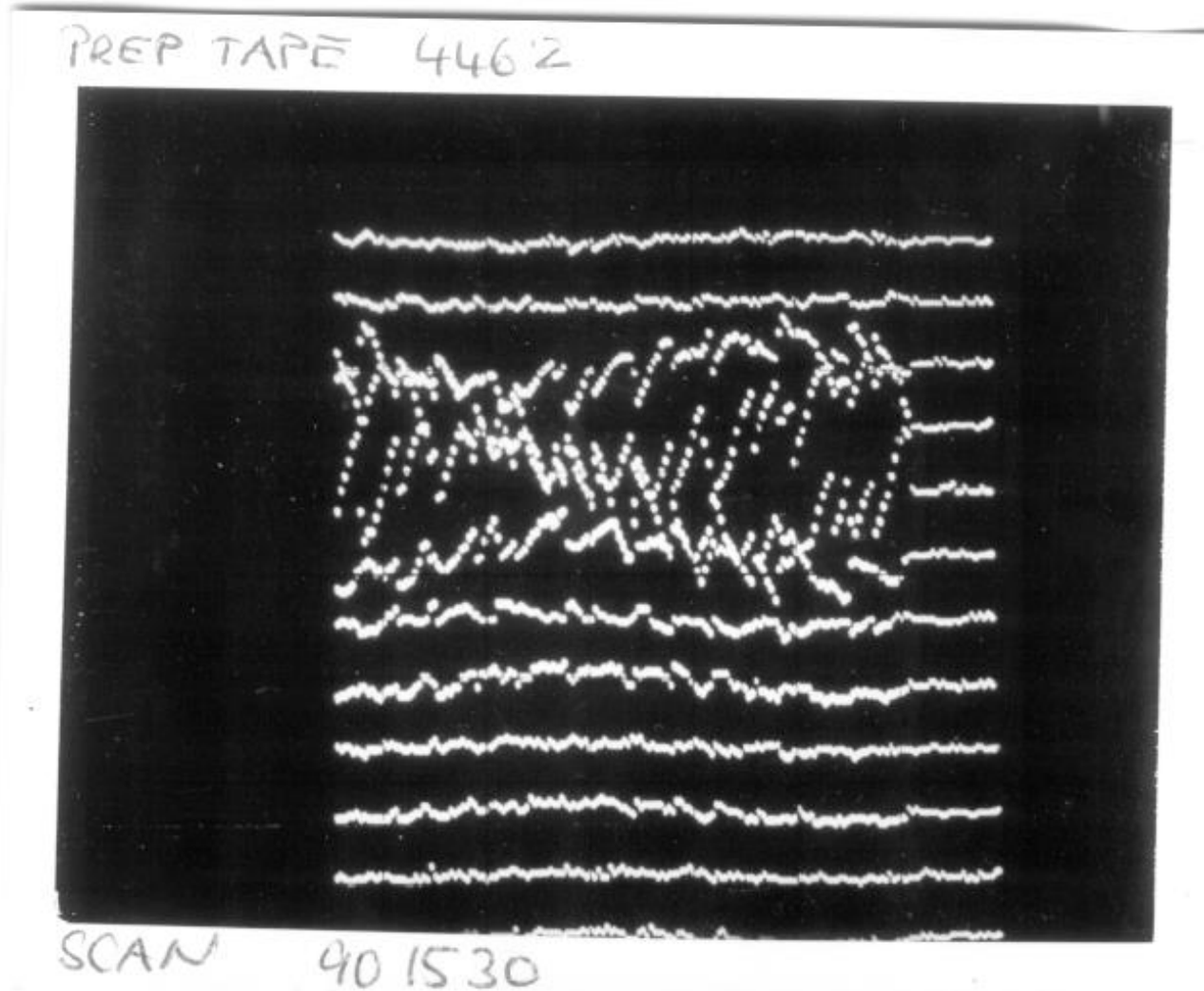
1978 Mk2 correlator in Bonn started operation

Second observation session J-O-D-E
(resulted in 2 baselines!)

First VLBI fringes with Westerbork in phased
array mode using Arnold's analogue adding box

VLBI in Europe: the early days

1977



1978

ed
ing box

and in NL from 1978 to 1982

- ❑ **1-inch IVS tape recorder (Mk2A, 2 MHz)**
- ❑ **Hydrogen maser (original Oscilloquartz physics package)**
- ❑ **MkIII tape recorder (56 MHz)**
- ❑ **Arnold starts designing the tied-array box for WSRT Digital Continuum Backend (designed by John O'Sullivan)**

and in NL from 1978 to 1982

- 1-in
- Hyc
- phy
- Mkl
- Arn
- WS
- by

Helsinki 1978



Box for
signed

and in NL from 1978 to 1982

- ❑ 1-inch IVS tape recorder (Mk2A, 2 MHz)
- ❑ Hydrogen maser (original Oscilloquartz physics package)
- ❑ MkIII tape recorder (56 MHz)
- ❑ Arnold starts designing the tied-array system for WSRT Digital Continuum Backend (being built by John O'Sullivan)
- ❑ **The EVN gets going in 1980....**
 - ❑ Arnold was chair of the Technical Working Group from 1984
- ❑ **And the first thoughts of a big correlator in Dwingeloo emerge, also in 1980**

EVN Board in Noto (Sicily) in 1988





and now to Space VLBI

ИЗВЕСТИЯ ВЫСШИХ УЧЕБНЫХ ЗАВЕДЕНИЙ

Том VIII, № 4

РАДИОФИЗИКА

1965

УДК 621.396.67:523.164

О РАДИОИНТЕРФЕРОМЕТРЕ С БОЛЬШОЙ БАЗОЙ*Л. И. Матвеевко, Н. С. Кардашев, Г. Б. Шоломицкий*

Рассмотрена система радиоинтерферометра без ретрансляции. Регистрация сигналов по промежуточной частоте происходит независимо на каждой антенне (путем записи на магнитную ленту) с последующей совместной обработкой этих записей. Использование двух независимых гетеродинов налагает следующее условие на стабильность их частоты

$$\sqrt{\frac{\Delta f_{\Gamma}^2}{f_{\Gamma}}} \leq 1,6 \cdot 10^{-11} D \quad (D — \text{длина базы в км}).$$
 Обсуждаются достоинства такого интерферометра.

Stage 0: First thoughts...

Radiophysics 1965

On Radiointerferometry with long baseline

L. I. Matveyenko, N. S. Kardashev, G. B. Sholomitskii

Stage 1: The very early days of space

VLBI: 1977 - 1982

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

ENGINEERING MEMORANDUM

315-16

11 February 1977

TO: R. A. Preston
FROM: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: VLBI with an Earth-Orbiting Antenna

ABSTRACT:

Satellite-borne VLBI terminals could be used to provide maps of compact celestial radio sources with finer resolution, less ambiguity, and more efficiency than earth-bound VLBI techniques. These maps and their time variability would help unravel the physical processes that govern some of the most enigmatic classes of celestial objects. Hence, VLBI should be one of the principle justifications for placing a large parabolic antenna in earth orbit. This memorandum explores the advantages, technical problems, and scientific goals associated with earth-orbiting VLBI.

RAP:tg



Stage 1: The very early days of space

VLBI: 1977 - 1982

INVESTIGATION AND TECHNICAL PLAN

Volume 1

Of a Proposal to the

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

for a

VERY LONG BASELINE INTERFEROMETER STATION ON 1981-1983 SPACELAB MISSION

This joint proposal is submitted by the

CENTER FOR SPACE RESEARCH OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
and

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

and the
JET PROPULSION LABORATORY OF THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

DR BERNARD F. BURKE

MIT, 26-335
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-253-2572

15 NOVEMBER 1978

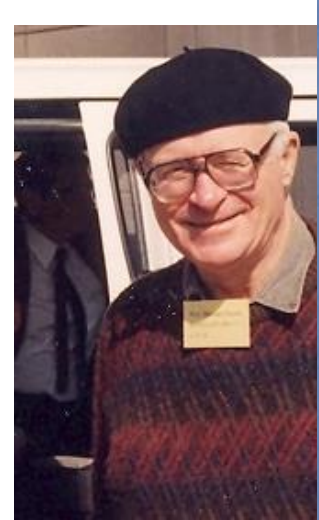
AO-OSS-2-78

15 November 1978



Stage 1: The very early days of space

VLBI: 1977 - 1982



Final Report
Mission Definition Study for a VLBI Station
Utilizing the Space Shuttle

NAS-5-25543

Center for Space Research
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139

Professor Bernard F. Burke October 12, 1982



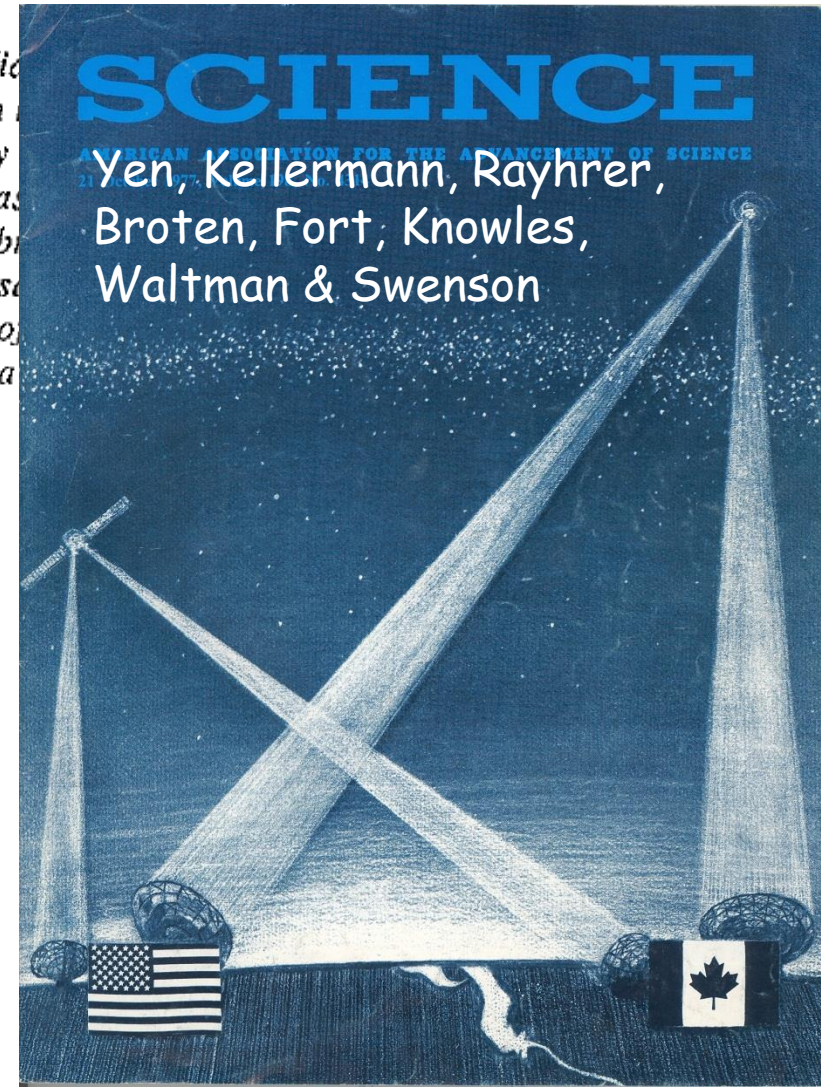
CENTER FOR SPACE RESEARCH
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



1977

Real-Time, Very-Long-Baseline Interferometry Based on the Use of a Communications Satellite

Abstract. The Hermes satellite, a joint Canadian and American project, was used to provide a communication channel between the United States and Ontario, for very-long-baseline interferometry. This system made possible instantaneous correlation of the data as well as real-time data transfer, far in excess of that of earlier VLBI systems, by virtue of a broadcast channel. With the use of a geostationary communications satellite, the need for tape recorders and the most troublesome part of VLBI, data processing, is eliminated. A further possibility is the development of a



Europe got involved via a different route - satellite-linked VLBI

1977

Real-Time, Very-Long-Baseline Interferometry Based on the Use of a Communications Satellite

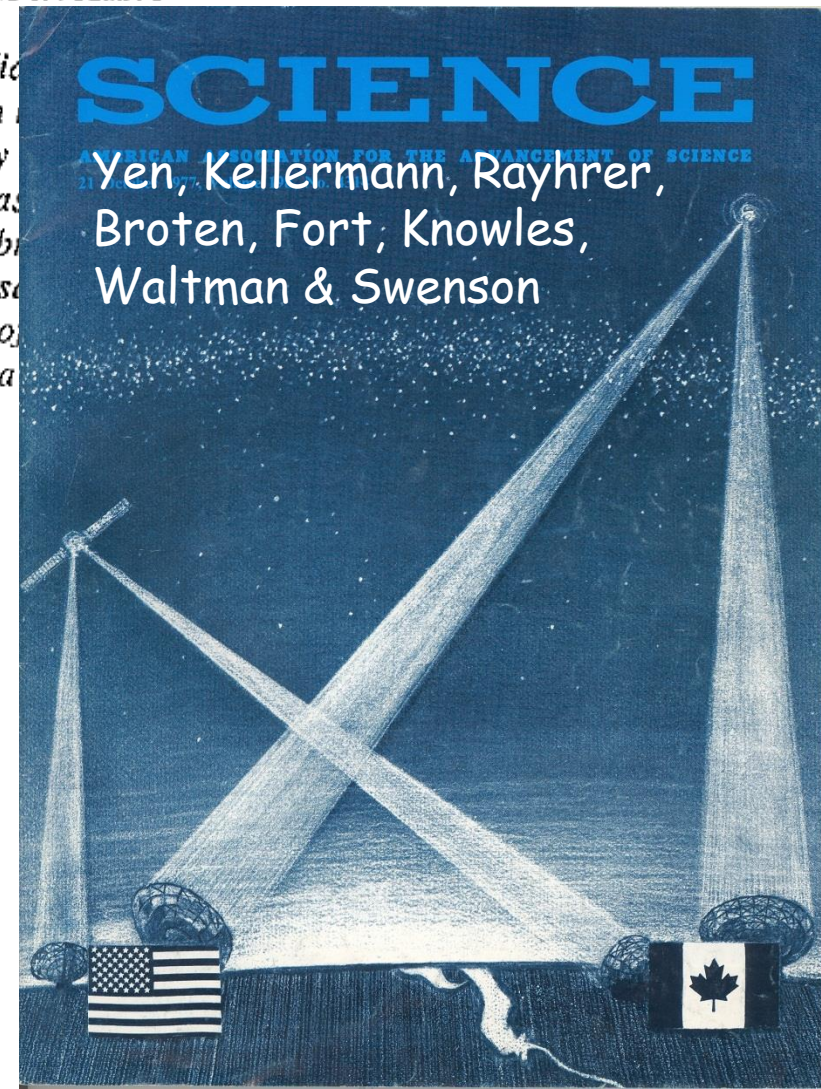
Abstract. The Hermes satellite, a joint Canadian and American project, is used to provide a communication channel between the United States and Ontario, for very-long-baseline interferometry. It provides a possible instantaneous correlation of the data as well as a correlation time longer than that of earlier VLBI systems, by virtue of a baseline of 36,000 km. With the use of a geostationary communications satellite, the need for tape recorders and the most troublesome part of VLBI processing is eliminated. A further possibility is the development of a

1978: ESA Feasibility Study of satellite-linked VLBI (Schilizzi et al)

1981: ESA Phase A study of satellite-linked VLBI using L-SAT (Schilizzi et al)

1982: Phase comparison via ESA's Orbital Test Satellite by van Ardenne et al

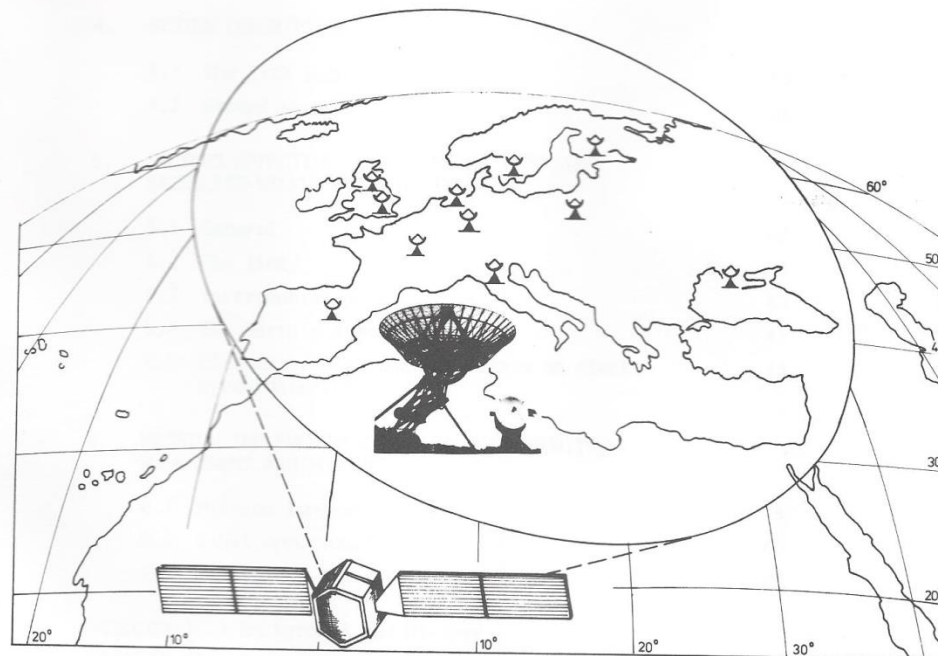
1982: QUASAT Space VLBI proposal to ESA





VERY LONG BASELINE
RADIO INTERFEROMETRY
USING A GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITE

PHASE A STUDY



Phase Comparison

A High-Precision Phase-Comparison Experiment Using a Geostationary Satellite

ARNOLD VAN ARDENNE, JOHN D. O'SULLIVAN, AND ALAIN DE DIANOUS

Abstract—A phase-comparison experiment using a two-way communication link at 14.2/11.5 GHz via a geostationary satellite and a single groundstation is described. Links of this kind can be used in applications where a high degree of phase synchronization is required between signals at frequencies of the order of gigahertz, which are derived from remotely located high-stability clocks, or where a high degree of fractional-frequency stability between remote clocks needs to be maintained.

The link precision was found to be better than 10 ps over intervals in the range 10–1000 s. At these and longer timescales, the link is more stable than a rubidium standard. Present fractional-frequency stability capabilities are better than 10^{-14} in 1000 s and indicate better than 10^{-15} in 24 h. Improvements may lead to 10^{-15} in 1000 s and a few parts in 10^{-16} in 24 h. In the latter case, the link performance would exceed the capabilities of present H-maser in the region between a few times 10^3 and 10^4 s.

Preliminary estimates of the link performance for a multistation setup indicate that ionospheric variations may determine the overall fractional-frequency stability.

INTRODUCTION

WITH THE ADVENT of the geosynchronous satellite, the ability to transfer time between remotely located clocks has been dramatically improved [1]–[4]. Saburi *et al.*

[4] demonstrated the possibility of comparing high-stability atomic clocks to within an accuracy of 10 ns by means of a two-way satellite communication link. Other techniques are potentially capable of even higher accuracies [5], [6]; the needs and merits of existing and planned methods are summarized by Leschiutta [7]. There are a number of other applications where, as a measure of link performance, a precision of 10 ps or better, on time scales from 10 s to 24 h, is necessary or desired. Among these is the radio-astronomy technique of Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI), also used for geodetic purposes, for which the method of comparison described in this paper was proposed [8], [9].

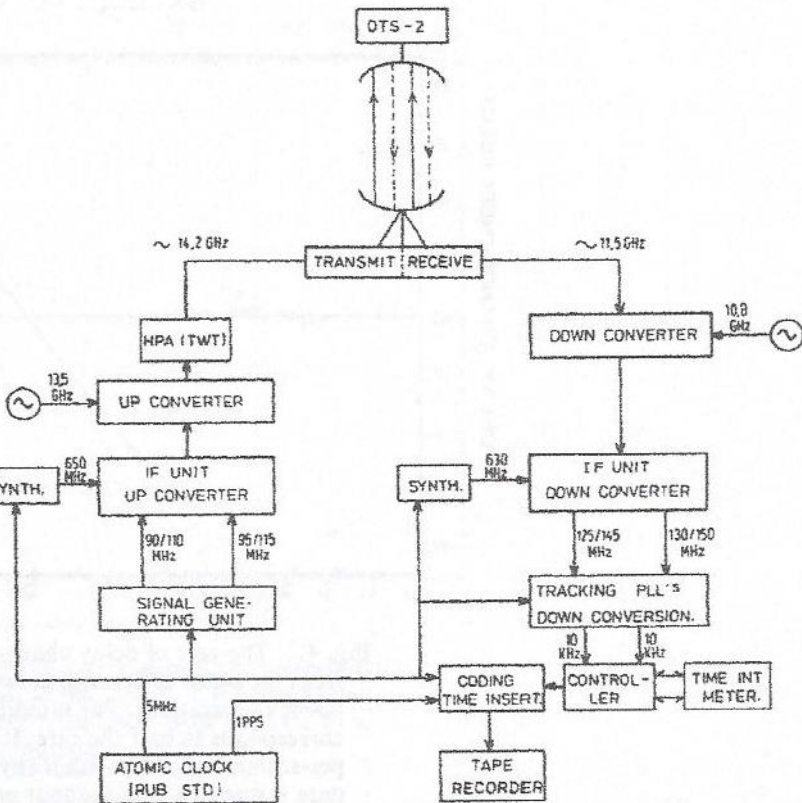
The high fractional-frequency stability requirement of 10^{-12} to 10^{-16} , corresponding to a link precision of 10 ps over these timescales, is not limited to VLBI applications and could be applied where frequency synchronization or comparison to a high level of precision is of prime importance. Such stabilities are apparently not obtainable with other methods.

These precisions exceed the capabilities of a present-day rubidium standard after some tens of seconds and of hydrogen masers after a few $\times 10^3$ to 10^4 s [10], [11]. Attainment of such stabilities dictates near optimal use of the available transmission channel and places severe requirements on the choice of the signal-modulation scheme.

The present experiment made use of the OTS-2 satellite operating at 14.2/11.5 GHz in geosynchronous orbit and launched in 1978 under the auspices of the European Space

Manuscript received June 8, 1981; revised November 30, 1982.
A. van Ardenne and J. D. O'Sullivan are with The Netherlands Foundation for Radio Astronomy (NFRA), 7990 AA Dwingeloo, The Netherlands.
A. de Dianous is with the European Space Technological Centre (ESTEC), 2200 AG Noordwijk, The Netherlands.

Phase comparison via OTS

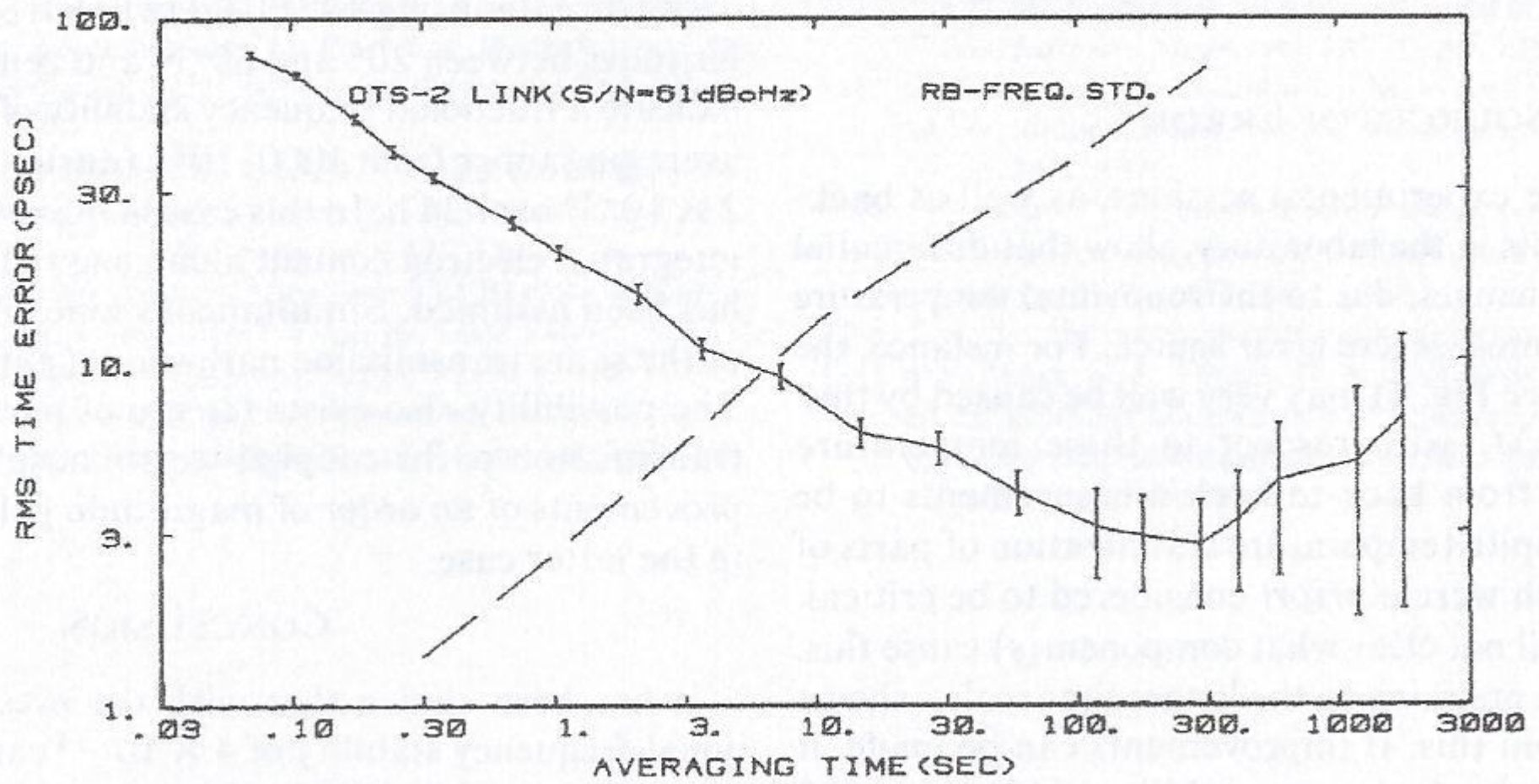


- Geostationary satellite
- Multi-tone transmission
- Phase noise from on-board translation oscillator is common to all tones and is cancelled via differential phase measurements between the tones
- Satellite motion and propagation delay cancelled by use of the 2-way up and down links



Phase comparison via OTS

RESID. RMS TIME ERROR (ALLAN VAR.) DD: 80/5/21



Stage 1: The very early days of space

VLBI: 1977 - 1982

KRT-10 deployed
on Salyut-6 in 1979



Nikolay Kardashev



SPACE VLBI

H. HIRABAYASHI, Y. CHIKADA, M. INOUE, M. MORIMOTO

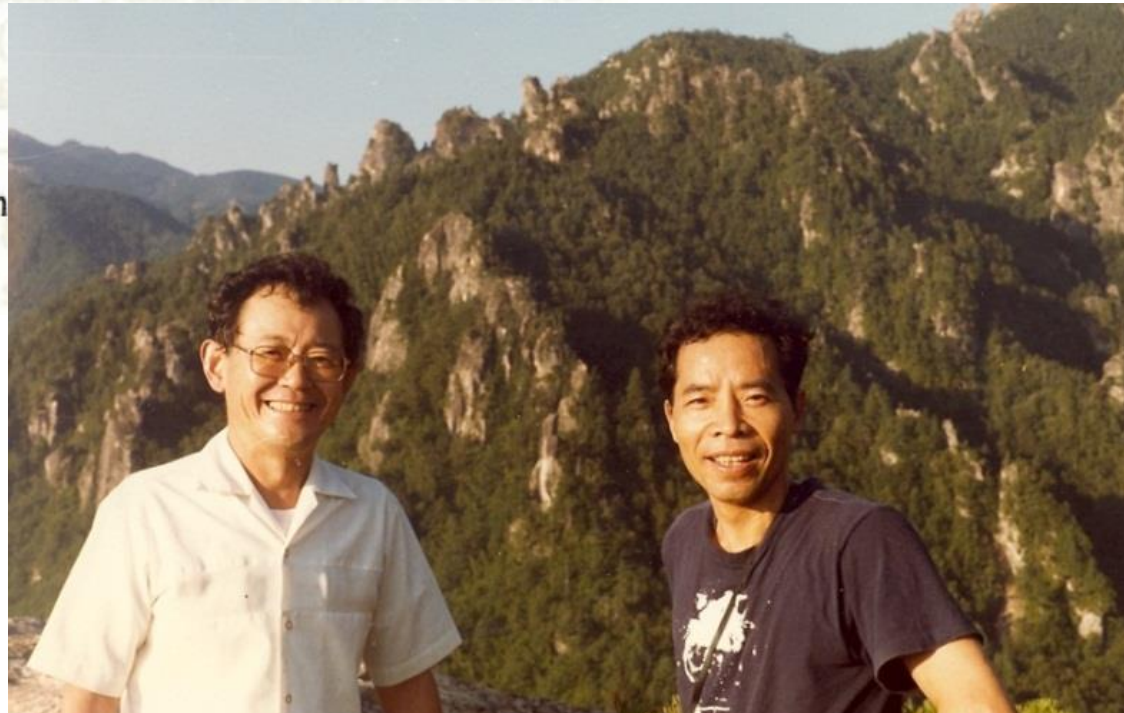
Nobeyama Radio Observatory*, Tokyo Astronomical Observatory,

University of Tokyo, Nobeyama, Minamisaku-gun

Nagano - Ken 384-13, Japan

(Submitted to Space Station

Oct. 1982



Large diameter
antenna on US
Space Station

Stage 2 was ushered in by QUASAT

'QuaSat' brengt kleine radiobronnen in heelal in beeld

Naarmate de sterrenkunde technisch in staat is, meer te achterhalen van wat zich diep in het heelal afspeelt, ontdekt ze steeds meer details. Uit zuiver wetenschappelijk oogpunt is het van belang, natuurkundige processen te bestuderen die zich onder extreme omstandigheden afspeelen op tienduizenden of miljoenen malde afstand die het licht in een jaar bereikt. Maar het kan van praktisch nut zijn die processen te begrijpen, die zich overal ter weg in de ijle ruimte voltrekken. Processen waarbij zo onvoorstelbaar grote hoeveelheden energie in het spel zijn, dat men ze in aardse laboratoria zelfs niet kan simuleren. Zo wetenschappelijk kan zulk onderzoek niet worden, of het levert bovendien wel een aantal praktische bijdragen aan de technologie.

En voorbeeld van dergelijk onderzoek is het Very Long Baseline Interferometry-programma (VLBI), waaraan de Stichting Radiostraling Zon- en Melkwegstelsel in Dwingeloo - samen met elf andere observatoria tussen Italië en Californië - werkt.

'Big Bang'

Twintig miljard jaar geleden moet het heelal ontstaan zijn uit een immense ontploffing, 'the Big Bang'. De energie van die explosie werd omgezet in materie die we nu waarnemen als planeten, sterren, melkwegstelsels, gas- en stofwolken en quasars - objecten, die sterke radiostraling uitzenden maar die tot nu toe optisch niet zichtbaar gemaakt konden worden.

De sterren ontstonden door de verlichting van onvoorstelbaar grote hoeveelheden van moleculen. Onder de druk van hun eigen zwaartekracht ontstonden ze tot wat we nu als een ster waarnemen. Deze ster blijft zichzelf aandrukken en haar nucleaire brandstof verbruiken door processen van

Sterren geven licht. Daardoor kan je ze zien. Tussen alle sterren die aan de hemel zichtbaar zijn, staan er nog miljoenen die zelfs met de sterkste optische telescoop niet meer te bereiken zijn. Ze zijn te zwak of ze worden gemaskeerd door enorme wolken van gas en stof.

Maar sterren, daar kan je ook naar luisteren. Uit de peilloze diepten van het heelal bereiken ook signalen van allerlei (meestal) kernfysische processen onze aarde. Het zijn ethergolven, die alle tesamen op een gerichte ontvanger een cacofonie van constante ruis vormen. Die ruis is een uitdaging aan sterrenkundigen om de aard van vele onbekende - maar vermoede - processen te onttraadselen.

Daarmee houdt in Nederland de stichting Radiostraling Zon en Melkweg zich bezig. De stichting heeft observatoria in Westerbork (sinds 1970) en Dwingeloo (sinds 1955). In Dwingeloo wordt een plan uitgewerkt om - in internationale samenwerking - de aard van een aantal „zeer kleine“ stralingsbronnen meer effectief te onderzoeken dan tot nu toe mogelijk was. De eerste fase van het project was het koppelen van een aantal radiotelescopen tot één grote radiotelescoop met een effectieve diameter van 10.000 kilometer. De tweede stap is „QuaSat“, een radiotelescoop, te plaatsen in een elliptische baan van 5.700 tot 12.500 om de aarde. Als de European Space Agency (ESA) in 1988 het plan voor de satellietantenne aanvaardt zal, vooruitlopend op de lancering, in Dwingeloo een centrale voor opslag en verwerking van de gegevens gebouwd moeten worden. Want door de internationale samenwerking zou anders de capaciteit voor dataverwerking binnen enkele jaren uitgeput zijn.



Stage 2: 1983-1988



SCI(85)5
NOVEMBER 1985

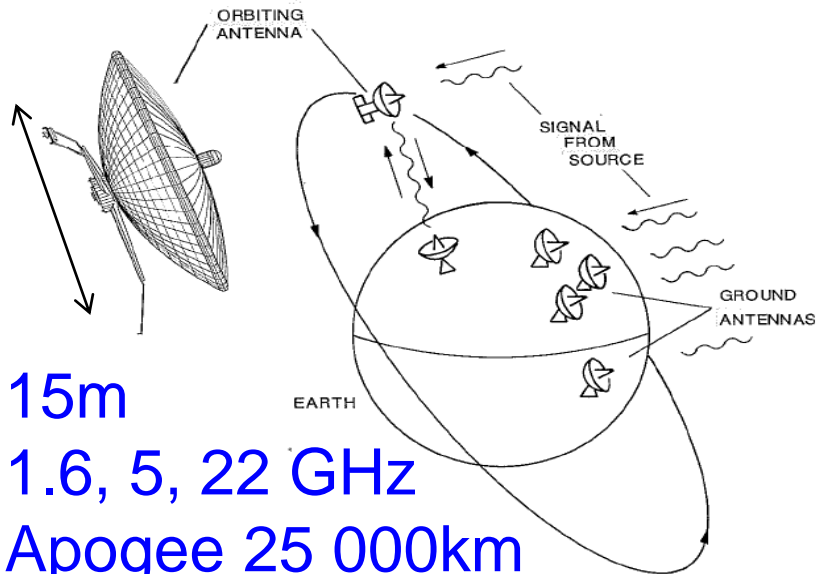
esa SP-213

QUASAT

A SPACE VLBI SATELLITE

1983-1985

ASSESSMENT STUDY



15m
1.6, 5, 22 GHz
Apogee 25 000km

Quasat –

a VLBI observatory
in space

Proceedings of a Workshop
held at Gross Enzersdorf, Austria,
on 18–22 June 1984

1984

Study team
included Arnold
and Peter W



1984: QUASAT Workshop

CONTENTS

List of Participants

Members of the Scientific Organising Committee

Introductory Papers

Cosmology

H. van der Laan

Some aspects of active galactic nuclei

A.C. Fabian

The galaxy scene and Quasat

C. A. Norman

The Quasat mission: an overview

R.T. Schilizzi et al.

Some prospects of space VLBI

R.Z. Sagdeev

Space VLBI studies in Japan

M. Morimoto

High-level coordination... began to take place in 1984

- COSPAR Ad-hoc Committee on Space VLBI
 - served as a body to coordinate the three different efforts until the mission-specific International Scientific Committees were formed

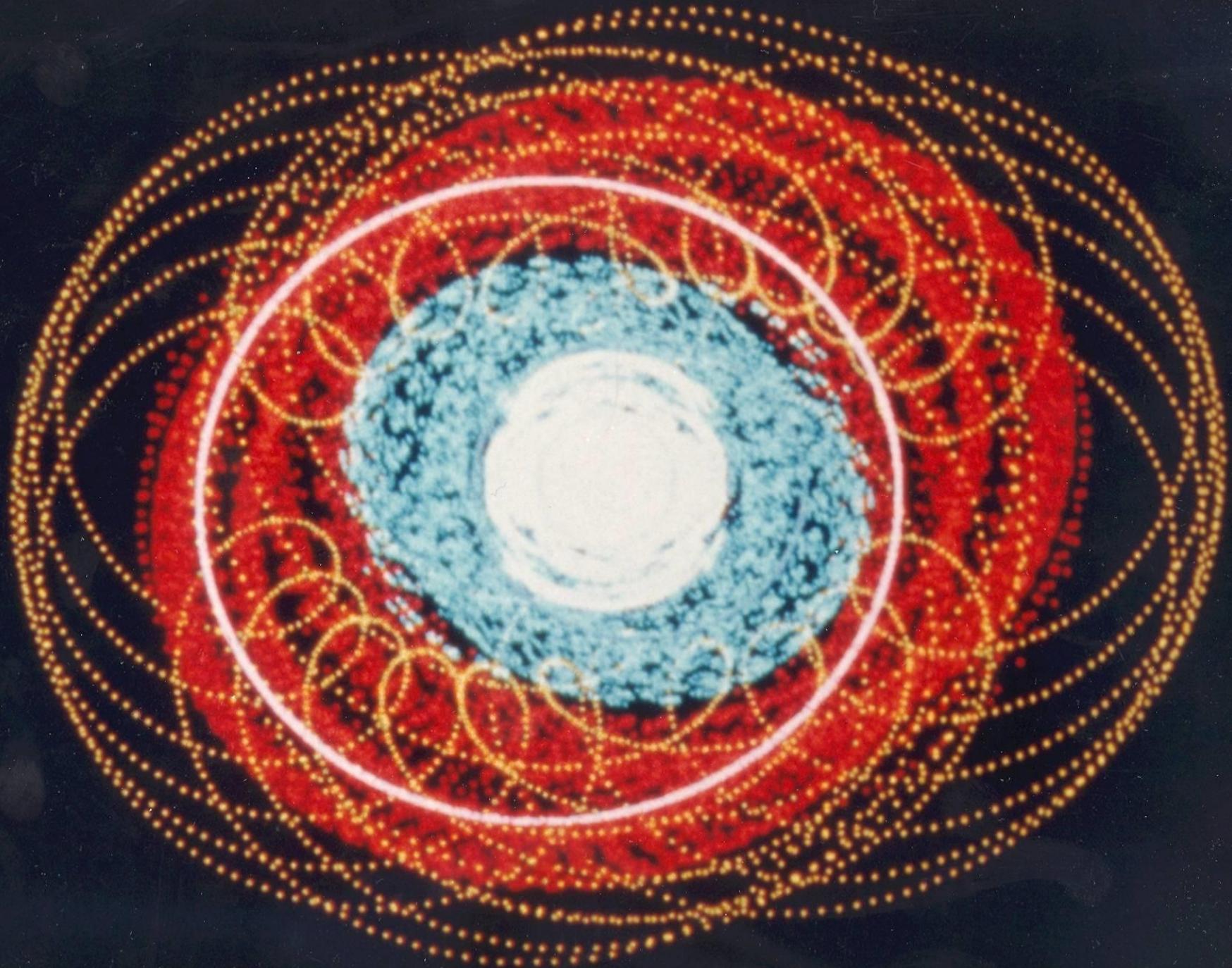
- Inter-(Space) Agency Consultative Group
 - Panel 1 on Space VLBI

Dual-satellite space VLBI

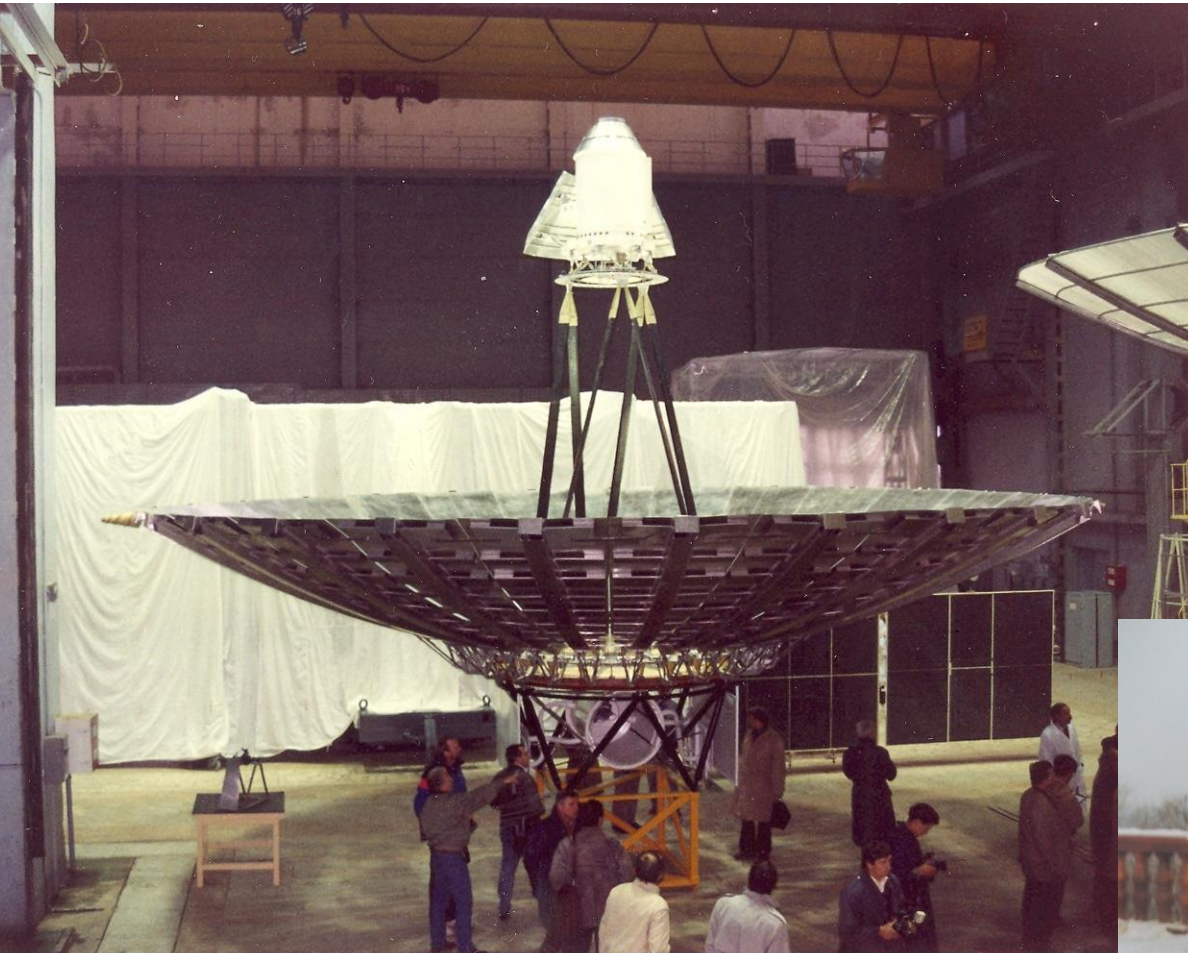
In 1984, the QUASAT team realised that it was impossible to combine superb uv-coverage with a substantial jump in angular resolution compared to ground-based VLBI.

So why not combine forces and simultaneously fly two satellites in complementary orbits, and achieve "perfect" uv coverage out to 60 000 km?

QUASAT + RadioAstron or
QUASAT + Japanese satellite



RadioAstron was approved in 1985



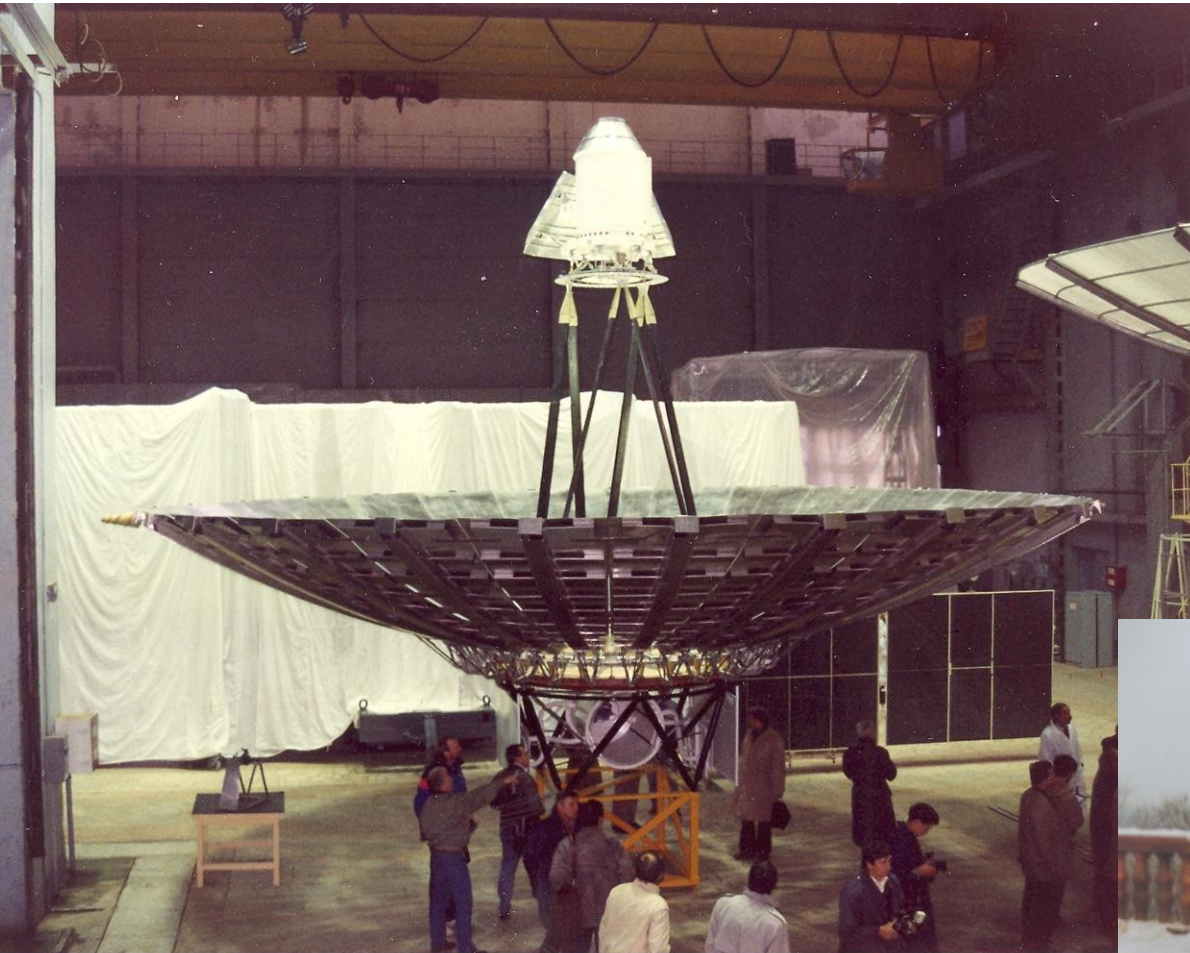
10m diameter, 0.3, 1.6, 5, 22 GHz,
apogee 100 000km, later changed
to 350 000 km



Moscow in -25° C weather



RadioAstron was approved in 1985



Moscow in -25° C weather



10m diameter, 0.3, 1.6, 5, 22 GHz,
apogee 100 000km, later changed
to 350 000 km

YERAC XII in 1979



YERAC XII in 1979



EVN 6cm receiver for Radioastron



Kardashev and Setti
signing the agreement
in 1986

EVN 6cm receiver for Radioastron

Kardashev and Setti
signing the agreement
in 1986



**Although it was built in
Dwingeloo and Bonn,
tested at ESTEC, and
delivered to Moscow, it did
not fly on RADIOASTRON.**

But that's another story.....



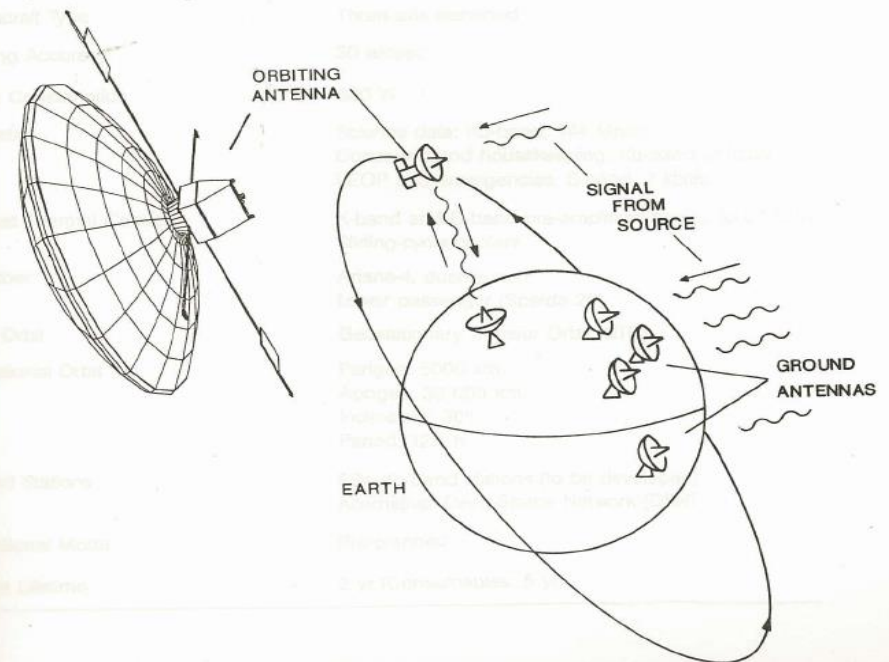
Phase A Study
1986-1988



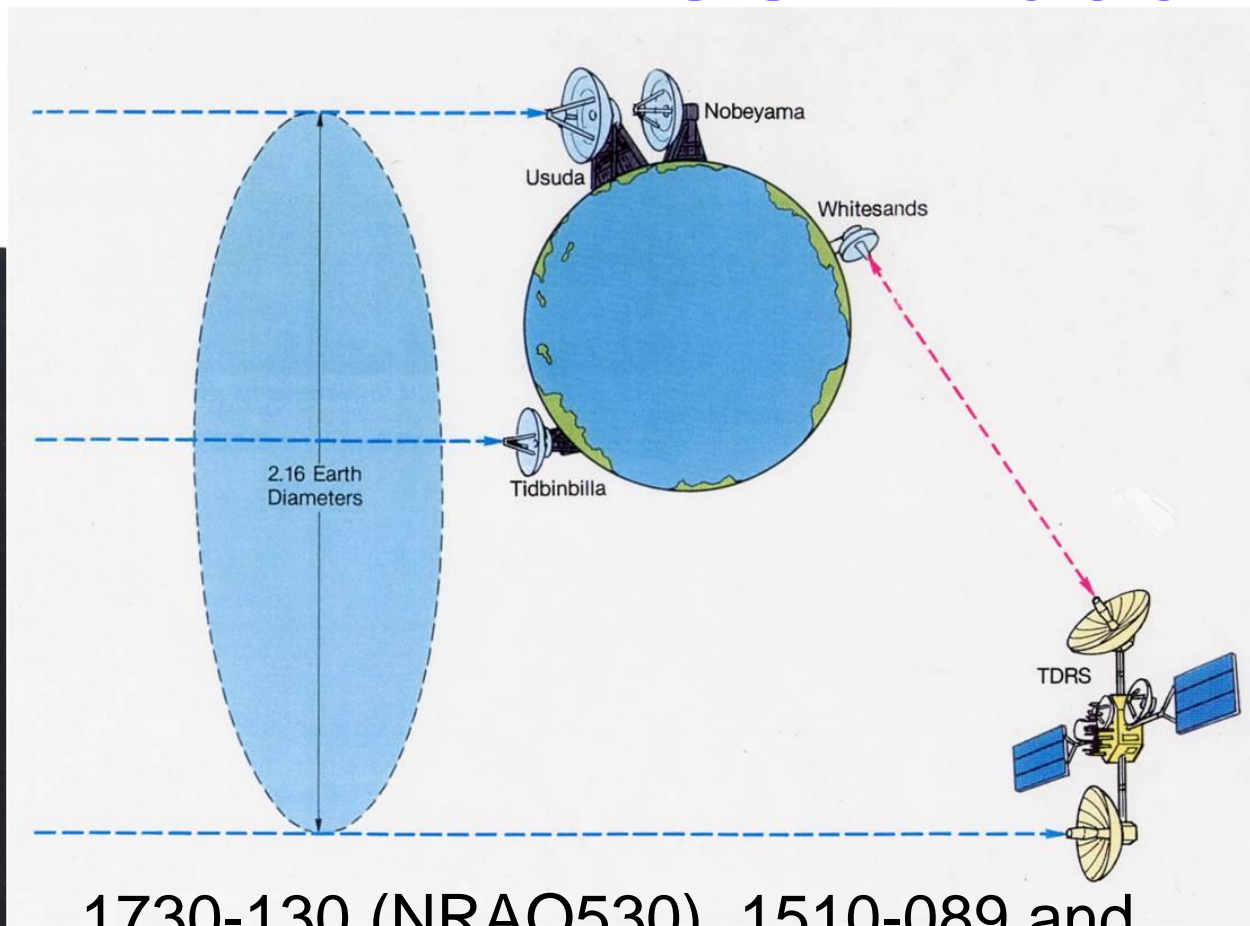
SCI (88) 4
October 1988

QUASAT

A SPACE VLBI SATELLITE
REPORT ON THE PHASE A STUDY



First space VLBI fringes with TDRSS in 1986



1730-130 (NRAO530), 1510-089 and
1741-038, detected at 2.3 GHz

First space VLBI fringes with TDRSS in 1986

12

LINFIELD ET AL.

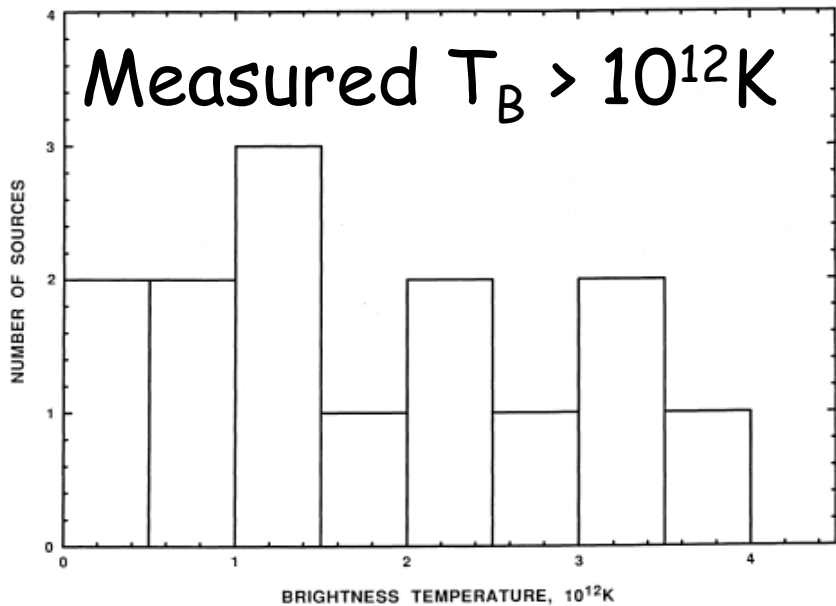
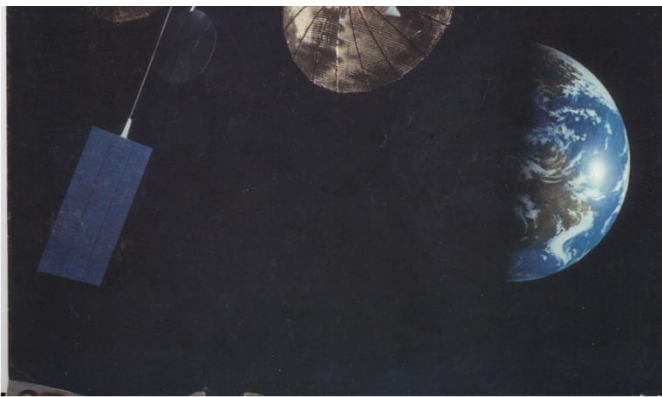
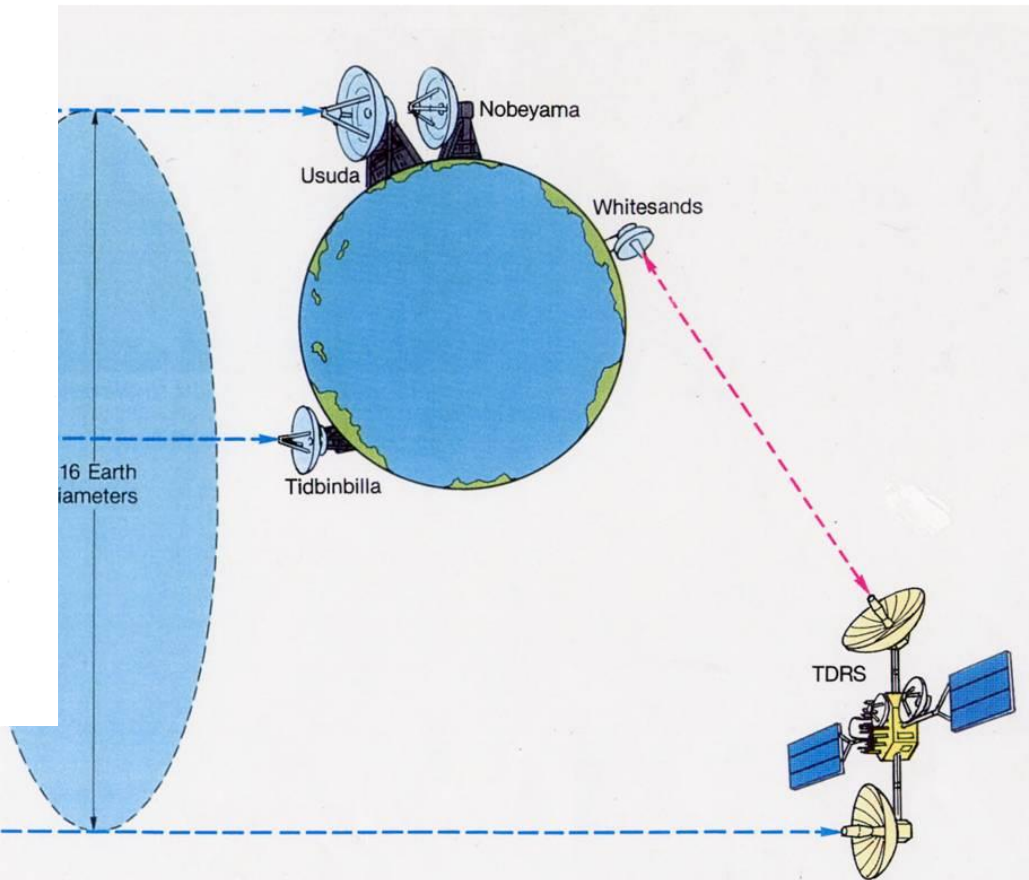


FIG. 4.—Histogram of the measured brightness temperatures for the 14 sources listed in Table 4



1730-130 (NRAO530), 1510-089 and 1741-038, detected at 2.3 GHz

So what happened in the end?

QUASAT was shot down by ESA in October 1988 and finally died in 1989 (lost out to Cassini-Huygens)

VSOP was approved by ISAS in December 1988

- 8m diameter 1.6, 5, 22 GHz; apogee 21 600 km

Working closely with the Soviet Union on RadioAstron still didn't have the seal of approval from you know who...

So the primary focus for the QUASAT team was on VSOP

while continuing to work on RadioAstron, participating in advisory committee meetings and building receivers

Stage 3: 1988 – 2012

VSOP and RadioAstron

The Ground Segment

Global VLBI Working Group

Proposed in the Capitol Bar in Socorro in 1990 by Ron Ekers, Roy Booth and Paul Vandembout, **chair: Roy Booth**

The Ground Segment

Global VLBI Working Group

Proposed in the Capitol Bar in Socorro in 1990 by Ron Ekers, Roy Booth and Paul Vandembout, **chair: Roy Booth**

The GVWG was established in 1990 as a Working Group of Commission J at the URSI General Assembly in Prague, and recognized in 1991 at the IAU General Assembly in Buenos Aires as a Division X Working Group. The mandate of the GVWG, its membership and chair, are reviewed at Commission J business sessions during URSI General Assemblies.

The current mandate of the GVWG comprises the following tasks:

1. To develop a concept for an International VLBI Network, comprising existing or future national and regional networks.
2. To promote compatibility of technology in VLBI instrumentation.
3. To serve as a liaison between ground-based observatories and national or international space agencies, for coordination of participation by ground radio telescopes in Space VLBI missions.

The GVWG carries out its tasks in conjunction with the organizations concerned, and presents summaries of its activities to URSI Commission J and IAU Division X at their respective General Assemblies.

The Ground Segment

Global VLBI Working Group

3. To serve as a liaison between ground-based observatories and national or international space agencies, for coordination of participation by ground radio telescopes in Space VLBI missions.

The Ground Segment

Global VLBI Working Group



VSOP needed a bit of help from friends with connections.....



Launch in February 1997



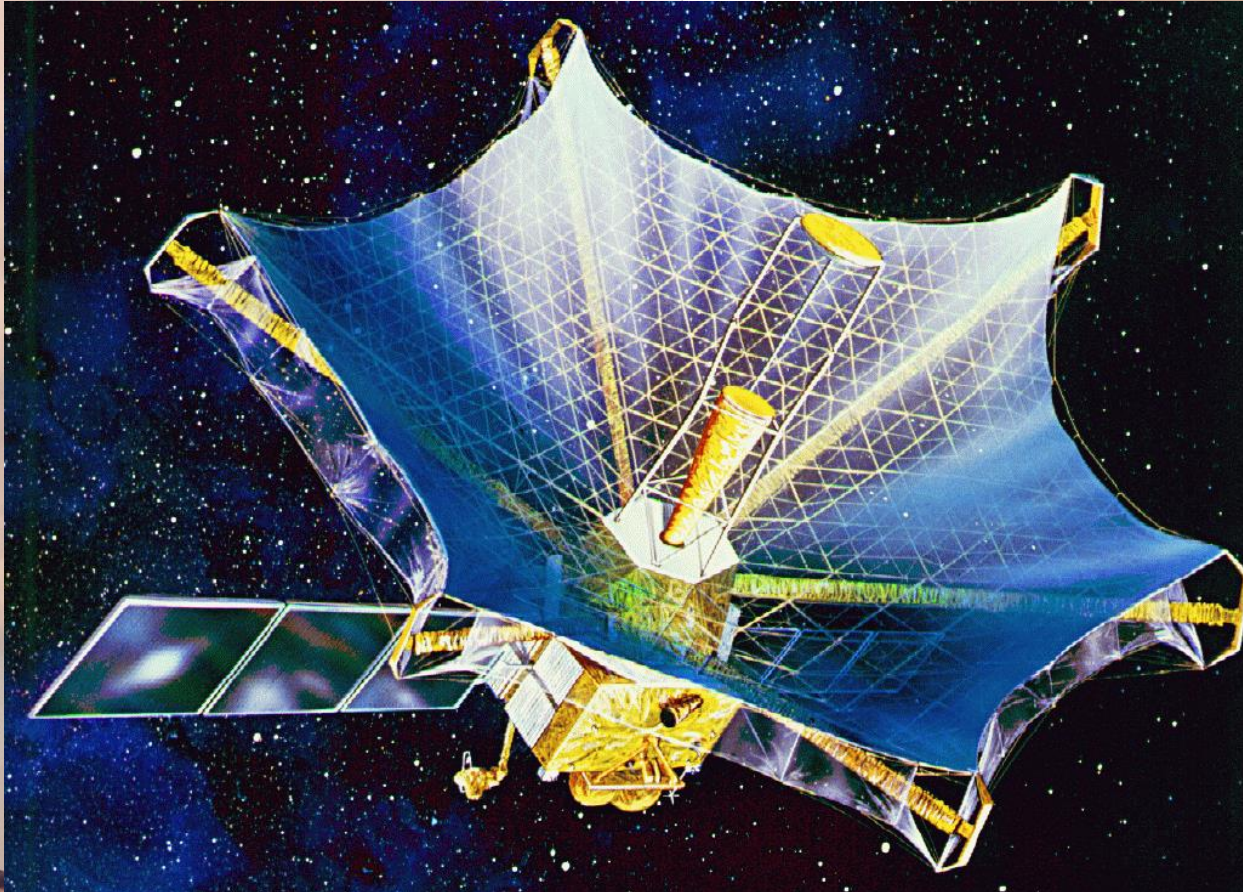
Launch in February 1997



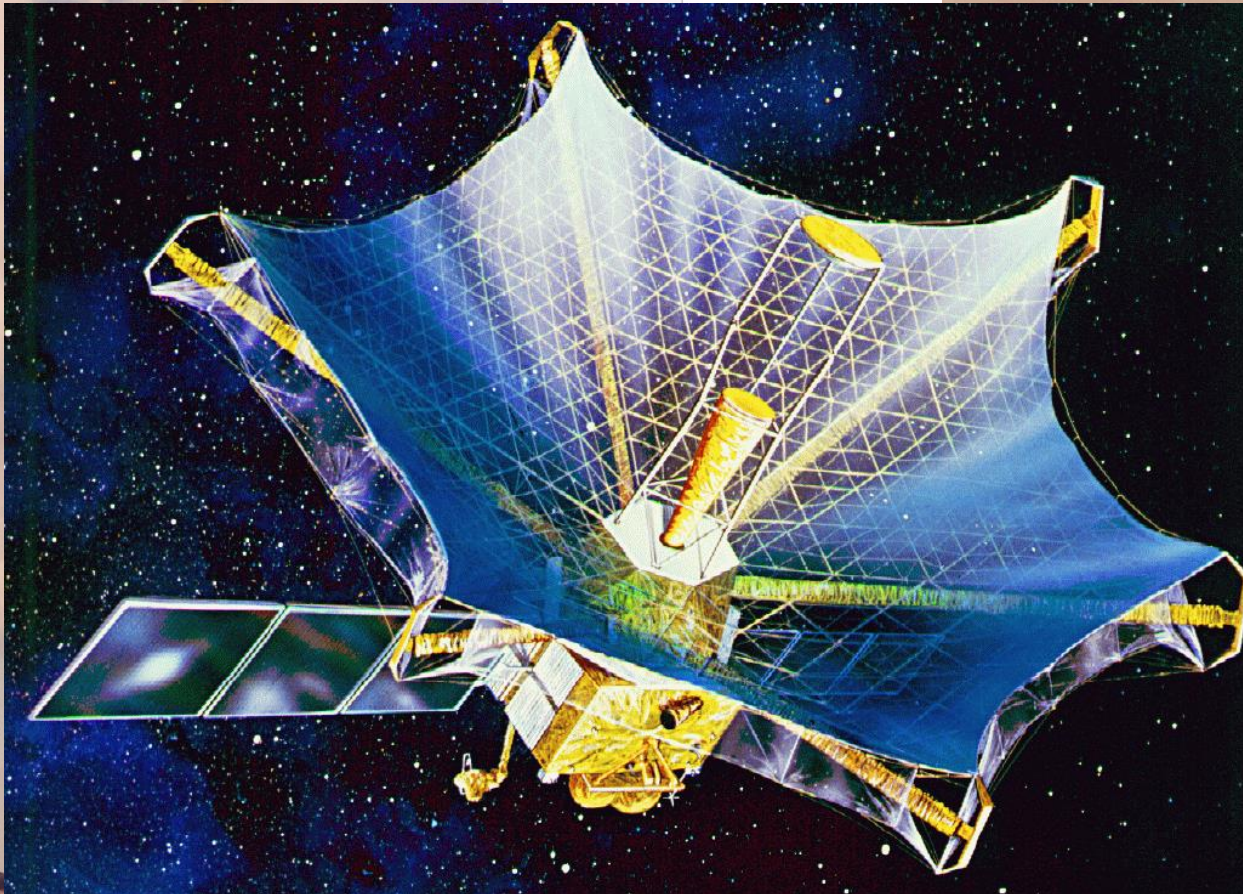
Launch in February 1997



Launch in February 1997



Launch in February 1997

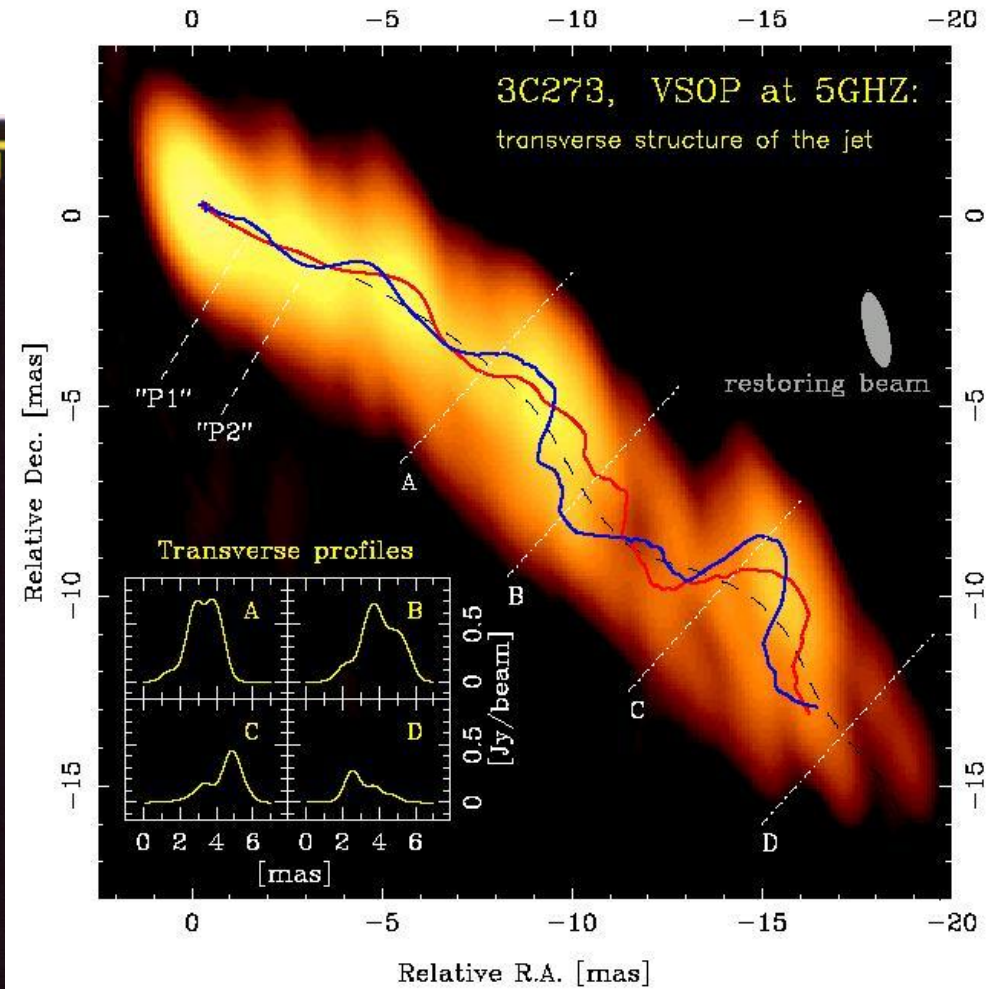


VSOP -
HALCA
operational
until Nov
2005

Quasar 3C273
3 billion ly away

Central Core is
Zoomed by VSOP

Optical: Pseudo-color
Radio: Contour



VSOP image of 3C273
by Lobanov et al

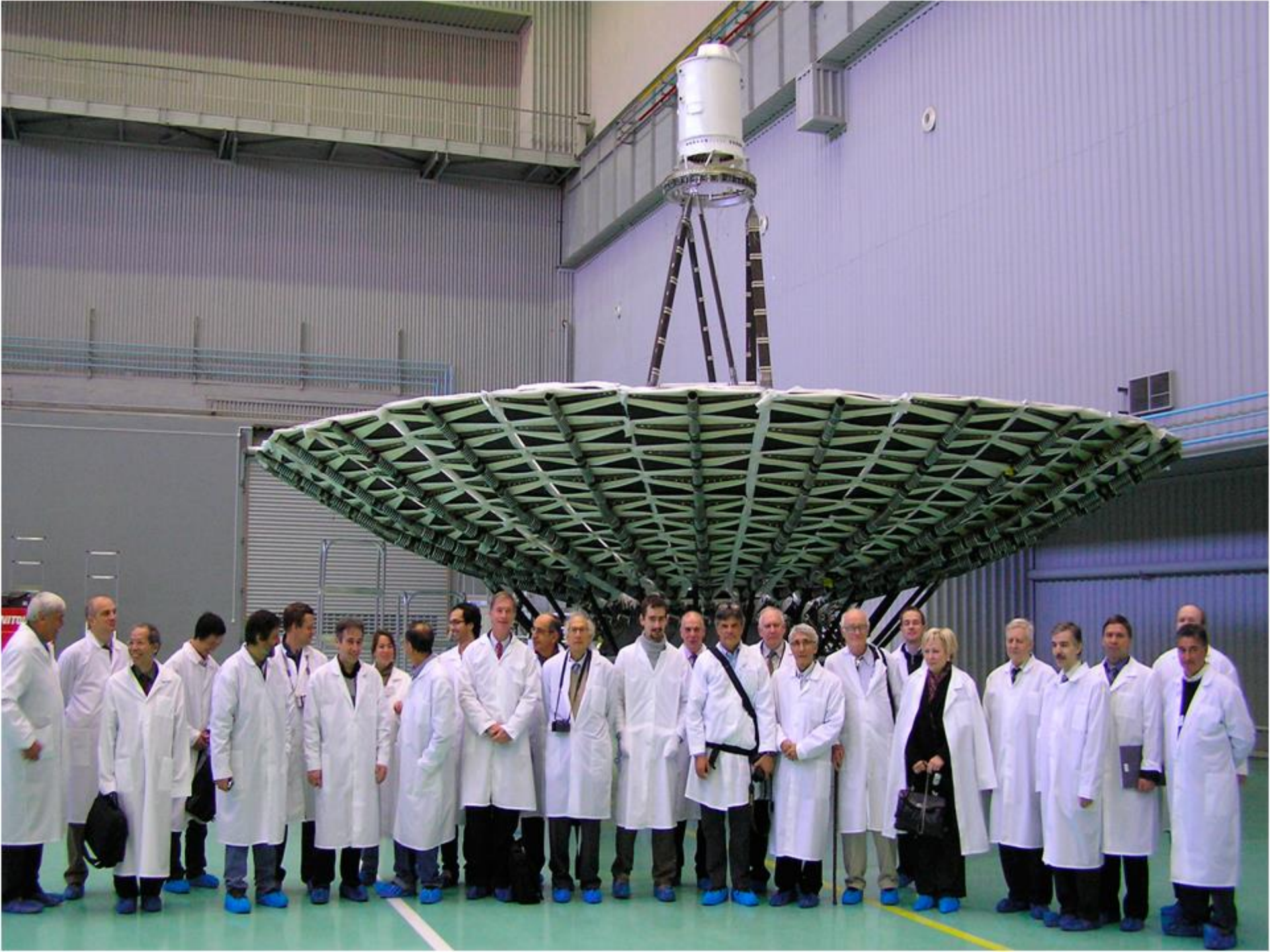
Hubble Space telescope (left) and MERLIN (right) images of the Quasar 3C273

In the meantime, Nikolay and his team carried on...

getting all the help he could...

Prime
Minister
Putin





Ready to go to Baikonur



And finally the launch in July 2011



And finally the launch in July 2011



First fringes!

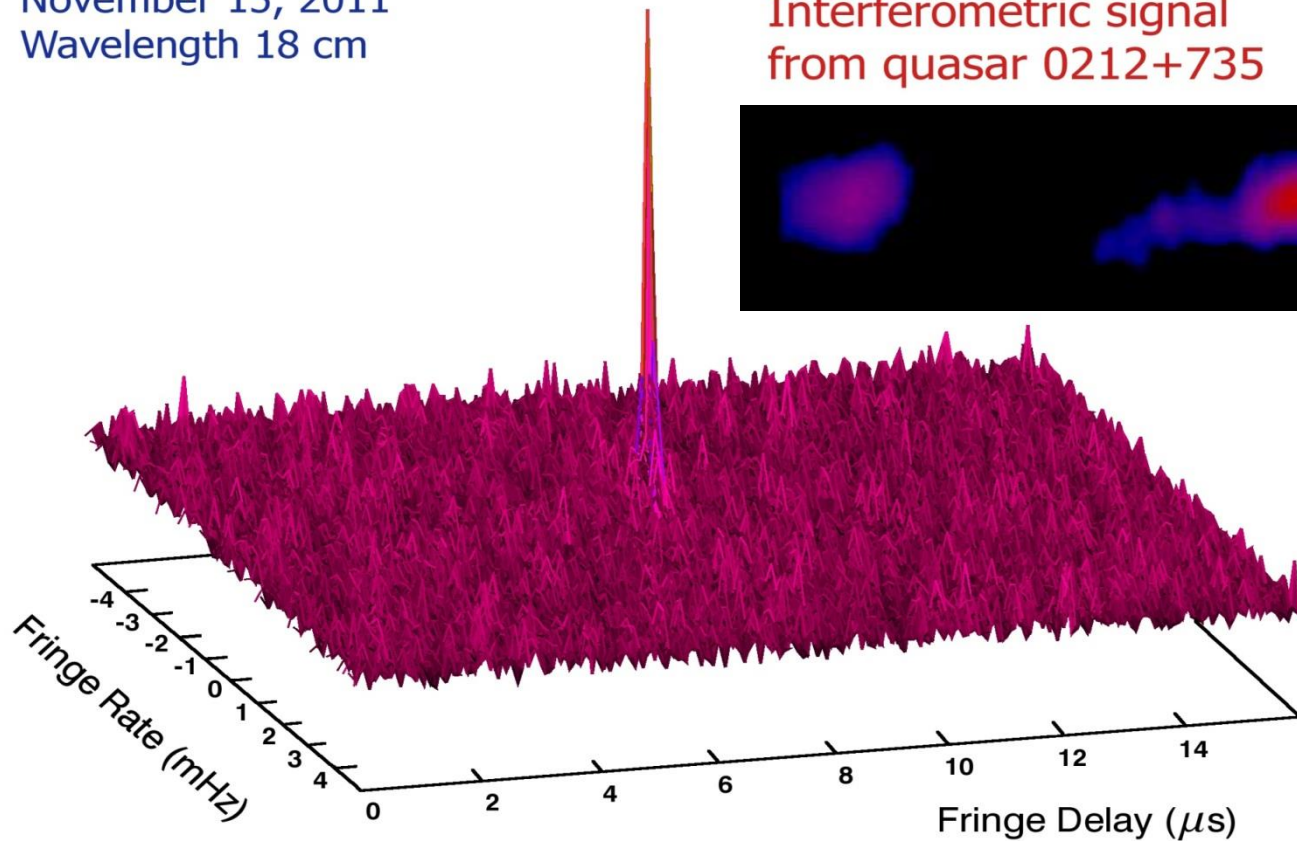
RADIOASTRON

100 000 km from Earth

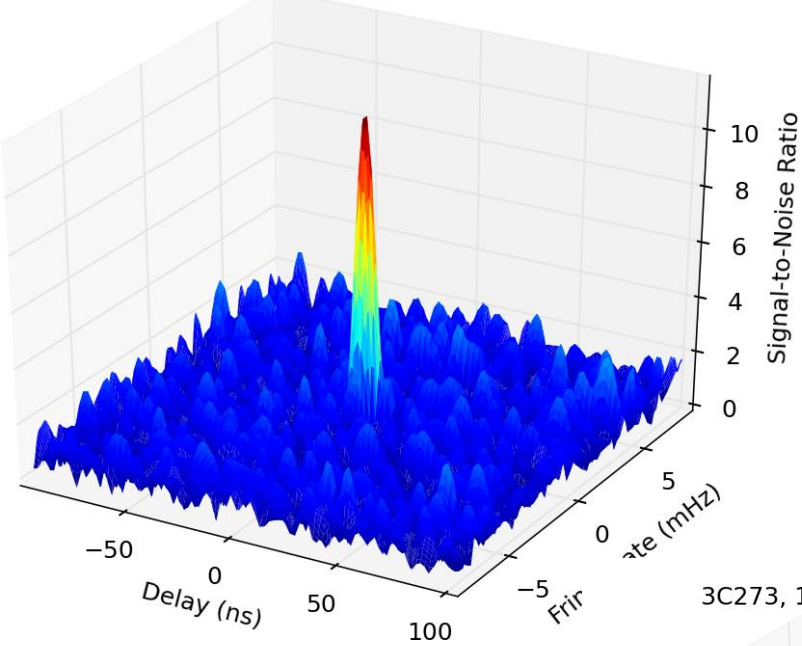
Baseline projection: $50 M\lambda$

November 15, 2011
Wavelength 18 cm

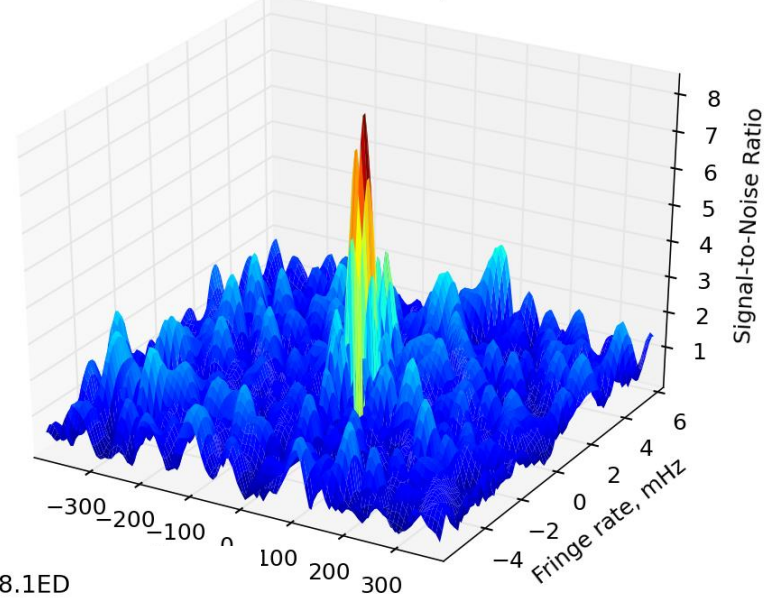
Interferometric signal
from quasar 0212+735



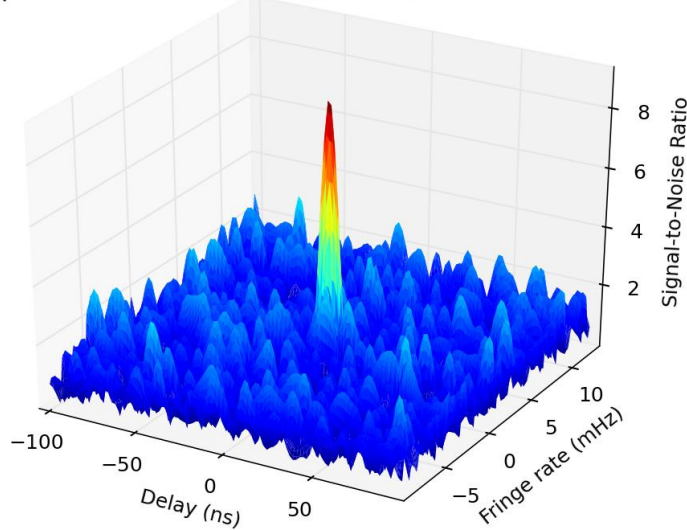
25 Jan 2013
3C273, 18 cm, Ar-Ra, 13.5ED

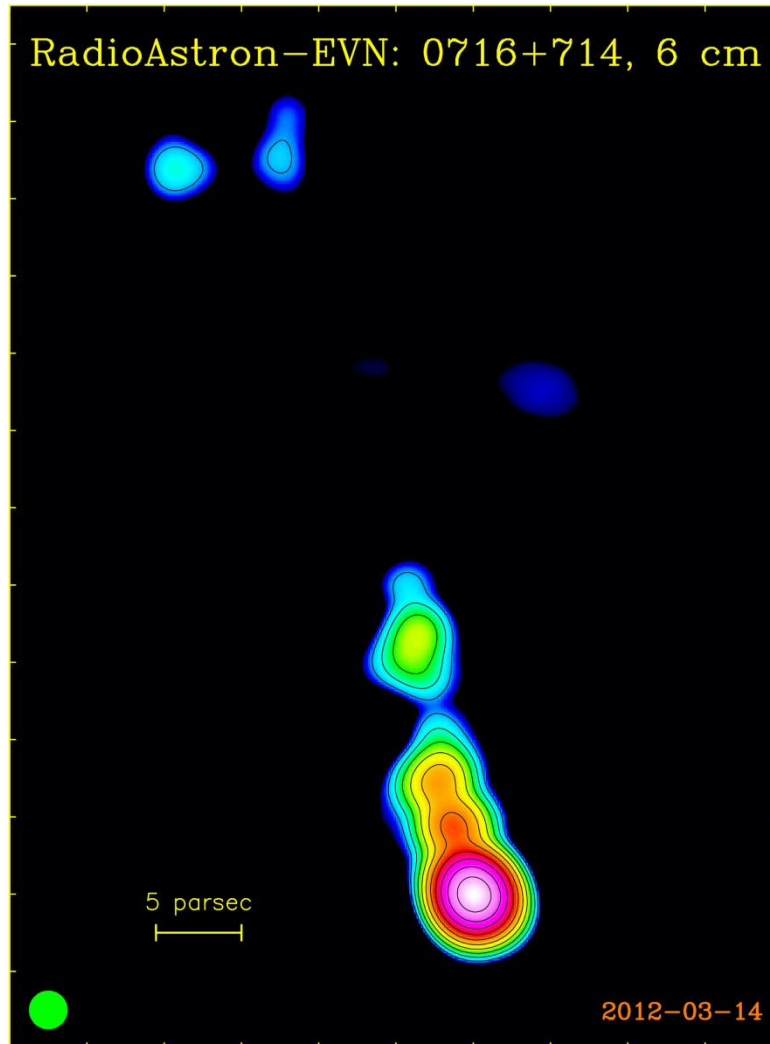


BL Lac, 6.2 cm, SRT-Ef,
28 Nov 2012, B=19ED, 20 min



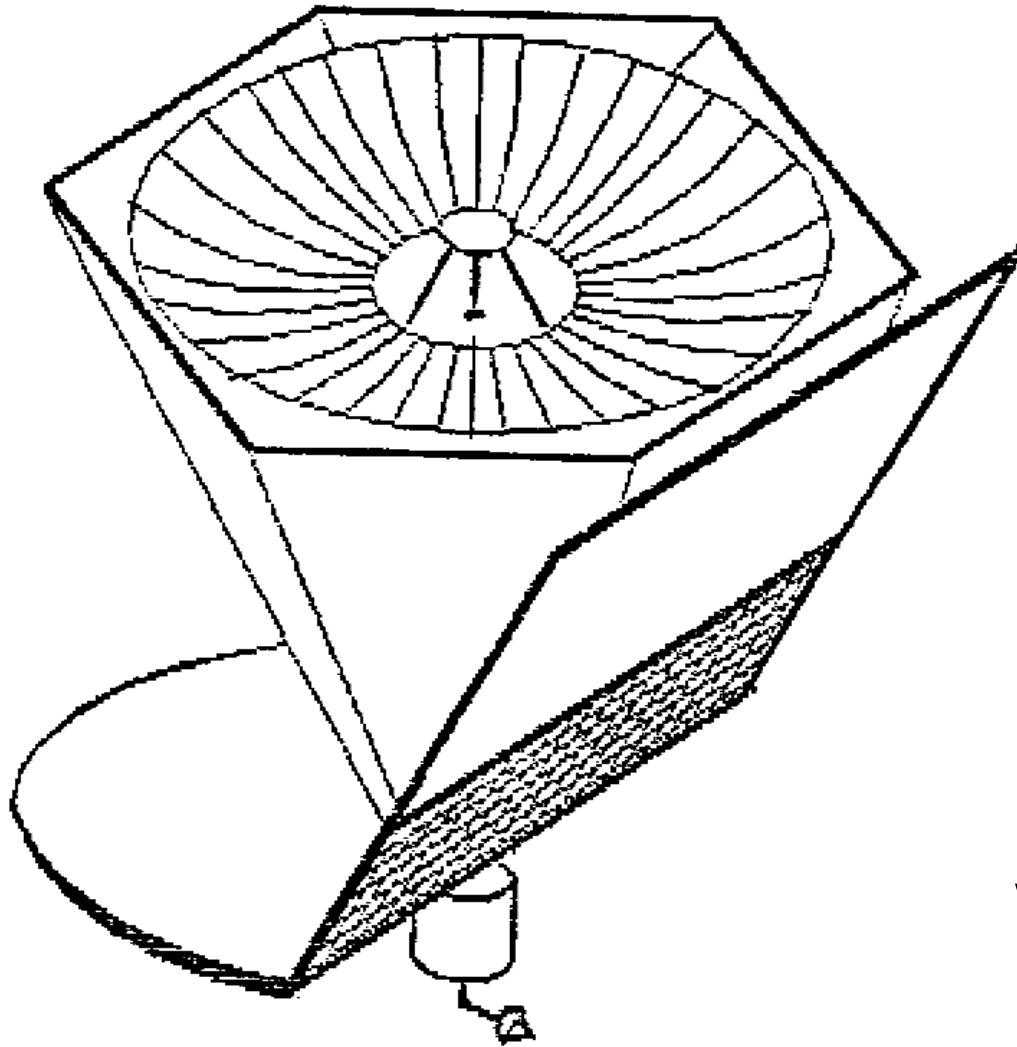
02 Feb 2013
3C273, 1.35 cm, Gb-Ra, 8.1ED





24 hours
0.5 mas
DR > 1000:1

The future: Millimetron?



Russia

Space VLBI at
millimetre
wavelengths

Or ?





Last gasps from ESA and NASA

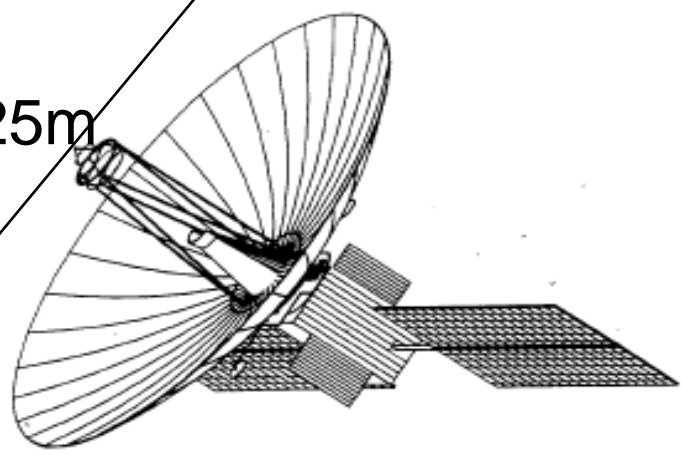


1989-1991

I V S

AN ORBITING RADIO TELESCOPE

25m



REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT STUDY

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Yu.S. DENISOV, L.I. GAVVTA, K.S. KARBANOV, Ya.P. KOLYADO, T. KUJPER, G. PELARATT,
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Last gasps from ESA and NASA

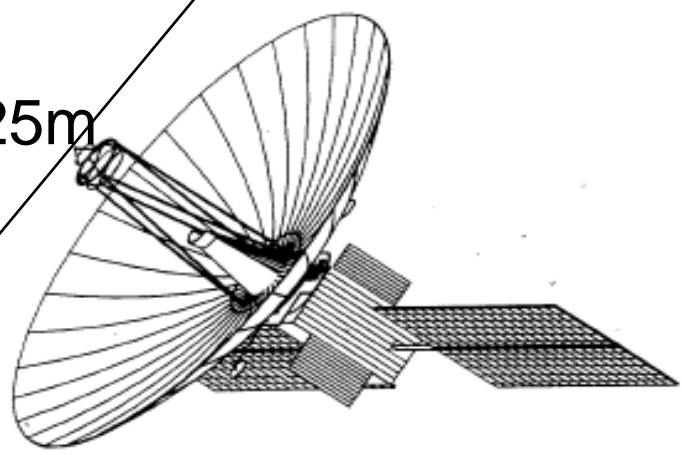


1989-1991

I V S

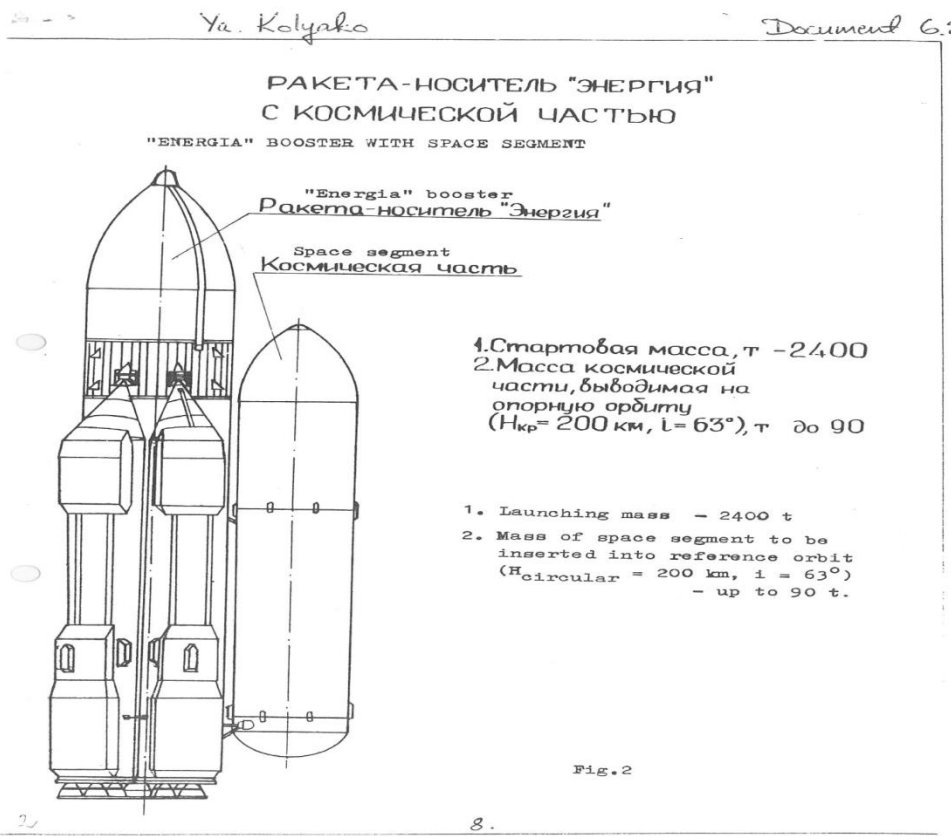
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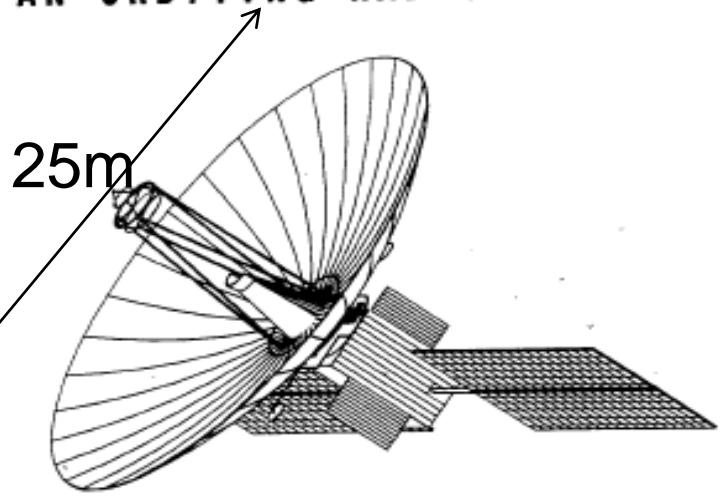
Last gasps from ESA and NASA



1989-1991

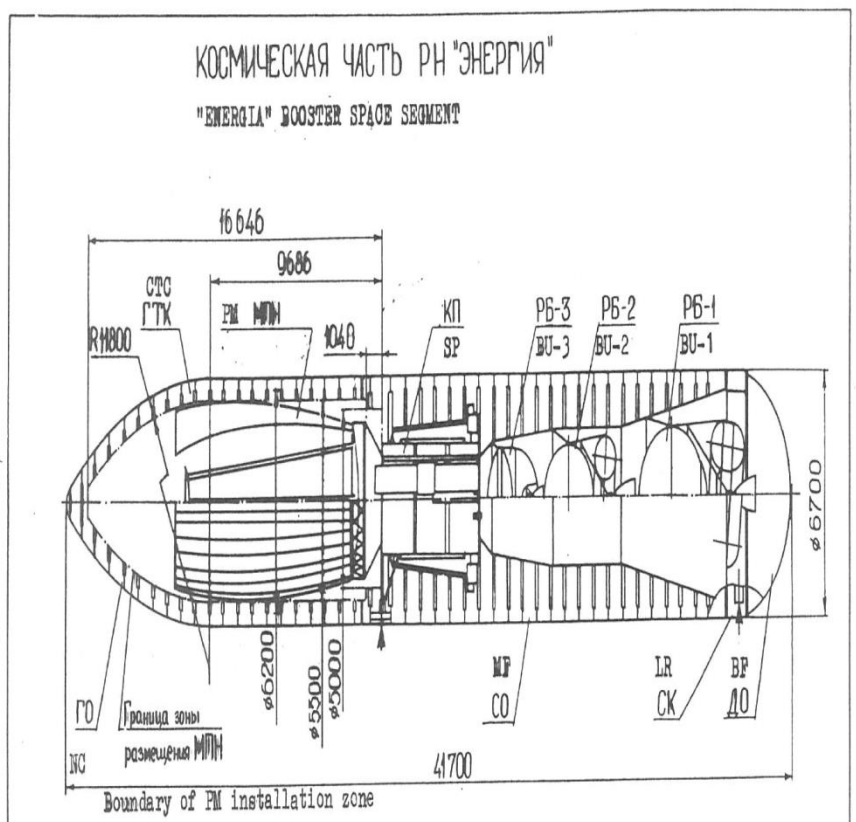
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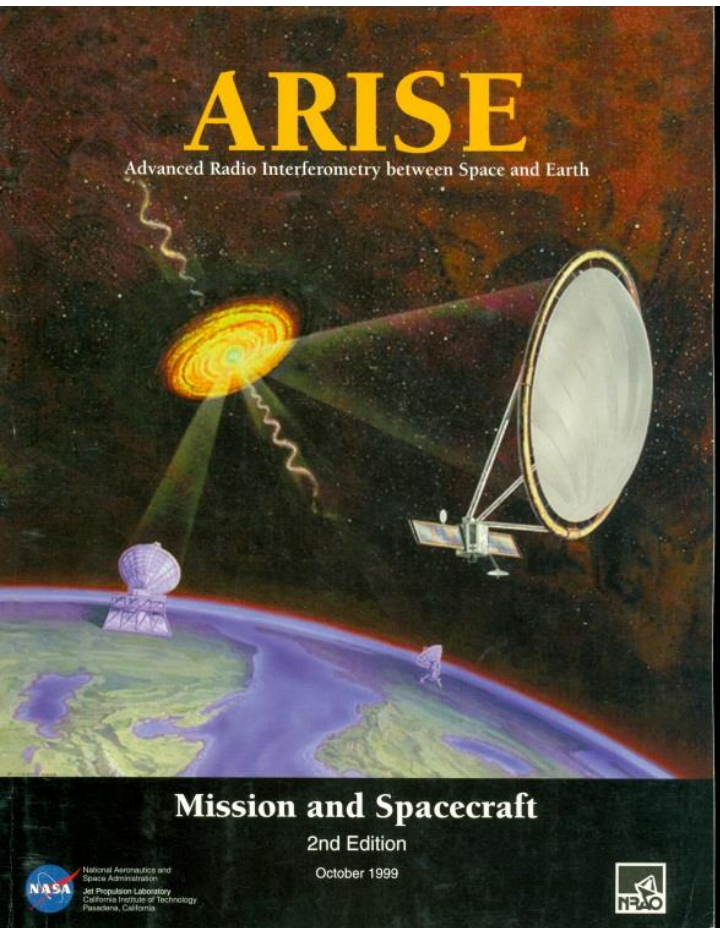
V. ALTUNEK, B. ANDERSON, J.W.H. BARKS, A. BRADY, R.S. BOOTH, B.E. CROFTON, J. CORNELISSE, Yu.S. DENISOV, L.I. GAVZIN, M.S. KARBANOV, Ya.P. KOLYNOV, T. KUJPER, G. PELARATT, R.A. PRESTON, R.T. SCHILLINGS, V.I. SLYSH, G. TOPKAE, S. VOLANTE, P.N. WILKINSON, T.L. WILSON



Accepted abbreviations:

- CTC - cargo transportation container
- NC - nose cone
- MP - middle fairing
- LR - load ring
- ВР - bottom fairing
- B - booster
- СП - space platform
- ПМ - payload module
- ВУ - boosting unit
- 1. Mass of space vehicle including PM - up to 15 t
- up to 5 t
- 2. Thrust of BU engines:
 - BU-1 and BU-2 - 8,5 t (83,4 kN)
 - (O₂ + hydrocarbon fuel)
 - BU-3 - 2 t (19,6 kN)

Fig. 3



1999

ALFA (~2002)

Antenna :	100 km array of 16 spacecraft
Frequency Bands (MHz):	0.03 - 30 (tunable)
Resolution (arcseconds):	10,000 - 10
Sensitivity:	several Jy

