

Planning Meeting for the S-Pol Deployment at TiMREX

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES

Brigitte Baeuerle, Jeff Bobka, Wiebke Deierling, Maureen Donovan, Scott Ellis, Gordon Farquharson, Wen-Chau Lee, Bob Rilling, Al Phinney, Joe Vinson, Jody Williams, Jim Wilson

GENERAL

- We will continue to schedule meetings for every week, but will probably cancel every second meeting and thereby, effectively change to a two week schedule.
- Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2008 from 10:30-12:00 in the EOL Atrium.

S-POL TEARDOWN

- S-Pol teardown has started. The antenna will be taken down on Wednesday, February 6. Power and networking access will be shutdown on Monday, February 11.
- Jean Hurst is available to inventory the computers in the SCC.
- Bob Rilling reported that a camera has been set up at Marshall to record teardown. However, the transmission was interrupted, and the removal of the antenna was not captured.

SITE PREPARATION

- The site preparation plan has changed. The SCC and Annex can be located on top of the levee. The CWB has agreed to extend the site area by building a retaining wall that will hold the fill required to expand the site. Wen-Chau Lee reported that the Taiwanese asked whether they can put concrete on top of the fill within the retaining wall. Jeff Bobka pointed out that this will prevent us from burying the ground rod for S-Pol. Wen-Chau will therefore ask the Taiwanese not to put concrete on top of the fill.
- Wen-Chau Lee met with Ben Jou to discuss the data display center. It will have power and internet access and will be below the levee. It is expected that it will be on site before S-Pol arrives.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Joe Vinson proposed that the 2 Mbit/s network connection go directly to the data display center. Wen-Chau wondered how S-Pol would receive data from the CWB with this configuration. Bob Rilling proposed that the CWB set up the networking for the data display center, but Wen-Chau was opposed to this idea. Gordon Farquharson proposed that these issues be discussed in the separate meeting that would include Wen-Chau Lee, Bob Rilling, Joe Vinson, and Gordon Farquharson.

- Wen-Chau Lee reported that there is still hope that a ground-based communications link (e.g. ADSL) can be provided at the S-Pol site.
- Wen-Chau Lee said that the conferencing system would be used for daily briefings by a forecaster and daily planning meetings. Each of these will require verbal communication and images. He thought that installing Skype at the CWB would not be a problem. Gordon Farquharson reported that he was waiting for more information about the UCAR web conferencing solution from Greg Stossmeister.
- Jonathan Emmett and Gordon Farquharson tested a Logitech headset with a Linux workstation and found it to work well. However, we will delay purchasing more headsets until we find out more about the web conferencing system from Greg Stossmeister.

S-POL PREPARATION

- Jim Wilson asked about the state of the PID, rain, and refractivity algorithms at S-Pol. Scott Ellis explained that these algorithms were running in real-time at S-Pol, and that data from PID and rain had been verified but that the refractivity product had not been thoroughly tested because the reference scan was made using an operating frequency of 2809 MHz and therefore does not produce sensible results when the radar is operating at 2786 MHz. Scott Ellis also explained that there were five rain estimation algorithms running and an instantaneous rain rate, an hourly rain rate, and a storm rain rate (over the period of an IOP) is computed from the output of each of these algorithms.
- Gordon Farquharson gave an update on the antenna controller problems. Currently, the S-Pol antenna system cannot drive the antenna into strong winds. The spare motor is being evaluated by Wazee Electric in Denver, and based on their findings, a decision will be made on how to proceed.
- Bob Rilling reported that the netCDF file archiver written by Dennis Flanigan was working. However, it was only running at 40 % of the maximum speed obtained by Bob Rilling in tests with the tape drive. Bob Rilling thought that the problem was caused by writing file marks at the end of each volume, and that better performance could be achieved by writing whole days worth of data in one file.
- Gordon Farquharson reported that S-Pol is able to do sector blanking.

SHIPPING

- Fumigation is scheduled to start on February 6 and will be complete on February 8.

ACCOMMODATION

- Ben Jou is organizing the rate and details for rooms at the Citizen Hotel.

OTHER

- Wen-Chau Lee reported that Celia Chen is available to give Mandarin classes.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Gordon Farquharson** will designate one of the TiMREX meetings as a project overview meeting in which Wen-Chau Lee will provide an overview of the experiment, and UCAR Site and Safety services will present their project safety review of TiMREX.
- **Scott Ellis** will find out from where the sounding profiles can be obtained.
- **Dennis Flanigan** will test the image generation capabilities of CIDD at S-Pol, and write a script to transfer the image to the EOL FTP server.
- **Wen-Chau Lee** will provide Joe Vinson with a contact at the CWB for the FTP server to which we should submit images for the SOWMEX catalog.
- **John Hubbert** will look into tools to analyze time series data at TiMREX.
- **Gordon Farquharson** will follow up with Salem on whether a VNA is available.
- **Al Phinney** will bring the VIRAQ hard drive to Joe Vinson so that it can be backed up.
- **Jeff Bobka** will give Brigitte the S-Pol container decals so that Seajet can reserve space on the container ship.
- **Jeff Bobka** will send Wen-Chau Lee an updated drawing of the site plan showing a cross section labeled with fill type.
- **Maureen Donovan** will contact Celia Chen about Mandarin classes.
- **Maureen Donovan and Brigitte Baeuerle** will ask the NSF International Office to compose a letter to the AIT about TiMREX.