

Parkes 2012 IVS Report

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Abstract

This report presents the status of the Parkes Observatory in 2012, as well as our future plans.

1. Status

The Parkes Observatory participated in three 24-hour IVS sessions during 2012, compared to six in the previous year. All three sessions were recorded using the station's Mark 5b system and were generally successful, including one recorded using a relatively new "IF3" observing configuration.

A significant development was that data for two of these sessions were transferred electronically to the correlator at USNO. The intention is that such transfers become more routine during 2013.

Parkes also continues to support a program led by Leonid Petrov (ADNET Systems/GSFC) of hybrid astronomy/geodesy observations, refining the locations of several Southern Hemisphere radio stations that are equipped with neither dual S/X receiving systems nor IVS-compatible recording systems. This program also aims to identify additional calibrator sources in the Southern Hemisphere for "densification" of the ICRF in the South.

2. Future Plans

The outlook for 2013 and beyond continues to be a little uncertain owing to scheduling constraints arising from changes to the Parkes Operations model that could impact the availability of the dual S/X receiver. See http://www.atnf.csiro.au/management/atuc/2012feb/docs/carretti_ATUC_1202.pdf for details. This is currently constraining the number of IVS sessions in which Parkes can participate. We are continuing to work with our Australian colleagues to ensure that the S/X receiver and recording systems remain available and that the active participation of Parkes in IVS observing programs continues to be both valued and supported.