



LOFAR NEWSLETTERS SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

Previous LOFAR newsletters are collected [here](#).

Announcements:

- At the Cycle 9 proposal deadline 42 regular proposals were received. The oversubscription factors for observing and processing categories were 1.2 and 1.8, respectively. At the PC meeting at the end of October 1732 observing and 1596 processing hours have been awarded.
- LOFAR software version 3.0 has been released on 16 October 2017. This major release included the responsive telescope functionality, which allows the system to automatically start triggered observations within 5 minutes from the receiving the trigger. The functionality is offered in expert mode during Cycle 9.
- The Radio Observatory is performing an efficiency test to verify how much observing in addition to the regular Cycle schedule can be supported by the system with the help of the PIs. 5 projects have been selected to fill the schedule, based on their relaxed scheduling constraints and on the experience of the PIs. Through this, the PIs are exposed to the preparation and handling of their observing runs, with the expectation that they will be able to independently manage this process. If PIs of other projects with similar characteristics are interested in this opportunity, we invite them to get in contact with sos@astron.nl asap for an evaluation of their request.

- Future stop days are anticipated to occur every 2 months, for 2 consecutive days, starting in December 2017. Dates are available in the [LOFAR Calendar](#).
- The SARA LTA site changed its hostname from sara.nl into surfsara.nl. The old hostname will remain active for a period as an alias to the new hostname. Users attempting to download data products using older versions of the wget command may experience difficulties when using the old domain. In case of questions, please contact sos@astron.nl.
- The LOFAR LTA archive is now at the new URL: <https://lta.lofar.eu/>
- CEP 4 data-loss tests continued during the past two months and delivered a stable configuration of the system where 5 nodes are reserved for data writing.
- The Radio Observatory is currently working on implementing the Dysco compression tool into the RO-supported imaging pipelines.

Array status:

- 38 stations operational in the Netherlands: 24 core and 14 remote stations.
- 13 international stations operational: DE601, DE602, DE603, DE604, DE605, FR606, SE607, UK608, DE609, PL610, PL611, PL612, IE613.
- The overview of non-operational antenna elements for LBA and HBA is available [here](#).
- Station calibration:
 - o Station IE613: calibration tables successfully created in mid October for the HBA modes.
 - o Station PL610 has been impossible to calibrate in LBA due to a local RFI source. After removal of this low-frequency RFI source by the local station operator in early August, new LBA station calibration data was collected on September 27th. The quality of this data is still under investigation.

Observing System Status:

- System performance has improved as a consequence of the partition of CEP4 into nodes reserved for data writing and for pipeline processing.

Software development status (J. Annyas):

- The SDOS team has focused on putting the new functionality for Responsive Telescope into production.
- Work is in progress on the TBBs to make it respond to triggers generated by ARTS (ALERT project).
- The SDOS team is preparing the move to the new support and issue tracker tool: JIRA.

Observing Programmes

- Cycle 8 observing programme: 82% complete. The observing schedule can be found [here](#).
- Cycle 7 observing programme: 92% complete. The rest is being observed with second priority during Cycle 8.

CEP news:

- CEP4
 - See above
- CEP3:
 - Cluster info and schedule available [here](#).

Calendar next LOFAR activities:

Note: the following events are marked on an online calendar that is available [here](#).

- Next LSM's: 15/11, 13/12
(all presentations given at the LSM and video recordings are available [here](#)).
- Next Stop days: 07/11, 05+06/12
- Next software roll outs: 11/12
- Next LOFAR bulletin: December 2017