

## PACS Newsletter

Nr. 1, 28 August 2006

At the ICC meeting #27 it was proposed to start circulating a kind of PACS newsletter on a semi-regular basis in order to keep the ICC members and the consortium up to date with the instrument status, schedule etc. even in the absence of minuted ICC@MPE meetings. I have accepted this task, and here is the first issue of such an Info Letter.

Eckhard

P.S.. I have decided to keep this magazine clean of commercial advertisements - for now.

Status of PACS:

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The cold vibration at CSL was succesfully finished. We did, however, experience pressure drops of the order of 150mbar/few minutes. This was a bit alarming, so after completion of the vibration we opened up PACS and checked important components (filters, dichroics, etc.) for their intactness. There was no damage.

The Dichroics with the bending problem have been replaced by now with the new Air gap dichroics.

Both spectrometer and bolometer dichroics have been tested. The Bolometer dichroics went through an entire process of verification (cryo cycling, bake out, cryo vibration).

On 19th of August the FPU came back from CSL. When the spectrometer part was opened to replace the dichroics it became obvious that during integration the dichroic must have been scratched and touched. We had to remove it. In an emergency action it was repaired at Cardiff. Another cool down verified that so far everything is ok. The last part of these spectral measurements is currently ongoing (Mariano).

Some warm functional tests of the PhFPU were performed last week, everything worked fine. This means that the PhFPU survuved cryo vibration. Also, the new Bolometer dichroics has been mounted succesfully. Overall we can say that we don't need a delta cryo vibration (to be confirmed by ESTEC QA tomorrow). I.e. the FPU is ready for integration now. The integration should be completed by next week Friday, September 8.

Today we received BOLC, it will be acceptance tested on Thursday and Friday. This means that 3 out of 4 warm electronic flight units are at MPE by now. The DECMEC QM will be used for WE tests of command procedures, which will be performed next week. Then we will have to decide if we wait for DECMEC FM (which currently has break downs every 15 minutes). There will be a meeting tomorrow to

agree on steps and schedule. The repaired DECMEC FM should be available around mid September.

Alternatively we could start connecting the FPU to the WE before that, in order to carry out warm FTs of the mechanisms and of the PhFPU (because we have BolC) with the QM DECMEC.

Mid next week we will decide on the next steps.

Another dichroic will be produced from Tuesday on. In Cardiff they believe they might be able to produce one within two weeks. We have thus an option of using this one (but we would lose two more weeks).

SPU high level s/w: Alain Mazy has been hired for supporting Roland (O.) to improve the code and to reduce the CPU load.

Computer h/w: all systems have arrived. A parallel system (as an additional work bench, using IRSUN01) has been established such that RO and AM can work in parallel to the ILT.

Protection from power outages is in place, now.

Wireless LAN is now available in the opera. The opera will soon get an electronic access system.

Schedule:

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The FM ILT plan as prepared by Ulrich could start September 18 (instead of August 21) with the SFTwarm. The schedule needs to be updated (UK) accordingly, but we will wait until we have decided on which dichroic and DECMEC to use. A new staffing plan will then be sent around, too.